



The Open University Development and Environment Society

Volume I, Issue I

www.oudes.org

June 2008

Letter from the editor

Welcome to the first edition of the newly relaunched OUDES newsletter. I hope that you will find it interesting and that it will provide suitable food for thought. It should however be said that the success of the newsletter, [website](#) and indeed the society relies on active participation of our members. I would therefore ask members to support us by contributing relevant musings or notes from projects that you have been involved in.

I think that most of us think that the main function of the society is to provide the revision weekends towards the end of courses, but can and should OUDES be doing more? It is also important to know what members want the society to be and what you want to get from it. The OUDES forum on the website is the perfect place to hammer out these kinds of topics, so please use it? Alternatively, you can send suggestions to the relevant contacts in the committee. These are listed at the end of the newsletter.

In short, it is your society—please help make it work.

Robert von Ziegenweidt

Are Development and Environment opposing ideals?

After having completed various Open University Development and Environment courses, I am still left wondering if, as a global population, we can achieve a standard of development that does not threaten our environment. It seems to me that much of current development relies on trade, not just trade, but long distance trade. Is the answer to stop us buying fresh air-freighted products and focus on buying local? This would no doubt benefit UK and European farmers, but would this be to the detriment of people in the South? Do consumers have any power in the grand scheme of things? Are transnational corporations now so powerful that we are at their beck and call? Should we stop flying altogether or will this only cut off the much needed income for economies that rely on tourism? These are the kinds of questions that OUDES members are invited to discuss and suggest outcomes.

Revision Weekend:

It is getting to that time of year again where many members will be starting to think about the exams for their course. Members on U213, U216, DD205, T206 and DU301 have the opportunity to attend this year's revision weekend which will be running from 5 until 7 September. The weekend is popular and thoroughly beneficial for exam preparation. Further details and application form are attached to the newsletter.

Upcoming Events:

Open University: <http://www.open.ac.uk/alumni/news-events/events/index.php>

LSE: www.lse.ac.uk/collections/LSEPublicLecturesAndEvents/Default.htm

City University: www.city.ac.uk

And , of course, the revision weekend.



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