ELEPHANTS IN THE PACIFIC?

OR

THE FUTURE IS URBAN. REALLY?

EVEN IN THE PACIFIC? SO WHAT?

John Connell
University of Sydney
November 2010
IMAGES AND IDYLLS

- Post Cards from Paradise
- Dichotomous Cities
- Urban Pacific
“During the past few years the South Pacific territories have undergone rapid and large-scale urbanization. A steady stream of migrants has been flowing from the rural areas into towns that are, for the most part, ill equipped to absorb the newcomers, to house them and to provide them with the basic necessities of life.”

PACIFIC URBANISATION AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Squatters evicted on Suva outskirts  Fiji Times 2010

PNG Capital ranked among world’s worst  Radio NZ International 2009

Port Moresby boom town in dire need of planning  The National 2010

GROUP URGES CARE WITH PORT VILA SQUATTERS  Radio NZ International 2010

Honiara feeling effects of rural neglect  Solomon Star 2010

PNG’s overburdened Madang growing too fast: Squatters fouling the town  PNG Post-Courier 2010

Urban drift worries Fiji’s Lomaiviti Province  Fiji Sun 2010

POOR SANITATION PLAGUES SUVA SETTLEMENTS  Fiji Times Online 2010

Survey finds prostitution provides income in Fiji  Fiji Times 2010
Why Cities?

- Administration / Economic Growth

- Migration = Employment + Services + Expectations

- Natural Increase/Urban Fertility?
Urban Growth

- Half the Pacific is Urban

- Polynesia, Micronesia ---- Melanesia (*)
Migration

- Internal
  - Employment
  - Services
  - Environment

- Towards permanency?
ISSUES

- Land
  - Settlements
- Housing
- Employment
  - Bulgy Youth
  - Formal and Informal
- Incomes and Safety Nets
- Social Order
- Environment and Health
LAND

- Tenure
- Scarcity
- Sale
Housing

- Settlements
  - %?
  - services and employment
  - education and health
  - microfinance
  - marginal places … tenure

- Formal Housing Provision

- Rents
EMPLOYMENT

- From formal to informal
- Unemployment
- Youth
INCOMES

- Formal and Informal

- Expenditure: school fees, rent, kero, food

- Safety Nets
  - romancing the family

- Social discontent
  - Chuuk ‘public sharing and private hiding’

- Poverty of Opportunity
SOCIAL ORDER

- Crime … raskols and MPs
- Symptoms and Structures

The Fractured City

- LA in the Pacific
- Strangers in a fractured city, and an age of entitlement
ENVIRONMENT

- Health
  - HIV/AIDS
  - MDGs
- Nutrition ... ET
- Transport
- Water, sewage, garbage
- Recreation
- Climate Change
Urban Management

- PUMAs
  ... and chiefs?
- Urban Plans
- Land use
- Coordination
- Institutional Strengthening
THE AWOL STATE

- Governance and Politics
- Big men, matais and wantoks … and women?
- Parties, philosophies and pork barrels
- Democracy?
- Isomorphic mimicry
- Planning and Urban Bias
ISLAND ECONOMIES

- A Mirage of Development?
- Large states in post(?) – conflict crisis
- Tinkering and Aid Fatigue
- Culture Anyone
- The View from Aniwa
PICs, BRICs and CIVETs

- Sachs, Collier and UNCTAD
- Mauritius in another ocean?
- An Asia-Pacific Viewpoint
- From Shanghai to Tarawa
- Better than PIGs?
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION – THE OUTWARD URGE

- History
- Culture of Migration (TNC of kin, remittances, MIRAB..)
- Polynesia, Micronesia (CFA).... Melanesia
- Outward Urge

- Degrees as Passports
- Skill Loss ..... RM?
POLICY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

- Absent data - but even more absent policy
- Employment
- Housing .... back to site and service?
- Services .... funding?
- Policing the City?
- Managing the City? National Urbanisation Policy?
- Democracy and Civil Society
Towards a Conclusion ...
Thank You