

curriculum vitae

Robin Biddulph

Education

Masters in Development Administration (MA)

Australian National University (1996). Taught courses: Public Sector Reform; Inter-governmental Relations; Participation, Decentralisation and Local Area Development; Human Resource Development (I facilitated a participatory evaluation of this course). Thesis: "Participatory Development in Authoritarian Societies: the case of two village development committees in Banteay Meanchey province of Cambodia". Five courses at High Distinction, one course at Distinction.

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in English and Related Literature and Education

University of York (1984-1987) 2nd Class Honours, Division 1

Certificate of Teaching English as a Foreign Language

St. Giles College, London (February 1991)

Study Tours

Self-funded, self-initiated. Three weeks in Philippines in 1998 looking at agricultural research and extension, local governance and participatory development. One week in Uganda in 1999 looking at UNCDF and UNDP supported District Development Programme pilot.

Work Experience in Summary

Sweden 2001 - 2006

PhD Researcher at Department of Human and Economic Geography, GU.

Work with children with social problems (language teaching and evaluation consultancy).

Cambodia 1991 -2006

1997-2006 **Development Consultant**

Six programme evaluations (including one three-year tracking study)

Two major research projects (on rural development practice and on landlessness)

Eleven decentralisation consultancies (RGC x 3, SIDA/DFID x5, Oxfam GB, 2 x CDRI)

Five land reform consultancies (Oxfam GB, NGO Forum, 2 x GTZ, British Embassy)

Review of World Bank support in Cambodia for NGO Forum in Cambodia

Situation Analysis (health and vulnerability) for IFRC/Cambodian Red Cross

One strategic review (of the Oxfam GB community development programme)

Election monitor (Cambodia 1993, 2002) Election official (Sweden 2002)

1993-1996 **Humanitarian Mine Clearance**

Managed operations in three provinces - expanding and localising

1991-1993 **Lecturer at the University of Phnom Penh**

Taught English language to interpreters - and set up their translation business

Great Britain 1983-1991

1987-91 **Army Officer in ACE Mobile Force**

1983-87 Voluntary with deprived children - led camping holidays and similar projects

Work Experience in Detail

December 2005:

Review Consultant, DFID/SIDA

Reviewed fifty-three research and consultancy reports relating to the Seila programme (decentralised and deconcentrated governance in Cambodia), providing summaries and analysis.

Report:

DFID/Sida PAT Study: “Through the looking glasses: 53 reports on the Seila programme in Cambodia”

August 2005:

Decentralisation consultant, Seila/Partnership for Local Governance

Reviewed programme’s engagement with district level authorities and made recommendations for how expanded responsibilities for districts might be trialled as an intermediate stage towards the creation of unified administrations at the district level.

Report:

“Options for strengthening the district”

April 2005:

Research Consultant, GTZ

Provided advice to GTZ, World Bank and Ministry of Land Management officials regarding service provision arrangements on Social Land Concessions (sites where the Cambodian government may redistribute land to poor families).

December 2004 and March-April 2005

Research Consultant, Cambodia Development Resource Institute

Advised a team of researchers on their conduct of a study of local service delivery. Tasks included design and field testing of the research method and facilitating the analysis and report-writing.

June-July 2004:

Research Consultant, DFID/Sida Permanent Advisory Team to the Seila Programme

Led team of eight to conduct an evaluation of the Provincial Investment Fund (grant-funding to all provincial/municipal authorities in Cambodia). Drew conclusions regarding the integration of national and provincial poverty reduction approaches, and regarding the role of national ministries in a de-concentrated administration.

Report:

DFID/Sida PAT Study on the Performance of the Seila Provincial Investment Fund

February-March 2004:

Research Consultant, GTZ/Oxfam GB

Led analysis, report-writing and presentation of findings of research into the potential social and poverty impacts of a programme of Social Land Concessions on landlessness in Cambodia.

Report:

Poverty and Social Impact Assessment of Social Land Concessions in Cambodia: Landlessness Assessment

August-November 2003:

Research Consultant, DFID/Sida Permanent Advisory Team to the Seila Programme

Led team of 12 to conduct case study research in 24 communes – one in each of the 24 provinces/municipalities in Cambodia. Drew conclusions regarding the empowerment implications of the embryonic decentralisation reforms in the country, and made recommendations as to how active citizenship could be stimulated.

Report:
PAT Empowerment Study 2003

August 2003:

Land Reform Consultant, NGO Forum of Cambodia

Provided advice and consultancy services to members of Cambodia's leading NGO advocacy network. Identified opportunities for action within the framework of current land reforms and prepared a draft project document.

July 2003:

International Observer, Cambodian National Election

Observed voting and counting and conducted research into the campaign and pre-campaign period on behalf of a leading Cambodian election monitoring organisation (NICFEC).

May 2003:

Information and Communication Consultant, Royal Government of Cambodia

Worked with the Department of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior (through the auspices of the Seila programme) to review activities undertaken within the interim strategy (see below) and develop an information and communication strategy to support decentralisation in Cambodia. This is a 'living' strategy with evaluation and review processes incorporated into the design.

April 2003:

Evaluation Consultant for the British Embassy in Cambodia

Evaluated two land rights projects implemented by a Cambodian human rights NGO and a Cambodian legal aid NGO and funded by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights Projects Fund.

March 2003:

Contributor: King Prajakhipok's Institute Yearbook 2003

Responded to an invitation to contribute to a Thai research institute's yearbook, featuring accounts of decentralisation in south-east asia. The article describes how and why decentralisation has been adopted in Cambodia, and analyses the likely impacts of the harnessing of pilots in local democracy and development to national party politics.

Publication forthcoming (Yearbook title to be confirmed)

Biddulph, R. 2003. The Decentralisation Flower in Cambodian Soil. In KPI Yearbook 2003, ed. by Michael H. Nelson. Bangkok: King Prajadhipok's Institute and White Lotus Press.

May 2002:

Information and Communication Consultant, Royal Government of Cambodia

Worked with the Department of Local Administration of the Ministry of Interior (through the auspices of the Royal Government's Seila programme) to orient key staff to basic concepts and issues in relation to information and participation in local governance in Cambodia.

April 2002:

Research Consultant, Cambodia Development Resource Institute

Through PADRIGU Consultants (a Swedish consultancy firm affiliated to Gothenburg University) collaborated in the design of a four-year programme of policy-oriented research into the results of decentralisation reforms in Cambodia.

Report (co-authored with Ojendal, Sedara and Wallgren)

"Understanding Decentralisation in Cambodia"

February 2002:

Short-term Advisor on Land Issues, Joint Oxfams Livelihood Study Project

Provided support to Oxfam lawyers with respect to (1) eliciting civil society inputs into the drafting of a social concessions sub-decree (2) drafting the NGO position statement on land for the 2002 donor-government consultative group meeting in Phnom Penh.

February 2002:

International Observer, Cambodian Commune Election

In addition to observing the election day I carried out a series of follow-up interviews during the 48-hours following the elections. These resulted in the most thorough documentation of systematic payments to voters by any observer of the 2002 local elections in Cambodia.

Report:

‘Payments to Voters in Pursat Province’

June-August 2001:

Consultant for Seila Task Force

On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, in preparation for expansion of the Seila programme, and in particular negotiating an IDA loan, conducted research into participation in local governance in rural Cambodia. Assembled and led a team of forty researchers including government officials, NGO workers, members of the buddhist organisations and village committee members in a research project specifically designed to build relationships and understanding through the process as well as through the outputs.

Report:

“Civil Society and Local Governance: Learning lessons from Seila communes”

April - May 2001:

Consultant for NGO Forum of Cambodia

Conducted a short review of the World Bank’s role in Cambodia. Specifically: (1) in relation to the Cambodian Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and (2) its relations with NGOs. This was the Cambodia portion of a multi-country study by the South East Asia and Pacific Regional NGO Working Group on the World Bank.

Reports:

“Rapid Assessment of the PRSP Process in Cambodia: Two Banks, Two Processes, Two Documents”

“Mapping of NGO-World Bank Relations in Cambodia: A need for standards and indicators”

January-February 2001:

Research Team Leader for Cambodian Red Cross/IFRC

Designed and coordinated an analysis of health, disability and vulnerability in a remote district of north-western Cambodia: consisting of five simultaneous, complementary studies conducted by 20 researchers. (1) Quantitative study of knowledge, attitudes and practices relating to health, (2) a quantitative survey of the nature and extent of disability in the district; (3) qualitative research (focus groups and personal history interviews) into attitudes and beliefs relating to health seeking behaviour and to disability; (4) participatory mapping and vulnerability assessment in all 25 villages; (5) review of existing cartographic and statistical data on the district.

Report:

“Situation Analysis of Chong Kal District: Health, Disability and Vulnerability”

November-December 2000:

Evaluation Team Leader for Lutheran World Service

Led a mixed team of ten – three expatriates and seven Cambodians – in the evaluation of an integrated rural development programme in five provinces of Cambodia.

November 2000:

Decentralisation Consultant for Oxfam GB in Cambodia

Reviewed existing literature on the Royal Government's Seila programme and on decentralisation reforms in the region and produced a concise review to assist Cambodian NGOs to prepare for commune reforms in Cambodia.

Report:

"Decentralisation and Commune Reform in Cambodia - Immediate Opportunities for Cambodian NGOs"

October 2000:

Research Consultant for SIDA Permanent Advisory Group to Seila

Designed research and trained a team of Cambodian twelve researchers for an evaluation of the expansion of the Seila programme in Pursat province. This was to inform work of a SIDA advisory team on nationwide expansion of Seila. Research team included national officials, provincial officials and members of local NGO and commune development committees.

September 1999 – October 2000:

Research Consultant on the Oxfam GB Cambodia Land Study Project

Coordinated landlessness and development research for this highly-regarded advocacy project. Used the research to create consensus around key issues and then, through a National Conference, enabled a broad constituency of development actors to submit recommendations to the Royal Government for future development policy, programming and research. Designed a research tool that enabled NGOs to reflect on the effectiveness and relevance of their work – NGO evaluations of the tool were very positive. The research tool and database were handed over to the Ministry of Rural Development at the culmination of that phase of the work.

Report:

"Where has all the land gone Volume 4: Making the Poor More Visible"

March 2000:

Evaluation Team Leader

Contracted by Save the Children UK to evaluate their community development project, which covers 80 villages in four provinces of Cambodia. Employed innovative participatory methodology using a 5-day evaluation workshop where the majority of participants were poor rural women.

December 1999-January 2000:

Evaluation Team Leader

Contracted by UNOPS (on behalf of UNDP) to evaluate the Rural Development and Resettlement Project – a tripartite cooperation between Japan, Cambodia and four ASEAN countries. Consisted of a five-week evaluation and a one-week follow up mission to generate a concept paper for insitutionalising the project within Royal Government of Cambodia structures.

April 1999 – August 1999:

Evaluation Consultant for UNDP CARERE in Cambodia

Led a team of four that carried out an evaluation of the Local Planning Process, which formed the core of the CARERE/Seila policy experiment in decentralised governance. This was the third annual independent review commissioned by the CARERE project. Methodology included using parallel internal teams in each province in tandem with the external team.

March 1999:

Community Development Review Consultant for Oxfam GB in Cambodia

Facilitated a participatory process to review Oxfam GB's work in the community development field in Cambodia. Conducted a literature review all evaluations of Oxfam GB community development partner NGOs in Cambodia. Based on these inputs produced an Analytical Review and a Community Development Strategy for Oxfam GB.

November 1998 - February 1999:

Project Officer for Concern Worldwide in Southern Sudan

Responded to a request from Concern Worldwide to assist with the emergency programme in southern Sudan. Duties included project evaluation and design; report and proposal writing; acting as interim Programme Coordinator.

September – October 1998:

Evaluation Team Leader for Oxfam GB/Aphivat Strei

On behalf of Oxfam GB, led an evaluation of local NGO Aphivat Strei. Initiated the use of parallel internal and external teams as a means of: building capacity; improving understanding and dialogue between evaluation team and the project; maintaining the integrity and focus of the external team.

April – August 1998:

Evaluation Consultant for UNDP CARERE

Led the second independent evaluation of the Seila Local Planning Process employing a team consisting of a villager-participant in the programme, a government official working in the programme and a ministry-level official external to the programme..

August 1997-March 1998:

Research Associate for Cambodia Development Resource Institute/Ministry of Rural Development.

Co-led a CDRI/MRD research project called Learning from rural Development Programmes in Cambodia which analysed lessons learned from well-respected development programmes representing a variety of approaches adopted in Cambodia. Method involved the team staying in two villages for five days each for each of the six programmes that was studied. The six case studies and final report remain a primary point of reference for researchers and analysts looking at rural development in Cambodia.

Report (co-authored with McAndrew, Charya, Pithou, Dorina, Sovannarith, Sokunthea):

“ CDRI Working Paper number 4: Learning from Rural Development Programmes in Cambodia”

March 1997-August 1997:

Evaluation Consultant for UNDP CARERE

Led the first independent evaluation of the Seila Local Planning Process. Stayed in villages in each of the provinces where Seila was being implemented. Tracked changes in those villages over the following three years – an evolving analysis which influenced programme learning about villagers understanding of and participation in local governance.

September 1993 – February 1996:

Location Manager for The HALO Trust

Leadership of operational mine clearance. Responsibilities included project selection (humanitarian and logistical appraisals), security assessment and liaison, technical mine clearance and ordnance disposal, human resource management, fleet management, administration and finance, fund-raising. Main achievements were in localisation of management positions, reorienting operations to remote and neglected areas and establishing the Siem Reap and Odar Meanchey operations from scratch. Required close collaboration with local government and NGOs.

May 1993:

International Observer, Cambodian National Elections

Election observer in Banteay Meanchey province and in Phnom Penh city.

September 1991 – August 1993:

English Language Teacher at the University of Phnom Penh

Taught a class of interpreters at the University of Phnom Penh. Also initiated the formation of University Translators, a student-managed cooperative to enable the students to gain work experience, purchase

computer equipment and to earn over \$15,000. No student left the course despite the presence of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia from early 1992.

April 1991 – August 1991:

Production Manager at Neon Safety Aids in Lichfield England.

Worked in a family business while waiting for posting overseas. Initially as accounts assistant, then as training manager and finally as production manager.

September 1987 – April 1991:

British Army Officer in the ACE Mobile Force

Worked as an artillery officer in the multi-national Allied Command Europe Mobile Force which conducted deterrent operations on NATO's northern and southern flanks in Europe. Commanded a troop of thirty people. Included training at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Arctic Warfare training in northern Norway, and exercises in 7 different countries.

Publications

In addition to the research reports listed above.

Biddulph, R. 2006. Landlessness, Land Redistribution and Justice in Rural Cambodia in **NIASnytt Asia Insights** 2006:3, 15-18

Biddulph, R. 2003. The Decentralisation Flower in Cambodian Soil. In **KPI Yearbook 2003**, ed. by Michael H. Nelson. Bangkok: King Prajadhipok's Institute and White Lotus Press

Chim Charya, Srun Pithou, So Sovannarith, McAndrew, J., Nguon Sokunthea, Pon Dorina & R. Biddulph., 2001. Learning from Rural Development Programmes in Cambodia in **Institutions, Livelihoods and the Environment**. NIAS, Copenhagen.

Languages

Khmer

Fluent spoken and basic written.

Swedish

Fluent spoken and written

French

Basic spoken and written.

Hobbies and Interests

General outdoor activities including: SCUBA diving; mountaineering; swimming; cycling; rock-climbing; running.

Personal Details

Single
Male
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British Citizen (Passport 740085363)
Swedish Resident since July 2001
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References

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Masters thesis supervisor and leading academic in the field of decentralisation in the South Pacific.
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Former Director of Cambodia's leading independent research institute and my employer 1998-99 and 2002
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Mr Joel Charny

Deputy President for Policy
Refugee International
My contact point in UNDP CAREERE during the evaluations of the Seila Local Planning Process and formerly Overseas and Policy Director for Oxfam America
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