



**Centre de Sciences Humaines
New Delhi**

Activity Report 2006

Centre de Sciences Humaines
2, Aurangzeb Road
New Delhi 110 011 – INDIA
Website : <http://www.csh-delhi.com>

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1. INTRODUCTION

The *Centre de Sciences Humaines* (CSH), created in 1990, is part of the network of 28 research establishments of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its purpose is to undertake research of high standard in the field of social sciences that could throw new light on the emergence of India as an international power and on the transitions affecting the sub-continent. Since 1995, the scope of the research conducted has been directed clearly at *contemporary* South Asia. Another objective of the CSH is to promote research synergies between the visiting French and European researchers and their Indian counterparts.

In 2006, the development of our research programmes has taken place within this general framework, and was organised on the basis of four major federative research areas:

- 1) Regional dynamics in South Asia and international relations;
- 2) Political dynamics and social transformations;
- 3) Economic transition and sustainable development;
- 4) Urban dynamics.

1.1. Main features of research activities in 2006

The CSH confirmed its role as an observatory of political (on the national and international scene), economic and social changes in contemporary India and South Asia.

The research in *International Relations* continued to develop two main themes: the process of regional integration; the nuclear politics in South Asia. In addition, a new international programme coordinated by the CSH was launched on the dynamics of contemporary Islam and economic development in Asia, which included a regular research seminar focussing on South Asia, and will lead to the organisation of an international conference in April 2007 in Delhi.

The *Political Dynamics* section pursued two general themes: the evolution of Indian federalism; the development of democratic

practices. As part of the latter, a monthly research seminar was organised on *Contemporary forms and challenges of political mobilisation in India*.

The research conducted within the *Economic Transition and Sustainable Development* section focussed on the impact of economic liberalisation reforms on inequalities and poverty, including the impact of the new National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. A major international conference was also held in January 2006 on liberalization experiences in Asia.

The research in *Urban Dynamics* focussed on two main areas: urban policies and governance; urban amenities and housing. In addition, the research programmes conducted contributed to develop further the expertise on the metropolis of Delhi. The year 2006 was also marked by the organisation of two international conferences, one on urban poverty, and the other on the Indian healthcare system, to which may be added the concluding international seminar in January 2007 of the collective programme on urban actors, policies and governance.

1.2. Strengthening and broadening of partnerships

The CSH scientific mission could not take place without a wide network of institutional contacts and partners, on the one hand in India, and on the other in France and other European countries. As can be seen in the detailed presentation of programmes as well as the list of seminars and conferences held, each of the four research sections has developed collaborations with external partners and most of the scientific events were organised in partnership. These various collaborations enable the CSH to expand its field of action beyond what its own human resources could achieve (i.e. a regular Indo-French team with around 12 researchers and doctoral students).

In France, the main institutional partnerships and scientific collaborations involve the Institute of Research for Development (IRD), the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CNRS-

EHESS), the Centre for International Studies and Research (Sciences-Po Paris & CNRS), the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Picardie Jules Verne, the Research Group in Quantitative Economics of Aix-Marseille (GREQAM: CNRS – EHESS – Universities of Aix-Marseille II & III), the Research Group on Economic Analyses and Policies (GRAPE: CNRS – University Montesquieu Bordeaux IV), the department of geography of the University of Rouen, the *Maison des Sciences de l'Homme* (Paris).

In India, the main institutional partnerships and scientific collaborations involve the Indian Council of Social Science Research, the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (Mumbai), the Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi), the Delhi School of Economics in Delhi University, the Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi), the Institute of Social Science (Eastern branch, Kolkata), the School of Planning and Architecture (New Delhi).

Lastly, in 2006, the CSH developed collaborations with other institutes from the network of the French Research Institutes abroad, with the financial support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs aimed at conducting large international research projects. The institutional partnerships in Asia included the Institute of Research on Contemporary South-East Asia in Bangkok, the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China in Hong-Kong, the French Institute on Central Asia in Tashkent as well as the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad, and, in Africa, the French Institute of South Africa in Johannesburg.

Along with the strengthening of partnerships, the CSH continued to pursue its efforts to mobilise external funding in order to implement its research projects and organise scientific events, whether it concerned financial contributions from various partner institutions for joint operations, or external subsidies from, for instance, the French Ministry of Research or the Indian Planning Commission.

1.3. A significant and sustained mission of training in research and a dynamic policy of affiliation

The CSH is also pursuing its research training mission, first of all by offering two scholarships for doctoral students (one in economics or urban geography and the other in

political science or international relations) and allocating an international volunteer's post to a doctoral student who has to work part-time as a scientific secretary.

The CSH also receives students for a one- to six-month period within the framework of formal agreements signed with doctoral schools or other higher studies establishments. The agreements enforced since 2003 or 2004 are with the Institute of Political Studies of Paris, the Geography Department of Rouen University, the South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg, the *Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines* in Paris, the Special Military School of Saint Cyr and the *Ecole Polytechnique* of Palaiseau. In 2006, seven students were affiliated at the CSH within this framework.

In 2006, the CSH also received five other doctoral students and five interns in M.Phil or at the Masters level, for one- to five-month periods, selected from among the various applications submitted for affiliation.

These affiliations concerned essentially students registered in European universities or institutions, the objective being to facilitate their access to field work, while also providing for their integration and training within a research team. Thus, internal CSH workshops are held regularly in order to present and discuss the research work underway. The affiliation of students also serves as a means for the CSH to strengthen its links with French/European universities and stimulate scientific exchanges with their professors and scholars.

In addition, the CSH extended again its support to the workshop held each year in India by the *Association Jeunes Etudes Indiennes* (Young Indian Studies Association), whose meeting in 2006 took place in the University of Kottayam, Kerala.

Apart from students, two French post-doctoral scholars were also affiliated to the CSH for research periods of three months in 2006, in the frame of the collective project on the *Dynamics of contemporary Islam in Asia*.

The last segment of the affiliation policy of CSH is addressed to Indian post-doctoral researchers: among the regular nine posts of post-doctoral scholars or senior researchers and academic consultants, five are meant for Indian fellows, which contributes to a better integration of the CSH in the Indian academic sphere.

1.4. Promotion of research

In continuation of the policy followed over the last few years, special attention has been paid to promoting and disseminating the Centre's research activities, with the subsequent financial efforts required, in order to maximise the CSH's visibility. The policy followed with regard to the organisation of scientific events and publications is presented in detail in Section 4 of this report. We shall limit ourselves here to underlining the main results.

In 2006, four *international conferences and workshops* were organised, in collaboration with Indian and/or European partners. In addition, the CSH launched two *regular research seminars*, held in its premises, in the frame

of collective projects, one in political dynamics and the other in international relations, which included altogether 12 sessions over the year.

With regard to *publications*, eight books were published in 2006, two others in the beginning of 2007, including three volumes in the longstanding series that the CSH has established with the Indian publishing house Manohar. In addition, three titles were published in 2006 in the CSH series of *Occasional Papers* (100-200 page long documents, also subject to a referee process). The researchers also pursued their efforts to publish their findings in academic refereed journals (20 articles in 2006, including 11 in international journals).

Véronique Dupont
CSH Director
New Delhi, 27th February 2007

2. ORGANISATION AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

2.1. Human resources

At the end of 2006, the CSH regular team consisted of 24 persons in all, of which half were research scholars or doctoral students. To these must be added 20 visiting scholars, students and interns, affiliated to the CSH for stays of very different durations in 2006, amounting to a total of 60 months of affiliations over the year.

Apart from the Director and Secretary General-Financial Officer (expatriates), the administrative team includes an assistant to the director, a publications in-charge, a librarian – documentalist and two assistants to the Secretary General-Financial Officer (the second had joined only in November 2006). It may be noted that the Secretary General-Financial Officer and his assistants are required to devote part of their time to the accountancy of two other French establishments in India (the French Institute of Pondicherry and the French Information Resource Centre of New Delhi).

The research team is divided into four thematic sections. In 2006, it included four expatriate researchers and three doctoral scholarship holders from French universities as well as five post-doctoral fellows from the host country. The visiting scholars, students and interns may hail from various universities or research centres, in France, other European countries and India.

The detailed organisational chart of the CSH, including the staff movement in 2006 is provided below. The table of visiting research scholars, students and interns, with their affiliation by research section, also indicates their respective institutions and duration of stay.

2.2. Financial management

The operating subsidy from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs amounted to € 190,000 for 2006 (i.e. 95% of the € 200,000 initially notified, following a budgetary regulation), which represents a reduction of 5% as compared to the 2004 subsidy, whereas the rate of inflation in India is 5 to 6 % per annum.

This grant included the payment from the CSH budget of two French doctoral scholarships and five Indian post-doctoral fellowships, including one of the latter co-financed by the ICSSR.

The revision of the salary grid of the French Embassy in 2006, fixed by the inter-ministerial commission, resulted in a 29% increase of the total salaries of the local administrative and service staff.

As a result of these various factors, the part of the operating subsidy from the Ministry that can support the research programmes has drastically reduced. The table “Situation of the accounts as per 31-12-2006” provides the distribution of the main chapters of expenses during the year 2006. It also evidences the following points:

The Ministry operating subsidy represented only 50 % of all revenues in 2006.

85 % of this subsidy was used to cover fixed costs and other regular functioning expenses (salaries, scholarships, library, computer network, equipment, maintenance and various overheads, et al.) not directly linked to the implementation of the research projects.

76 % of the funding of the research projects in 2006 was covered by funds other than the Ministry operating subsidy. The sources of external or supplementary funds include:

- the National Science Fund of the French Ministry of Research for a three-year collective project on “*Urban actors, policies and governance*”, conducted in partnership with the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CNRS-EHESS) and including € 51,000 to be managed by CSH;
- special funding from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the framework of three international programmes, associating several French Research Institutes based outside France:
- “*Restructuring of contemporary Islam and economic dynamics in Asia*”, coordinated by the CSH and including € 92,000 to be managed by CSH over two years;

- “Democratic transformations in emerging countries”, coordinated by the French Institute of South Africa (IFAS, Johannesburg) and including € 14,240 for the participation of the CSH in this two-year programme;
 - “Regional integration and national resistances in the Greater Mekong region”, coordinated by the Institute of Research on Contemporary South East Asia (IRASEC, Bangkok) and including € 4000 for the participation of the CSH in this two-year programme.
- Funding from the French National Agency for Research (ANR) is further expected for a three-year project on “Urban policies, territories and social exclusion: a comparison between India and Brazil”, to be conducted in partnership with the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CNRS-EHESS) (including 81,100 euros to be managed by the CSH over 2007-2009).

Situation of the accounts as per 31-12-2006

(Revenues and expenses in 2006)

	In Rupees	
Total revenues in 2006 (including funding for pluri-annual research projects)	20 836 773	
<i>Ministry operating subsidy</i>	<i>10,341,167</i>	= 49.6 % of expenses
Total expenses in 2006 :	15,252,084	
Impact of the new salary grid on total salary expenses (for local administrative & service staff) :		+ 28.9%
Significant chapters of expenses :		
Salaries (local staff) in 2006 :	2,344,955	= 15.4 % of expenses <i>or 22.7 % of the Ministry subsidy</i>
Doctoral scholarship and post-doctoral fellowships :	2,331,090	= 15.3 % of expenses <i>or 22.6 % of the Ministry subsidy</i>
Computer network and equipment	650,989	= 4.3 % of expenses
Library (books and subscriptions) & other documentation	1,278,072	= 8.4 % of expenses
Mailing	412,638	= 2.7 % of expenses
Contribution to the Embassy overheads : (maintenance, security, electricity)	842,844.08	= 5.52 % of expenses
<u>Expenses directly linked to the research projects</u>	6,465,398	= 42.4 % of expenses
<u>Total of other expenses</u>	8,786,685	= 57.61 % of expenses <i>or 85.0 % of the Ministry subsidy</i>

2.3. Premises and equipment

The CSH premises, covering 378 sq. m. in two buildings, support:

- the research team with a total carrying capacity of 16 computerized workstations devoted to research, of which five were for visiting affiliated students and research scholars. The four research sections are able to provide researchers, doctoral students and interns, with computerised workstations connected to the Intranet, the Internet, as well as the scientific contacts' database of the CSH, the library database and an all-India library network (*see below*).
- Administration: seven computerized workstations.
- Library: one computerized workstation for the librarian, two workstations with access to Internet and Intranet network for visitors.

2.4. Library

The collection of the CSH library increased substantially in 2006, with the purchase of approximately 250 books, bringing the total number of books to more than 8900 in December 2006, plus about 100 CD-ROMs.

To this may be added:

- 185 periodicals, including 90 ongoing subscriptions, in French (20) and English (70);
- Eight Indian dailies and one French daily;
- Selected CD-ROMs of the Census of India 2001;
- A subscription since 2004 to Indiastat.com, a website providing socio-economic statistical data on India;
- And, since January 2005, a subscription to a collection of online academic journals, the JSTOR database.

The library is equipped with a highly efficient management software package (LIBSYS), which enables optimized access to the computerized reference database online and facilitates consultation of the library catalogue on the Internet (at the following address: <http://csh-del.oliveindia.com>).

The CSH library has been integrated with the DELNET library network (Developing Library Network) to avail books and articles on inter-library loan basis and provides access to more than six million records in DELNET database of 1069 libraries in and outside India.

Organisational chart of the *Centre de Sciences Humaines* as of 31-12-2006

Direction	Véronique DUPONT, Director (MAE expatriate since September 2003) - also <i>coordinator of the "Urban dynamics" Section.</i>
General administration and financial management	Jean-Luc GOURMELEN, secretary general & financial officer (MAE expatriate since March 2006) * Mallika HANIF, assistant to the Director Kulmohan SINGH, assistant to the accounts officer * Shelly SHARMA, assistant to the accounts officer (since November 2006) *

* Devote part of their time to the accountancy of the French Institute of Pondicherry and the French Information Resource Centre of New Delhi.

Scientific secretary	Bertrand LEFEBVRE, International Volunteer (from October 2004 to September 2006) – replaced in February 2007 by Romain CHAPPUIS – Part-time devoted to the functions of scientific secretary
In charge of computer network and website	Cédric BUISSART, International Volunteer (from mid-March 2006)
Publications, Documentation	Attreyee ROY CHOWDHURY, Publications in-charge Ved Narayan SINGH RAWAT, Librarian & Documentalist

Telephone, courier, maintenance, miscellaneous	Mahesh KUMAR, telephone operator and factotum Ashok KUMAR, telephone operator and factotum Pushpa PARASAR, housekeeping
Research	
<i>French Researchers</i>	Nicolas GRAVEL, Economics, Section head , (MAE expatriate since September 2004) Laurent GAYER, International Relations, Section head (MAE expatriate since February 2006) Stéphanie TAWA LAMA-REWAL, Political Science, Section head , research fellow at CNRS, deputed to CSH for 2 years since September 2005. Marie-Hélène ZÉRAH, Urban Studies, research fellow at IRD (Institute of Research for Development), deputed to CSH for 2 years since July 2005, in collaboration with the <i>Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research</i> , Mumbai).
<i>French doctoral students: French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' scholarship holders Or International Volunteer</i>	Benoît TARROUX , Economics (since November 2006) Bertrand LEFEBVRE, Geography (International Volunteer from October 2004 to September 2006, with half-time devoted to research ; scholarship holder since October 2006, with full-time devoted to research) Cyril ROBIN, Political Science (since October 2004) Lionel BAIXAS, Political Science (since October 2006)
<i>Indian post-doctoral fellows and Experts</i>	Deepa MENON-CHOUDHARY, Economics (from March 2004 to March 2006, CSH-ICSSR joint fellowship) – succeeded in January 2007 by Rongili BISWAS HIMANSHU, Economics (since January 2006) Sanjay Kumar PANDEY, Political Science (Associate Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, part time academic consultant at the CSH, since January 2006) Swaran SINGH, International Relations (Associate Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, part time academic consultant at the CSH, since September 2002) Vineeta SHANKER, Islam Project (from February 2006 to July 2006) – succeeded by Zarin AHMAD since November 2006

MAE: Ministère des Affaires Etrangères = French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Visiting scholars, doctoral students and interns at the CSH in 2006
scholars (with affiliation by research division)**

1. Regional dynamics in South Asia and international relations			
Sébastien BOSSARD	Doctoral student , history, University of Nantes	Mid July to end-August 2006	1.5 month in 2006
Rémy DELAGE	Post-doctoral scholar , International Institute for the Study of Islam in the Modern World, Leiden	End-June to end-August 2006 December 2006	3 months in 2006
Renaud EGRETEAU	Doctoral student , Institute of Political Studies of Paris	March 2006	0.5 month in 2006
Laurence HENRY	Post- Doctoral scholar , International law, Centre of International and Community Studies and Research (CERIC), Aix-Marseille, holder of a Lavoisier scholarship from the MAE	October 2005 to February 2006	2 months in 2006
Grégoire HENRI-ROUSSEAU	Intern , student, Special Military School of Saint Cyr	September - December 2006	3 months in 2006
Samadia SADOUNI	Post- Doctoral scholar , Islam project, Centre for the Study of Sub-Saharan Africa (CEAN) Bordeaux	July - October 2006	3 months in 2006
2. Political dynamics and social transformations			
Lionel BAIXAS	Doctoral student , Institute of Political Studies of Paris	November 2005 to March 2006	3 months in 2006
Radhika GOVINDA	Doctoral student , School for Oriental Studies, University of Cambridge, UK.	Mid-July to October end 2006	3.5 months in 2006
Jules NAUDET	Doctoral student , Institute of Political Studies of Paris	August 2006 to January 2007	5 months in 2006
Malte PEHL	Doctoral student , Department of Political Sciences, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg	November 2005 to January 2006	1 month in 2006
Sandra RUEHM	Doctoral student , Department of Political Sciences, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg	August to October 2006	3 months in 2006
3. Economic transition and sustainable development			
Nina GUYON	Intern , student engineer, <i>Ecole Polytechnique</i> , Palaiseau	April 2006 – July 2006	3 months in 2006
Augustin MARIA	Doctoral student , University of Paris Dauphine & CERNA (Centre of Industrial Economy, <i>Ecole Normale Supérieure des Mines</i> , Paris)	November 2005 to March 2006	3 months in 2006

4. Urban Dynamics			
Paramita BANERJEE	Intern , M.Phil. student, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Centre for the Study of Regional Development	October 2005 to February 2006 & August-September 2006	4 months in 2006
Swati SWACHDEV	Intern , M.Phil. student, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Centre for the Study of Regional Development	October 2005 to February 2006 & August 2006	3 months in 2006
Marie-Charlotte BELLE	Doctoral student in history, University of Paris 4	January to March 2006	3 months in 2006 in Delhi and Mumbai
Joseph CHAUVIN	Intern , student in geography, Master 1, University of Provence (Aix-Marseille I)	January 2006 to May 2006	5 months in 2006
Géraldine SAVIN	Intern , student in geography, Master 1, University of Provence (Aix-Marseille I)	January 2006 to May 2006	5 months in 2006
Charles-Noël EBANG	Intern , student in geography, Master 2, University of Rouen	20 February 2006 - 5 May 2006	3 months in 2006
Derya OZEL	Intern , student in town and country planning, Master 2, University of Paris 8	July to September 2006	3 months in 2006, in Mumbai under the supervision of M.H. Zérah

3. RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

3.1. Regional dynamics in South Asia and international relations

Coordination: Laurent GAYER

2006 was a transitional year for the department, with the departure of Eric Leclerc, who had been its coordinator since 2004, and his replacement by Laurent Gayer (February). Notwithstanding this change, the department remains focused on India's new international relations, in their inter-state and transnational dimensions.

The department has accepted two students for three-month long internships: a student from the *Ecole spéciale militaire* (Saint Cyr), Grégoire Henri-Rousseau, within the framework of an institutional collaboration that started in 2004, and a Ph.D candidate of the University of Nantes, Sébastien Bossard.

Several projects undertaken in the preceding years have been entering their final stage. This was the case, in particular, of the project on confidence building measures (CBMs) between India, Pakistan and China. The project related to the Ganga Mekong Cooperation Initiative is also approaching its completion. This project is a part of the Greater Mekong Region research programme, coordinated by the French Institute of Research on Contemporary South-East Asia (IRASEC) based in Bangkok.

On the other hand, 2006 was the launch year for new research projects, such as the one on India's nuclear nationalism.

The international relations section has also been tasked with the coordination of an international research programme by associating several centers from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the subject "*Dynamics of Contemporary Islam and Economic Development in Asia, from the Caucasus to China*". All the fieldworks undertaken in the framework of this programme were completed in 2006 and their results will be presented in an international seminar which will be held in Delhi on 16th-17th April 2007.

2006 was thus a fruitful year, in terms of the synergies between the CSH and other French

research institutes in Asia, whether in the framework of the "*Islam in Asia*" research programme or in that of the "Ganga-Mekong" project. New partnerships now remain to be consolidated with Indian research institutions, in particular with the Nelson Mandela Peace Studies Centre of *Jamia Millia Islamia*, New Delhi.

3.1.1. Processes of Regional Integration India-ASEAN relations and India's Look East Policy

Laurence HENRY, Post-doctoral Fellow, CSH (September 2005-February 2006), Centre for International and Community Studies and Research (CERIC), Aix en Provence (lrnhenry@aol.com).

Funding: Lavoisier scholarship from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs; CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

Within the framework of its Look East Policy, India has developed privileged relations with ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations). There are numerous initiatives in the field of international trade and economic cooperation. Some framework treaties have already been signed between India and ASEAN, in order to identify the aims of their cooperation. However, their implementation is rather slow. On the periphery, other projects have been launched, within a sub-regional frame, such as the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Programme or the BIMTEC (Bay of Bengal Community), or through bilateral agreements with certain privileged partners of India. All these regional agreements must also comply with WTO law, which is at the heart of the world trade normative regulation.

These different circles of cooperation comprise a complex web of complementary and competitive agreements and institutions. In addition, as they are numerous, it leads, to some extent, to uncertainty and legal insecurity. The first step of this project is to collect and classify international agreements, actors, institutions, and dispute settlement mechanisms, private and public, involved in this process. The second objective is to compare the contents and effectiveness of these different forms of collaboration, because the

states and sub-regional organizations do not provide them with the same legal, institutional and financial means. Finally, the reflection will focus, in a more theoretical frame, on the implications of these pluralistic forms of relations between India, ASEAN and some of its member states for the regional architecture under construction.

Although this was definitively a trans-disciplinary project, the objective was to add a legal approach and interpretation grid on a topic essentially dealt with by economists and international relations specialists.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The research has been completed and a paper presenting its main findings has been submitted and will be published as a CSH Occasional Paper in 2007.

The Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC Initiative)

Swaran SINGH, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and academic consultant, CSH (singh@csh-delhi.com).

Institutional collaboration: French Institute of Research on Contemporary South-East Asia (IRASEC, Bangkok).

Funding: CSH & IRASEC.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

After the expansion of ASEAN in the 1990s (to include Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam), both China and India today share land boundaries with ASEAN. This has resulted in both China and India increasing their engagement with this region now called Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS). India's policy to engage this region – under the rubric of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Initiative – has been driven by China's growing engagement with this region as well as with the ASEAN members. Led by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) initiatives most major powers are today engaged in this region.

In this context, this study attempts to understand the strategic importance of GMS, how other major powers are engaging in this region and how have Indian initiatives borne fruit so far? This study is based on the use of primary and secondary materials including discussion of experts and officials in the field.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The year 2006 included the following: a preliminary survey on the broad subject and the region; submission of a formal research proposal in March 2006 to IRASEC; first preliminary three-day mission to IRASEC in October 2006; second 15-day mission to Bangkok and Hanoi in December 2006.

Results in 2006

A tentative draft of about 65 pages has been written during 2006, and will be developed into a full-length book manuscript in 2007. In addition, an Occasional Paper will be submitted to IRASEC by June 2007.

3.1.2. Nuclear Politics in South Asia

Managing Nuclear Tensions amongst China-India-Pakistan: Lessons from European Experience in Evolving Nuclear Risk Reduction Measures

Swaran SINGH, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and academic consultant, CSH (singh@csh-delhi.com).

Funding: CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

The focus of policy initiatives and academic research in post-1998 China-India-Pakistan interface has shifted from resolving their long-standing conflicts to evolving triangular confidence building measures (CBMs). The research objective was to examine how far this triangular relationship is beginning to impact on their so far bilateral interactions, by looking at a specific set of CBMs, in the field of nuclear risk reduction measures (NRRMs). This study traced the origins of these NRRMs from the India-Pakistan Memorandum of Understanding signed during the February 1999 Lahore Summit, and from the setting up of the China-India Security Dialogue from June 2000 onwards.

India-Pakistan-China NRRMs were studied in the backdrop of the European experience in evolving nuclear CBMs that have been part of the Helsinki and Vienna processes. Despite hiccups, these processes have come to focus on the threat from nuclear and missile tests and NRRMs are often highlighted as a pre-condition for taking all other initiatives towards lasting peace and stability.

Activities undertaken in 2006

This is a single author work. The manuscript was submitted to the editor in the course of the year and publication is expected in 2007.

Other programme related to similar issues

A student-officer from the St Cyr Military Academy, Grégoire Henri-Rousseau, spent three months at the CSH, from September to December 2006 for his research training, in the frame of an institutional agreement. He undertook a study on India's nuclear strategy (1947-1998), under the supervision of Swaran Singh. The results of his work were presented at the CSH in December 2006.

India's Nuclear Nationalism: the Politics and Symbolic of Nuclear Power in a Post-Colonial State

Laurent GAYER, Senior Research Fellow, CSH / Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CEIAS), Paris (laurent.gayer@csh-delhi.com).

Funding: CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

This research programme intends to look at the politics and symbolic of nuclear power in contemporary India, which involves the Indian state (and more particularly its strategic enclave), but also its society, both at home and in the diaspora. It aims to look at the nuclearization of India from a different perspective than that generally adopted by International Relations scholars. Rather than assessing the strategic motivations for India's military and civilian uses of nuclear energy, it is looking at the political and symbolic uses of nuclear power in India since the 1970s. Indeed, the development of India's civilian and military programmes, from the 1950s onwards, was not so much the outcome of a grand strategic design but rather the result of a nationalist project building upon the symbolic attributes of modern science.

This research programme will thus start by assessing the relations between science and nationalism in post-colonial India. Drawing inspiration from the works of preminent scholars of Indian (post)colonial science, such as Deepak Kumar and Gyan Prakash, it will look at nuclear nationalism as a form of scientific fetishism, where the scientific achievements of the state are perceived as a form of fulfillment of the nation's destiny.

Moving on to the formation of India's "strategic enclave" (Itty Abraham), this study aims to assess the role of nuclear scientists in the construction of a new national identity by relying upon modern technologies. The research programme will also attempt to decrypt the "nukespeak" of India's strategic and political elites and to cover Indian anti-nuclear social movements. The "mirroring effect" of this nuclear nationalism in Pakistan will also be analysed, as well as the reception of this new political and strategic discourse by India's diplomatic partners.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The project started in February 2006 and should be completed in December 2007. The activities undertaken in 2006 were devoted to fieldwork in India and Pakistan. The focus of this fieldwork was the regional peace movement advocating the denuclearization of South Asia. In Pakistan, the co-founders of the Pakistan-India Forum for Peace and Democracy (PIFPD, launched in 1994) were interviewed extensively and the pacifist literature published in English and Urdu by the PIFPD and other Pakistani pacifist organisations was collected. In India, the focus of the fieldwork was a regional peace conference organised by Congress M.P. Nirmala Deshpande in Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) in late November 2006.

Results

In the course of the year, the literature dealing with India and Pakistan's nuclear nationalism was collected and started to be analysed. Preliminary fieldwork provided first-hand information on the sociology of the peace movement in South Asia, which is far from being homogenous and integrates ideological peaceniks (the Gandhians around Nirmala Deshpande), former leftists (such as the founders of the PIFPD), retired servicemen, feminists and scientists. This study of the regional peace movement will be completed in 2007 with an analysis of the Indian and Pakistani "strategic enclaves", if possible through interviews, but also through textual analysis of the "nukespeak" of these strategic elites in the media.

3.1.3. Dynamics of Contemporary Islam and Economic Development in Asia from the Caucasus to China

Project head: Laurent GAYER, Senior Research Fellow, CSH / Centre d'Etudes de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud (CEIAS), Paris (laurent.gayer@csh-delhi.com).

Institutional collaborations: French Institute for the Study of Central Asia (IFEAC), Tashkent; French Institute of Research on Contemporary South-East Asia (IRASEC), Bangkok; French Centre for the Study of Contemporary China (CEFC), Hong Kong; French Institute of South Africa (IFAS), Johannesburg; Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CEIAS), Paris; French Research Antenna in Azerbaijan, Baku; Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad.

Funding: French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (International programme of the French Research Institutes abroad).

Problematic, objectives and methodology

Having undergone sectarian, national and linguistic divisions, the Muslim world no longer constitutes a homogenous socio-cultural space. Furthermore, the priorities and dynamics of various Islamic movements differ from one another depending on whether they were born in countries where Muslims constitute a majority or a small minority of the total population, or whether they find themselves in an intermediary position. In spite of these cleavages, the Muslim *ummah* “exists” nonetheless in the minds of believers and this imagined transnational community finds itself facing collective challenges. These challenges cannot be reduced to an ordinary debate between “radical” and “moderate” Islam as they are also an outcome of the *globalisation*, the *individualisation* and the *secularisation* of contemporary Islam in the *dar-ul Islam*, as well as in countries that are home to (ancient or recent) immigrant Muslim countries.

In this multidisciplinary project, we aimed to go beyond the compartmentalization imposed by different disciplines, which slows down the progress of research in the social sciences, and consider this theoretical *aggiornamento* in its totality by studying the major issues thrown up by recent studies. The spread of radical Islam is but one of these issues and should not monopolise the attention of researchers considering that it is only one of the forms of protest peculiar to Muslim societies and their diasporas on other lands, but also because these anti-establishment arguments cannot gloss over the social, political and theological transformations taking place outside the areas of protest.

Activities undertaken in 2006

All the field trips of the researchers affiliated under this programme were completed in 2006. Two post-doctoral students affiliated with other research institutions were attached to CSH during

the course of their field work, such as Rémy Delage (Institute for the Study of the Islamic World, ISIM, Leiden, who spent three months in India researching on the reform of *madrassas*) and Samadia Sadouni (*Centre d'études de l'Afrique noire*, CEAN, Bordeaux), who spent two months in Uttar Pradesh and Mumbai for her research on the Islamic preacher Zakir Naik. The coordinator of the programme, Laurent Gayer, for his part spent a month in Karachi for his project on the “nationalist secularization” of Pakistan’s Mohajirs, which also involves Michel Boivin (CNRS/Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies, Paris).

Vineeta Shanker, a senior research fellow at the CSH from February to July 2006, undertook in collaboration with B.L. Joshi (from Knowledge, Awareness Research and Management) a survey on the socio-economic conditions of Muslims in Uttar Pradesh. Zarin Ahmad, a post-doctoral fellow who completed her Ph.D on the Muslim minority in Sri Lanka, joined the programme in November 2006 after having been offered a one-year fellowship at CSH. Her research project deals with the process of upward social mobility amongst the Muslim butchers of Old Delhi.

A team of CSH researchers (Laurent Gayer, Bertrand Lefebvre, Cyril Robin, Zarin Ahmad and Rémy Delage) has also been working on an *Atlas of Muslim minorities in Asia*, which is coordinated by Michel Gilquin at IRASEC in Bangkok. The CSH team was in charge of the chapters related to Indian, Sri-Lankan and Nepalese Muslims.

Results

The CSH will organise an international seminar on the “*Dynamics of Contemporary Islam and Economic Development in Asia, from the Caucasus to China*” in Delhi on 16th-17th April 2007. All the researchers involved in the programme, whether at the CSH or at other French institutes in Asia, will attend the conference and present their papers which should ultimately be published in a collective volume in English in 2008.

3.2. Political dynamics and social change

Coordination: Stéphanie TAWA LAMA-REWAL

Five doctoral students have joined the department in 2006: two within the framework of

the Internship Agreement signed with the Institute of Political Studies of Paris (Lionel Baixas from November 2005 to March 2006, followed by Jules Naudet from August 2006 to January 2007); two within the framework of the agreement with the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg (Malte Pehl from November 2005 to January 2006, followed by Sandra Ruehm from August to October 2006); and a doctoral student at the University of Cambridge, Radhika Govinda (from July to October 2006). In addition, the department has another doctoral student, Cyril Robin (CSH scholarship holder), a post-doctoral fellow (Samuel Berthet, associated to CSH), as well as an Indian senior research scholar, Sanjay Kumar Pandey.

The relatively large number of members in the department has helped create group dynamics that essentially revolve around a monthly research seminar on “*Contemporary forms and challenges of political mobilization in India*”. The seminar, which began in 2006, has also been one of the implementation modes of the collective project entitled “*India’s democratic renewal in question*”, conducted by a team consisting of all the department’s members, as well as Marie-Hélène Zérah, Gilles Verniers (a doctoral student from the Institute of Political Studies of Paris) and two Indian research fellows from outside the CSH (see below).

The work carried out by the department’s members in 2006 dealt with two main subjects: the evolution of Indian federalism (the challenge of identity dynamics, the challenge of creating new states, and the growing role of regional political parties, especially through coalition governments); and the development of democratic practices (the renewal of political elites, emerging forms of mobilization, the historical development of Indian and Pakistani political regimes, the women’s movement).

3.2.1 The evolution of Indian Federalism

Challenges to Indian Federalism: Politics of Identity and Self-Determination

Sanjay Kumar PANDEY, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Academic Consultant, CSH (skpandey@csh-delhi.com).

Funding: CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

This is a comparative study of separatist movements in Nagaland and Mizoram.

Both states have predominantly tribal and Christian populations, have a long history of organised separatist movement and are peaceful at present. But whereas in Nagaland there exists political groups which are still demanding ‘sovereignty’ and are engaged in protracted negotiations with the Government of India for the same, there are no such groups or demands in Mizoram as of now. Comparing the two cases is meant to ascertain the nature and role of identity politics and elites in separatist movements in these states.

This is a contemporary study with some references to the historical context. A historical survey of the evolution of Indian federalism with special reference to these two states, based on content analysis of important documents (requiring manifestos and pamphlets issued by some of the separatist organisations) will be supplemented with a sample survey seeking to gather the opinion of the people in the two states. It will attempt to measure, establish and prioritize various factors/variables responsible for separatist demands in those regions.

Activities undertaken in 2006

In 2006, the basic survey of literature on the subject and field survey with structured questionnaires (220 in Nagaland and 160 in Mizoram) have been completed. In May and June, S.K. Pandey personally visited the region and conducted open-ended, in-depth interviews with various political actors in both states.

Results in 2006

Some of the tentative findings are as follows:

- The politics of identity has played a definitive role in the Naga and Mizo movements. The fact that the Mizo identity is more crystallized, with a common language and insignificant inter-tribal distinction, contributed to the peace process and the settlement of the problem. The Nagas’ individual tribal identity has taken precedence over the Christian identity, with different tribes having their separate churches. This has limited the role of the church as a moderator in inter-tribal conflict and facilitator of the peace process.
- Economic deprivation and neglect has been a contributory, but never the dominant factor behind the rise of Naga and Mizo movements. To that extent, economic development packages can only partially meet the aspirations of the two people.

Institutions, Strategy and Policy in Coalition Politics: The Indian States, 1990-2000

Malte PEHL, doctoral student, Part-time Lecturer, University of Heidelberg, Germany; affiliated to the CSH from November 2005 to January 2006 (mpehl@sai.uni-heidelberg.de).

Institutional collaboration: South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg.

Funding: salary and travel grant as part-time lecturer at the University of Heidelberg; logistic and financial support for fieldwork from CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

This project explores the nexus between political mobilization strategies of parties in the Indian states and the spending patterns of governments on welfare and public goods provision.

This is an empirical study based on a deductively derived model and statistical analysis of macro-level data on parties, coalitions, party systems and public spending, as well as on small-N survey of experts.

Activities undertaken in 2006 and expected results

The project started on 1st January 2004 and its scheduled completion date is 30th June 2007.

The results of the research will contribute to understanding the differential relationship between clientelist mobilization by Indian political parties and the provision of public goods and welfare programmes by governments in the Indian states, i.e. the nexus between the political process and its institutions and responsiveness of politicians to actual needs.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development in India: Challenges and Opportunities

Sandra RUEHM, doctoral student at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and affiliated to the CSH from August to November 2006 (sandra.ruehm@gmail.com).

Institutional collaboration: South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg.

Funding: DAAD; logistic and financial support for field work from the CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

Today, India is portrayed as the new “Knowledge Superpower” and the Government

keeps demonstrating its vision to leverage ICT in order to bridge the developmental divide, but the exact impact of ICT on development remains controversial. The project aims, first, at determining the potential of ICT as a proxy to enhance development by focusing on ICT-based policy initiatives and development interventions in selected Indian states. Second, the study concentrates on the ability of state governments to actually guarantee a high level of quality in education which is not only a basic assumption for a knowledge-based society, but is also recognised as one of the most important factors in combating poverty and enhancing social development. The empirical study is based on an actor-centred theoretical framework which also takes into account the political profile of the research units, their institutional features and underlying economic structures.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The project started in July 2004 at the University of Heidelberg. The doctoral thesis should be completed in July 2008. The research stay at the CSH, including a field trip to Tamil Nadu, comprised research in libraries and research institutes, the conduct of semi-structured interviews with stakeholders from all sides of the issue as well as visits of organisations that are committed to the objectives of development through ICT.

Expected results

The research project will help to better understand the role that ICT can play in development and it will, therefore, clarify the preconditions for the successful use of ICT as a proxy poverty reduction and sustainable development in India.

3.2.2. The evolution of democratic practices in South Asia

India’s democratic renewal in question

Project head: Stéphanie TAWA LAMA-REWAL, CNRS research fellow at the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CNRS-EHESS), assigned to the CSH since September 2005 (tawalama@ehess.fr).

Other participants:

Cyril ROBIN, doctoral student at the Institute of Political Studies of Paris (French Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ scholarship holder at the CSH since October 2004);

Samuel BERTHET, research scholar affiliated to the CSH;
 Sanjay Kumar PANDEY, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University and academic consultant at the CSH;
 Marie-Hélène ZERAH, research fellow at the Institute of Research for Development, deputed to the CSH since July 2005;
 Ilina SEN, research fellow at the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha;
 Pradeep SHARMA, lecturer at Jawaharlal Nehru University;
 Lionel BAIXAS, doctoral student, Institute of Political Studies of Paris, affiliated to the CSH from November 2005 to March 2006; French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' scholarship holder since October 2006;
 Gilles VERNIERS, doctoral student at the Institute of Political Studies of Paris.

Funding: French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (International programme of the French Research Institutes abroad).

Problematic, objectives and methodology

This project was drafted in response to a call for proposals issued within the framework of the international programme of the French Research Institutes abroad, entitled "Democratic transformations in emerging countries: Latin America, Africa, Asia – 1990-2005" and coordinated by the French Institute of South Africa. The CSH project aims at connecting several individual projects on the basis of a joint questioning of the depth and impact of several phenomena that seem to stem from the renewal of India's democratic practices. First, the impact of the renewal of political elites will be examined (particularly in relation to quotas and the rise of parties representing the lower castes), through the analysis of the relationship between the representation of identities and the representation of interests; this will be followed by an assessment of the depth of the renewal of mobilizing structures, by studying the relations between the participatory and representative dimensions of local democracy, especially in the context of metropolises.

The nine individual studies on which this project is based are structured into three teams, defined by the type of political site examined: State legislative assemblies, local governments set up within the framework of the decentralisation

policy, and residents' associations in the Indian megacities.

The collective reflection develops through a monthly seminar devoted to one of the programme's central themes: the forms, objects and challenges of political mobilization in India. The seminar, open to all interested research scholars, apart from team members, was initiated in June 2006 and proved to be a major contributor to the project's group dynamics.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The project's design as well as the constitution of its team took place in November 2005. An international workshop with the participation of scholars working on South Africa is scheduled in July 2007, which will conclude the project.

Political and infra-political mobilization in urban India – Contemporary forms and challenges

Stéphanie TAWA LAMA-REWAL, CNRS research fellow at the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (UMR CNRS-EHESS), assigned to the CSH since September 2005 (tawalama@ehess.fr).

Funding: CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

Indian metropolises are currently a major site of political innovation, both because of the implementation of the decentralisation policy and because capital cities are the showcases of States, willing to demonstrate their "good governance" practices, prescribed by the World Bank. In the previous 10 years or so, the new forms of local, political and infra-political mobilization that have surfaced in several Indian cities seem to meet the currently fashionable emphasis on the participatory dimension of democracy. In this context, the researcher proposes a detailed study of emerging mobilisations in Delhi, in order to contribute, on the one hand, to the knowledge of what civil society is in India and to the understanding of the local spurs to democracy, often described as procedural in this country; and on the other hand, to test the notion of participatory democracy through an empirical study.

The study is based on an ethnographical type of field survey, with a considerable emphasis on the direct observation of public hearings, association meetings, Municipal House meetings, et al. The survey is being carried out in a certain

number of zones in Delhi selected on the basis of variables considered as relevant to the intensity of mobilization in the research hypotheses. This survey is completed by semi-structured interviews and analysis of the contents of local newspapers.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The project began in November 2005 and should be completed in December 2007. The year 2006 was devoted to the collection of a considerable amount of data through interviews, direct observation of various events, the analysis of the English media's reports on residents' associations and the collection of administrative data on these associations.

Results in 2006

The preliminary results, presented at a seminar in Paris in November 2006, show that residents' associations have become legitimate actors in urban governance, with a negative impact on the urban poor's access to "voice".

The Representation of Other Backward Classes on Bihar's political stage, 1952-2005

Cyril ROBIN, doctoral student at the Institute of Political Studies of Paris (Sciences Po) / Centre for International Studies and Research; French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' scholarship holder at the CSH since October 2004 (cyril.robin@csh-delhi.com).

Funding: CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

While the coming to power of the lower castes has been a decisive step in the democratization of Bihar politics, how should we interpret the increasing representation of those citizens who had limited access to power till the end of the 1980s? The primary aim of this study is to identify the main political factors that enabled Other Backward Classes (OBCs) to dominate Bihar's political scenario from 1990 onwards. The second objective is to go beyond a mere description of the evolution of OBC representation through an analysis of what that really means for the OBCs, and the limitations of caste-based democratization, by looking at the functioning of lower caste parties, in particular.

The analysis of the changing sociological profile of political cadres is based on data collected during field surveys. The data relate to the caste identity of the members of the

Legislative Assembly in Bihar and of members of the executive committees of political parties present in Bihar. These surveys, which will be used to form a database, are supplemented by interviews with political leaders.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The doctoral research project should be completed with the submission of a thesis in 2007. One field trip was completed in July 2006 in Patna.

Results in 2006

The results concern the caste certification of the members of the parties' Executive Committee and of the Legislative Assembly of Bihar. The first results of the research show that the process of "democratization" is incomplete due to the very small number of members from the Most Backward Castes within the political class of Bihar. Those castes which have come to power since 1990 are not ready to increase the implementation of those Other Backward Classes belonging to the lower economic and social strata of that category.

Democracy in South Asia. A Historical and Comparative Analysis of the Democratization Process in India and Pakistan between 1947-2007

Lionel BAIXAS, doctoral student, Institute of Political Studies of Paris (*Sciences Po*) / Centre for International Studies and Research (CERI), affiliated to the CSH from November 2005 to March 2006; French Ministry of Foreign Affairs' scholarship holder since October 2006 (lionel.baixas@csh-delhi.com).

Funding: CSH; Institute of Political Studies of Paris; *Académie Française's* Jean-Walter Zelligja scholarship.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

The main objective of this project is to assess to what extent and why the traditional dichotomy between democracy in India and authoritarianism in Pakistan is neither analytically nor empirically valid. To do so, the research will focus on two distinct institutions: election and exception, generally presented as the basis of democracy and authoritarianism respectively. The aim is to demonstrate that the Indian and Pakistani political regimes are hybrid regimes, respectively an illiberal democracy and a competitive

authoritarianism, mixing institutions both democratic and authoritarian along different patterns.

The methodology of this research relies on the analysis of the interactions between institutional structures and socio-political dynamics. To the study of primary sources (archives, official documents), it adds the survey of secondary sources (press, biography, scholarly work) and the use of semi-directive interviews with concerned actors (scholars, judges, lawyers, activists, militants, politicians, the military). The core elements of the theoretical model that underlines this study are political sociology, comparative politics and transitology.

Activities undertaken in 2006

This project has been initiated in October 2004 and should be over in October 2008. In 2006, Lionel Baixas consulted documents at the National Archives of India and the Nehru Museum and Library at Teen Murti Bhavan, and interacted with several scholars from Jawaharlal Nehru University and *Jamia Millia Islamia*.

Results in 2006

The collection of information and documents has been completed for the first part of the thesis, namely the study of the development of the electoral institution in India and Pakistan since 1947.

Women's Movements in India and the Culture of Social Action

Radhika GOVINDA, doctoral student at the University of Cambridge; affiliated to the CSH from August to October 2006 (rg330@cam.ac.uk).

Funding: Overseas Research Scheme, Cambridge Commonwealth Trust, Charles Wallace India Trust, Rapson (departmental) Bursary.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

The women's movement in India has been criticized for not sufficiently representing and engaging with the perspectives of women of Dalit and minority communities. Given that Dalit assertion and Hindutva politics have emerged as two of the major political developments in contemporary India, it has become urgent for women's movement scholars and activists alike to engage with the above criticism.

Radhika Govinda's research explores how Dalit assertion and Hindu right activism cross-cut women's activism in the state of Uttar Pradesh,

which has seen the rise of BSP-led Dalit assertion and has been the cradle of Hindu Right politics. The research study specifically involves the case study of a women's organisation based in Southern Uttar Pradesh to understand how actors involved in the women's movement address the criticism regarding women of Dalit and minority communities.

The research findings will be mainly based on a series of semi-structured interviews and participant observations with the NGO leadership and field workers, and the constituencies of women, men and youth they reach out to. The interviews and observations will be supplemented by documentation and visual aids produced by the organisation. A set of interviews and interactions with members of other local NGOs, prominent NGOs elsewhere in the state as well as state-wide networks will be used to help verify, compare and contrast some of the findings.

Activities undertaken in 2006

Radhika Govinda began her doctoral research in October 2004 and is expected to submit her thesis by January 2008. Over the summer of 2006 when she was affiliated to the CSH, she completed the second round of her field work. This involved extensive interviews and observations in Chitrakoot and Banda districts of Uttar Pradesh. She also attended the National Conference of Autonomous Women's Organisations in Kolkata in September 2006.

The experience of upward social mobility in India

Jules NAUDET, doctoral student, Institute of Political Studies of Paris, affiliated to the CSH from August 2006 to January 2007 (julesnaudet@hotmail.com).

Funding: French Ministry of Research scholarship; CSH (field work).

Problematic, objectives and methodology

This study is part of a comparative research on social mobility in France, in the United States and in India. Its main objective is to collect data on how people experience social success in India. The study mainly consists of interviews of persons from low social background (from lower as well as from upper castes) who achieved relatively high status positions in the fields of Civil Service (mainly IAS, IPS and IRS), in the private sector (Indian Institutes of Management

and Indian Institutes of Technology diplomas – or equivalent), and in Academia (professors and researchers in the Social Sciences).

In particular, close attention is paid to the tension between the origin group and the new group produced by social mobility. The tension between the origin group and the new group involves two essential dimensions: a sociological dimension (the difference between two styles of life, between two habitus, between two worlds constructed on different referents, between two languages, et al.) and a moral and affective dimension (the feeling of “betraying” the origin group). How do they deal with the gap that exists between their group of origin and their new group? Do they get the impression that they are betraying their group of origin? Does success compel them to break the bonds they had with persons who were important for them? Does their social background impact the way they look at society?

Activities undertaken in 2006

The research stay in India started in August 2006. Since then, almost 60 in-depth interviews have been conducted.

3.3. Economic transition and sustainable development

Coordination: Nicolas GRAVEL

In 2006, the department of economics of the CSH has witnessed a significant gain in thematic and methodological unity with the departure of Deepa Menon-Choudhary, Dipankar Sengupta and Anastasia Angueletou and the arrival of Himanshu (in January 2006) and Benoît Tarrow (in November 2006). The process will be completed in 2007 when Rongili Biswas, who among other research projects will be involved in collaborative work with the coordinator on fiscal federalism, joins the department. As mentioned in the 2005 activity report, this trend is the result of a deliberate strategy to reduce the diversity of research themes and methodologies, which was viewed as an impediment to research synergies - while keeping the diversity of research scopes (from academic to policy-oriented), which was perceived as an asset for a research institution like the CSH.

This strategy is already producing payoffs. On the academic side, the year 2006 is unprecedented, in the history of the CSH, in terms of research output, with four articles published in top

academic refereed journals (*Journal of Economic Theory*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Mathematical Social Sciences*, and *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*). Three of these journals are ranked A by the French CNRS, and the other, unranked by the French CNRS, is the best Indian journal in the field of labour economics. Moreover, the author of the article in the *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, Dr. Himanshu, has been awarded the prize of the best article published in this journal for 2006.

On the scientific events side, the international conference on the liberalization experiences in Asia, held on 10th-11th January 2006, has been a great success, with scholars coming from the universities of Yale, Beijing, Melbourne, Cornell, Tilburg, and Warwick to mention just a few. Finally, on the policy side, a research involving collaboration between two economists of the CSH and one economist from the Indian Statistical Institute of Delhi, and devoted to the evaluation of the impact of the new National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) on rural poverty has been funded by the Indian Planning Commission.

There is, therefore, little doubt that, on the economics front, the CSH is now well integrated into the landscape of the institutions producing research of the highest quality in India. It has a research productivity that compares favourably, on a per capita basis, with the best research centres in France. It inducts as research fellows some of the best economists of the host country. It is also engaged in a network of active research collaboration with the best institutions of India. Is this position sustainable? While the actual coordinator of the department believes that it is, it will be the task of his successor, who should arrive in September 2007, to demonstrate that this belief is not overly optimistic.

3.3.1 Economic growth, inequalities and poverty in India

Appraisal of multidimensional inequalities and poverty

Project head: Nicolas GRAVEL, Professor of economics, CSH & IDEP-GREQAM (nicolas.gravel@csh-delhi.com).

Other participants: Patrick MOYES, Director of Research, CNRS (Bordeaux); Benoît TARROUX, doctoral student, University of Aix-Marseille II / CSH, New Delhi; Abhiroop MUKHOPADHYAY, Lecturer, Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi.

Institutional collaboration: Indian Statistical Institute of Delhi (where Nicolas Gravel benefits from an associated affiliation); Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for the organisation of the Conference *Liberalization experiences in Asia*.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

The broad aim of this project is to contribute to the development and empirical implementation of new tools for comparing distributions of several attributes across individuals from a normative point of view. A more down-to-earth aim of the project is to apply these tools to the comprehensive evaluation of the impact of the liberalization of the Indian economy on multidimensional inequalities and poverty by using robust dominance criteria. The research compares the evolution over time of the joint distribution of consumption expenditure (measured at the individual level) and of the level of some public good (infant mortality and literacy rate) measured at the district level.

The development of multidimensional dominance criteria to compare alternative situations requires a careful *theoretical* analysis in which the operational criteria must be shown to be equivalent to a set of explicit ethical principles. On the other hand, the use of the criteria to evaluate changes in India or to compare distributions of attributes across countries requires extensive data manipulation and computer programming as well as the use of statistical inference methods.

Research Activities undertaken in 2006

The theoretical part of this project started in September 2004. The objective is to write a complete monography on the dominance approach to normative appraisal. The monography would be co-authored by Nicolas Gravel and Patrick Moyes. Patrick Moyes was a visiting scholar at the CSH in March 2005 and worked on this monography with N. Gravel. They have also worked on the production of a theoretical paper on two-dimensional dominance. The applied part of the project concerns both the comparison of various OECD countries and the evaluation of the liberalization experience in India. Research on OECD countries was conducted as a collaborative effort between N. Gravel, P. Moyes and B. Tarrow. It has given rise to the publication of an IDEP working paper that has been submitted to *Economica*. The research on India, initiated in the fall of 2005, was conducted as collaboration

between N. Gravel and A. Mukhopadhyay in 2006. Finally, Nicolas Gravel and Benoît Tarrow have initiated in November 2006 a new research collaboration devoted to the design and implementation of new dominance criteria for evaluating the performance of a society in protecting their members against various types of risks.

Results

The theoretical work conducted by N. Gravel and P. Moyes has given rise to the development of a new dominance criterion for comparing distributions of two attributes. The details of this criterion and of its justifications are provided in the paper "*Ethically Robust Comparisons of Distributions of two individual attributes*" (co-authored by N. Gravel and P. Moyes). The results of the comparisons of OCDE countries in terms of their distributive performance in public goods and disposable income have been collected in the working paper "*International multidimensional comparisons of inequality in disposable income and access to public goods*", currently under editorial consideration at *Economica*. The research on India has given rise to the production of a 60-page document which has been proposed as a CSH Occasional Paper. The research work has been presented at the ICSSR-CSH international conference *Liberalization experiences in Asia: A normative appraisal* held in Delhi on 12th-13th January 2006, as well as at the CSH seminar "*The multidimensions of poverty*" held in Mumbai on 8th October 2006.

Poverty, Inequality and Growth: Exploring the inter-linkages in Rural India

HIMANSHU, Post-doctoral fellow, CSH
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Funding: CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

The growth of the Indian economy in the previous two decades has attracted attention from both academics and policymakers, not only in India but also internationally. While the observed level of growth in the last 20 years has been unprecedented since independence, the distribution of this growth among Indians has also never been more unequal than it is now. This highly unequal nature of income distribution in the last decade was omnipresent in all spheres of the economy, be it across rural and urban areas, across formal and informal sectors, across

employment categories, across fractal groups, across household types, across states and even within states across regions. In this context, the research is an attempt to explore the relationship between output growth and output distribution (both on poverty and inequality), and the various channels through which the growth of output is distributed across the various constituents of population for the rural areas in the context of the ongoing economic reforms. While the primary focus will be on exploring the inter-linkages in terms of economic relationship (employment, workforce structure, wages and factor productivity), the issue of poverty and inequality will also be explored in greater detail, by including other dimensions of human welfare such as nutrition, education, health and, access to public goods. The analysis is proposed to be carried out mainly by using the available secondary data, more specifically, from National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Agriculture, Census, National Family and Health Survey (NFHS). Given the large heterogeneity across states and regions within states, an attempt will be made to take the analysis to the highest level of disaggregation possible from the secondary sources.

Research activities undertaken in 2006

The project was initiated in January 2006. In a first step, data were collected on various aspects of the rural economy (poverty, wages, employment and agricultural performance) from various sources. Some data have already been processed while others are in the process of being analysed. The recent updating of the Indian Harvest Database will be analysed in 2007 and results will be incorporated in the final outcome of the project. A major obstacle in the completion of the project has been the delay taken by the Government of India in releasing official data on poverty from the NSS 1st round. The data is expected to be available in the first quarter of 2007.

Results in 2006

The first results of this project have been summarized in the paper:

“Agrarian Crisis and Wage Labour: A regional Perspective”, *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, 48, 4, December 2006, for which Himanshu was awarded the Sanjay Thakur Young Economist award.

Three other papers were also presented at various conferences in India and China (see section 4.2.4 of this report).

Estimating the impact of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

Project head: Nicolas GRAVEL, Professor of economics, CSH & IDEP-GREQAM (nicolas.gravel@csh-delhi.com).

Other participants: HIMANSHU, Post-doctoral Fellow, CSH & Abhiroop MUKHOPADHYAY, Lecturer, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi.

Institutional collaboration: Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi.

Funding: CSH, ISI and Planning Commission of India.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), approved by the Indian Parliament in August 2005, entered its implementation phase in February 2006. This programme guarantees to every household living in the rural part of each selected district 100 days of unskilled work paid at least at the minimal wage of 60 rupees per day.

In view of the many arguments in favour of the scheme as well as its possible detrimental effects on labour supply, the object of the research is to provide an evaluation of the impact of the NREGS on poverty, employment and labour supply based on a treatment-effect methodology.

This study focuses on the effect of the NREGS on the labour supply decisions of individuals in a household and the profile of those who opt for the scheme. Since we are concerned with within households inequality as well as between households inequality, our investigation will be based on the complete modelling of the households' consumption and labour supply decisions.

In order to apply the “treatment effect” methodology, two districts in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and two districts in Rajasthan were selected. In each of these states, one selected district is one where the NREGS is implemented (i.e. the ‘treated district’) and the other is a control district that has been selected to be as close as possible to the treated one, both geographically, and in terms of its socio-economic aggregate characteristics.

In each district, six villages were selected in such a way as to be representative of all blocks of the district. Within each block, the choice of the village has been made at random. In each village, about 30 households were also sampled randomly from the households' list of the village. In total, therefore, the sample includes 360 treated households, and an equivalent number of untreated ones.

For each household, detailed information is collected on its demographic characteristics, its initial wealth and its labour supply. In order to appraise the impact of the NREGS in the sample, the questionnaire is applied twice on every household. Once, in 2006, before the implementation of the scheme and, a second time, in 2007 after the implementation of the scheme.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The project was launched in the spring of 2006. The conception and pilot testing of the detailed questionnaire, as well as the selection of the districts and village has been completed in March and April. Surveyors have been sent to the 24 villages in May, June and July. Data entry and descriptive statistical treatment of the first wave of the sample has been done during the fall of 2006. The second round of investigation will be done in the summer of 2007 and the research is expected to be completed by the summer of 2008.

3.3.2. New perspectives in theoretical and applied economics

Positive and normative analysis of jurisdiction structures

Project head: Nicolas GRAVEL, Professor of economics, CSH & IDEP-GREQAM (nicolas.gravel@csh-delhi.com).

Other participants: Michel POITEVIN, Professor, University of Montréal; Rongili BISWAS, Research Fellow, CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

The broad aim of the research is to contribute to our understanding of the processes by which human groups form and evolve on the basis of the voluntary participation of their members.

Of particular significance is the issue of *segregation* and *stratification* that is commonly associated with the endogenous processes of the group's formation. The question raised in this context is that of identifying the conditions under

which plausible processes of group formations will give rise to stratification. Many existing models of group formation processes are inspired by Charles Tiebout's seminal contribution, according to which households decide their place of residence on the basis of a trade-off between the quantity/quality of the public service available in the jurisdiction and the taxes paid.

One objective of the research is to identify the conditions under which we can expect a stylised process of endogenous jurisdiction formation based on a Tiebout-like mechanism to give rise to segregation or stratification.

Another objective of the research is concerned with the normative appraisal of the partition of individuals into several distinct groups rather than their merging into a single national (or supranational) community. In many countries, one finds indeed a large heterogeneity in the packages of local public goods and taxes that are offered to citizens.

The research conducted in this project is largely theoretical. It amounts to the construction of mathematical models of the situation and to study the properties of this model.

Activities undertaken in 2006 and results

The research has been initiated in end-2006 and will be pursued in 2007, when Rongili Biswas joins the CSH.

The research extends the results obtained in two papers published in the *Journal of Public Economics* (see section 4.2.3 of this report) and in *Journal of Economic Theory*.

Comparing decisions with radically uncertain consequences

Project head: Nicolas GRAVEL, Professor of economics, CSH & IDEP-GREQAM (nicolas.gravel@csh-delhi.com).

Other participants: Arunava SEN, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi), (asen@isid.ac.in); Thierry MARCHANT, Professor, University of Ghent, Belgium.

Institutional collaboration: Indian Statistical Institute (Delhi).

Problematic, objectives and methodology

Decision theory is the branch of social sciences that studies the various criteria used by individual agents (firms, heads of organisation, individuals, groups, et al.) to make decisions in

various environments. Most, if not all, decisions that people take involve *uncertainty*: When choosing a particular course of action, the decision maker does not know exactly which consequences this course of action will entail. In conventional decision theory, which develops along the lines of the seminal contribution of J. L. Savage, this uncertainty is accounted for by assuming the existence of a set of mutually exclusive “states of nature” and by describing decisions as rules (acts) that associate to every state of nature a unique consequence. A more demanding theory, nonetheless widely used by researchers, goes even further by assuming that the uncertainty faced by the decision maker is described by a complete list of probabilities assigned to every state of nature. Yet, in many complex decisions (regulating the environment, mating, investing in a foreign country), these assumptions are unduly demanding.

In this research, we axiomatically characterize a criterion for decision-making in situations of radical uncertainty when this standard approach does not apply. In the framework we are considering, the only elements that serve as describing the various actions that the decision maker can take are the consequences (assumed to be in finite number) that these actions can have. No knowledge of the mechanism that generates these consequences can manifest, or of their probabilities of occurrence is assumed. The criterion we are trying to axiomatize can (but need not) be thought of as resulting from the assignment of the same probability of occurrence to every possible consequence and from the comparisons of the various decisions on the basis of the average utility of their consequences.

Activities and results in 2006

Work on this project started in late fall 2004. A handout of 14 pages has been written on the problem under the assumption that the universe of conceivable consequences that may result from a given decision is finite. In this handout, we have identified several axioms which appear to play a key role in characterizing the criterion for deciding in a situation of radical uncertainty. Yet we have discovered that if there are more than eight alternatives, our axioms are not sufficient to characterize the criterion. In view of the mathematical difficulties, we have decided to modify somewhat the framework by allowing the universe of consequence to be uncountable. We were encouraged to make this move after

discussing with a Belgian mathematician, Thierry Marchant, who has become a co-author on this project. Significant progress was made by using this new “uncountable” framework in the fall of 2006 and we are expecting to produce a first version of our paper by the end of the summer of 2007.

Appraising the redistributive properties of the Indian fiscal equalization transfers

Benoît TARROUX, doctoral student, University of Aix Marseille-II; French Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ scholarship holder at the CSH since November 2006 (benoit.tarroux@csh-delhi.com).

Funding: CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

Equalization transfers from central to sub-national level are a very common policy instrument around the world, especially used in federal countries. The main motivation of such a scheme is, typically, to equalize citizens’ access to public services across jurisdictions by correcting the unequal distribution of fiscal capacity across states. For instance, the Indian Constitution recognises that the assignment of tax powers and expenditure functions would create imbalances between expenditure ‘needs’ and abilities to raise revenue and, thus, the need of equalization payments.

The purpose of this research is to develop a methodology for appraising the equalization transfers that are performed in the Indian federation, along the line of some previous work done for the Canadian federation. The fact that India is a well-structured federation as well as developing country makes it a very interesting case study for this purpose. A large part of the economic literature has demonstrated the crucial importance of public goods such as education and health in the growth and economic development. The allocation of these goods across Indian citizens and states, that is affected by the equalization transfers from the central to the local governments, is, therefore, a question of key importance.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The project in India was launched in November 2006, and should be completed by the end of 2007. The methodology to be used for this project has been explained in the paper: “*Are equalization payments making Canadians better off? – a two-dimensional dominance answer.*” (B.

Tarroux, IDEP working paper) that is currently under editorial consideration by the *Canadian Journal of Economics*. This paper has been presented at a seminar at the Indian Statistical Institute in New Delhi in early December 2006 and at the South Asian meeting of the Econometric society that was held in Chennai on 18th-20th December 2006.

3.4. Urban dynamics

Coordination: Véronique DUPONT

In 2006, the “Urban Dynamics” programmes focused on two main areas: i) urban policies and governance, including a major multidisciplinary project, and, ii) urban amenities and housing. A new international and interdisciplinary project that will focus on urban policies and social exclusion with a comparative perspective between India and Brazil, was launched at the end of the year, with the support of external funding from the French National Agency for Research.

The publications of this year (see section 4.2) also reflect the outcome of another multidisciplinary and international project on peri-urban dynamics, which was concluded in 2005, with special efforts to publish in international journals, such as *Cities*.

Insofar as the “Urban Dynamics” programmes either focus on Delhi (except from one focussing on Mumbai) or –in case of large joint projects – included Delhi as part of the case studies undertaken, a real expertise on this metropolis has developed at the CSH, which also drew on the fund of information and data on Delhi accumulated at the Centre over the previous 10-12 years, including the constitution of a Geographic Information System (GIS).

With regard to partnerships with French institutions, the collaborations with the Centre of Indian and South Asian Studies (CNRS-EHESS, Paris) on the one hand and the Institute of Research for Development on the other (both already very active through the programmes on urban governance) will be strengthened through the new international project on urban policies and social exclusion.

Regarding partnerships with Indian institutions, the collaboration with the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai (IGIDR) has been enhanced through the organisation of an international conference on urban poverty in October 2006, within the frame

of the affiliation to IGIDR of Marie-Hélène Zérah, a research fellow in urban studies from the (French) Institute of Research for Development (IRD) and deputed to the CSH since July 2005 to work on the city of Mumbai.

In addition, the CSH has developed collaboration with the department of Geography of the Delhi School of Economics at the University of Delhi, which resulted in the organisation of a joint international conference on the Indian healthcare system in December 2006.

The CSH and the Centre for the Study of Regional Development at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, have also pursued their collaboration for the development of geographical information systems and two M.Phil students have been under training at the CSH to work on the GIS that we have developed on the Delhi region.

Apart from these two Indian student interns, four French Masters level students and a doctoral student were affiliated to the “Urban Dynamics” programmes of the CSH for training or field work periods varying from three to five months in 2006. Thus, the “Urban Dynamics” section continued to contribute significantly to the Centre’s research training mission.

3.4.1. Urban policies and governance

Urban actors, policies and governance, decision-making processes governing the demand and supply of collective goods and services in four Indian metropolises

Project coordinators: Stéphanie TAWA LAMA-REWAL, research fellow at the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CNRS-EHESS, Paris), assigned to the CSH since September 2005 (tawalama@ehess.fr); Joël RUET, Marie Curie Fellow at DESTIN, London School of Economics and Political Science since September 2004, associated to the CSH (j.ruet@lse.ac.uk).

Other participants: 10 European and Indian research scholars from various institutions:

Pierre CHAPELET, doctoral student at the University of Rouen, formerly at the CSH, webmaster of the project website; Basudeb CHAUDHURI, Associate Professor, University of Caen ; Keshab DAS, Associate Professor, Gujarat Institute of Development Research, Ahmedabad (Gujarat); Archana GHOSH, Senior Faculty and Head, Urban Studies Department, Institute of Social Sciences (eastern branch) Kolkata ; Jennifer JALAL, Assistant Professor, Centre for

the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Loraine KENNEDY, research fellow at the Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CNRS-EHESS), Paris ; Girish KUMAR, former research fellow at CSH, presently fellow at the National Institute of Public Administration; Frédéric LANDY, Associate Professor, University of Paris X ; Jos MOOIJ, lecturer, Institute of Social Studies, Hague ; Marie-Hélène ZÉRAH, research fellow at the Institute of Research for Development (Research Unit: Urban local development) deputed to the CSH since July 2005.

Institutional partnerships: Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CNRS-EHESS, Paris); Institute of Social Sciences (Eastern branch, Kolkata).

Funding: Incentive Programme "Sustainable urban development" of the French Ministry of Research (December 2003-November 2006); CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

This collective research project in political economy is the outcome of a multi-disciplinary international team. Its main purpose is to characterise urban governance in Indian metropolises, its variants and key variables. The objective is to describe and analyse urban governance, as redefined by the economic liberalisation and politico-administrative decentralisation policies initiated in the early 1990s by the Indian government, through the study of the decision-making processes associated with the supply and demand of collective goods and services (health, education, food, water and sanitation, housing) in four Indian metropolises: Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Kolkata. In order to assess the ground realities of the decentralisation process – in principle, at the heart of the new configuration – these sector-wise case studies were supplemented with studies on the relationships between different government levels, with an emphasis on some of the main counter-currents.

The project essentially consists of a series of sector-wise monographs analysing the decision-making process that governs the supply and demand of a collective good or service, in at least two cities. In each metropolis, at least two types of areas have been studied, representing distinct populations, urban landscapes and administrative statutes. The main methods used are semi-structured interviews, focus group interviews,

analysis of administrative records, direct observation and cartographic representations of the spatial distribution of the infrastructure studied.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The project was initiated in mid-2003 and will be completed in 2007 by a concluding seminar and a related publication.

A fourth city workshop was organised in Mumbai in February 2006, in order to present the preliminary findings of the research team working on this metropolis to academics as well as local actors (bureaucrats, elected representatives, activists, et al.).

During this third and last year of the project, the researchers have completed their field work and written papers, including comparative ones between two cities. Four Indian researchers were recruited in 2006 to complete the study of some sectors considered as essential in the four metropolises.

Results

Some researchers of the team had the opportunity of demonstrating their preliminary results through papers presented during the four city workshops held in 2005 and 2006. However, the effective work of confronting and articulating the set of findings will take place during the concluding international seminar, to be organised on 23rd-24th January 2007, in New Delhi, in collaboration with the India International Centre. Following this concluding seminar, a collective publication will be prepared in 2007.

Urban Infrastructure, decentralisation and local development in Mumbai

Project head: Marie – Hélène ZÉRAH, research fellow, Institute of Research for Development (IRD - Research Unit: Urban local development), deputed to the CSH since July 2005 (zerah@ird.fr).

Other participants: Derya OZEL, student in Master 2, town planning and urban studies, University of Paris 8, under training in Mumbai from July till September 2006.

Institutional partnership: IRD's research unit "Urban Local Development. Dynamics and Regulation"; Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai.

Funding: IRD.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

The main purpose of this research project is to examine and analyse the differentiated changes affecting various urban services (water, power, sewerage and solid waste management) in the context of liberalisation, decentralisation and the ongoing reforms of the public sector. Our starting point is the existing diversity of transformations according to sectors as well as the local political context. This project will first examine the diversity of reforms (unbundling of public monopolies, introduction of private sector, participation of civil society), the implementation of new modalities of service delivery and their impact on access to services. It will also place this analysis in the context of urban reforms envisaged by the Central and the State government. It finally aims at assessing these new forms of urban governance, by contributing to the emergence of a hybrid model of service delivery, by participating in the reshaping of the relationships between States and Urban Local Bodies and by enabling urban local bodies to drive their own economic development.

Activities undertaken in 2006

This project initially planned for two years started in July 2005. In 2006, a survey concerning household garbage collection was conducted in three wards of Mumbai Municipal Corporation. Various aspects, by using either a quantitative or a qualitative approach, were investigated: the role of local resident associations in residential colonies; the role of community-based organisations in slums; and finally the study of small private operators contracted out for road sweeping. A comparative research was taken up in Hyderabad based upon qualitative interviews and a survey of 100 families in two wards. In addition, M.-H Zérah supervised the masters research work of Derya Ozel on the relationships between urban transport project in Mumbai and the rehabilitation of the displaced persons.

Results in 2006

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CSH and the IGIDR, an international conference on “*The multidimensions of urban poverty in India*” was organised at the IGIDR in Mumbai on 6th-7th October, 2006. Around 30 papers were presented along with special guest lectures.

Three new papers were written by M.-H. Zérah to be presented to different seminars, and three articles were revised for publication in journals or in a collective book.

Urban policies, territories and social exclusion: a comparison between India and Brazil

Project coordinators: Marie-Caroline SAGLIO-YATZIMIRSKY, Associate Professor, National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisation (INALCO, Paris) & Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CEIAS, Paris) (saglio@free.fr); Frédéric LANDY, Associate Professor, University of Paris X-Nanterre & CEIAS, Paris (frederic.landy@wanadoo.fr).

Other participants: about 15 French, Indian and Brazilian research scholars from various institutions, including (for the research in India): Véronique DUPONT, Director of CSH; Marie-Hélène ZÉRAH, research fellow at the Institute of Research for Development (Research Unit: Urban local development) deputed to the CSH since July 2005; Marie-Charlotte BELLE, doctoral student at the University of Paris 4 (affiliated to the CSH from January to March 2006); Emmanuel BON, former CSH doctoral student; Nicolas BEAUTES, post-doctoral student to be affiliated to the CSH in 2007; CHANDRASHEKAR, Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research, Mumbai; Manoj NADKARNI, Mumbai; Usha RAMANATHAN, honorary fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi.

Institutional partnership: Centre for Indian and South Asian Studies (CNRS-EHESS, Paris).

Funding: French National Agency for Research (December 2006-December 2009).

Problematic, objectives and methodology

This project addresses some of the challenges faced by both Indian and Brazilian mega-cities, namely a severe housing problem, the spectacular growth of slums or *favelas*, spatial disjunction, rapid and socially contrasted peri-urbanisation and threats to ecology. Public actors attempt to solve these problems through housing, rehabilitation or conservation programmes. Our hypothesis is that the evolution of these policies, in terms of their ideological background as well as their implementation, induces comparable social changes in the urban space, which raises similar questions. For instance, is social exclusion increasing? Are new conflicts emerging between spaces (centre/periphery) and between sectors (housing /‘natural’ resources)?

Two topics constitute the core of the project: i) poor urban areas in contexts of social exclusion, urban splintering and globalization; ii) urban and

peri-urban environment and their inter-relationships with poverty. These issues will be addressed through case studies in Mumbai, Delhi, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, and by examining two sets of policies: public policies regarding urban poverty for the “treatment” of slums; and policies linking access to housing, poverty and conservation of the peri-urban forest. Three approaches, namely territorial, socio-political and legal, will be combined.

Analysing the issues at stake from these different angles and comparing the policies adopted in mega-cities of India and Brazil will enable us to improve our understanding of the mechanisms of exclusion and to better appraise the validity of the actions undertaken, and more generally to promote reflection on the urban policies, programmes and instruments employed.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The year 2006 was devoted to the conception of the research project, the constitution of the international team and the definition of the sub-programmes to be implemented in each country. The field work will start in 2007; the project is scheduled for an operating period of three years, to be concluded by an international seminar at the end of 2009.

3.4.2. Studies on Delhi: housing market and urban amenities

Estimating Households preferences for urban amenities in Delhi

Project head: Nicolas GRAVEL, Professor of economics, CSH & IDEP-GREQAM (nicolas.gravel@csh-delhi.com).

Other participants: N. SRIDHARAN, Associate Professor, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi; Véronique DUPONT, Director of CSH; Nina GUYON, student at *Ecole*

Polytechnique (Palaiseau), intern at the CSH from May to July 2006.

Funding: CSH.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

The research aims at econometrically estimating households’ indirect demand for urban amenities via their direct demand for housing, using hedonic methods analogous to those used by N. Gravel in his work on the greater Paris metropolitan area. The first step of the work consists in building up and statistically implementing a data set on prices and

characteristics some 5000 dwelling units randomly collected in the various zones of Delhi so as to be statistically representative of the various segments of the Delhi housing market.

Activities undertaken in 2006

The research project started in March 2005. Data collection, based on a questionnaire, was initiated in the summer of 2005 (see 2005 activity report) and was completed by the end of the summer of 2006. The first statistical tests of the hedonic approach have been run in the summer of 2006, on a sub-sample of some 1500 dwelling units. These tests have been highly conclusive and have given results that conform to a priori intuition about the pricing provided by the Delhi housing market to the various characteristics considered. Statistical testing procedures have been essentially conducted by Nina Guyon during her internship at the CSH.

The entry of the last 3500 dwelling units in the computerized data set has been pursued during the last part of the year. This heavy work is not completed as yet but should be finished by the end of the summer of 2007.

Results

Preliminary results obtained from the estimations of the hedonic model on the sub-sample of 1500 dwelling units have been presented in the report written by Nina Guyon at the end of her internship period at the CSH. This report was awarded the prize of the best report given for a research internship in 2006 by the *Ecole polytechnique* (Palaiseau). The results have also been presented at a conference organised by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers of India (CREDAI) in Delhi on 1st December on the theme: “*Real Estate Trends in the National Capital Region*”.

Impact of Globalisation on Indian Health System: the Healthcare Supply in Delhi Metropolitan Area.

Project head: Bertrand LEFEBVRE, doctoral student, University of Rouen; International Volunteer at the CSH from October 2004 till September 2006; French Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ scholarship holder since October 2006 (bertrand.lefebvre@csh-delhi.com).

Other participants: Pierre CHAPELET, doctoral student, University of Rouen; Charles-Noël EBANG, Masters student, University of Rouen; Swati SACHDEV & Paramita BANERJEE,

MPhil students from the Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Institutional collaborations: University of Rouen; Centre for the Study of Regional Development (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi); Department of Geography of the Delhi School of Economics (Delhi University).

Funding: CSH; Scientific Section of French Embassy in India, *Maison des Sciences de l'Homme*-Paris and University of Delhi for the organisation of the international conference.

Problematic, objectives and methodology

Following the 1991 economic reforms, the Indian healthcare system is undergoing major changes - the continuous decrease of public health investments, the implementation of new laws regarding intellectual property (ADPIC-TRIPS agreements), the expanding middle-class asking for upgraded health services, the increase of foreign direct investment in the healthcare industry. This renewed context leads each actor to rethink his position in the healthcare system. The general objective of this research project is to understand how each actor, whether at the international, national or local level, interacts with and controls the Indian healthcare system. How do these actors create new spatial configurations in the access to health by generating complex interactions?

This project focuses on two key sectors of the Indian healthcare system: pharmaceutical industry (Pierre Chapelet) and corporate hospitals (Bertrand Lefebvre). The Delhi Metropolitan

Area provides a relevant case study for this research. The methodology applied combines the use of a Geographical Information System (GIS) and field surveys. It further applies the Diffusion Theories in order to analyse the access to medicines and the emergence of new private nursing homes in different categories of space (urban, periurban and rural).

Activities undertaken in 2006

Following an exhaustive survey of the health infrastructure in South Delhi, new data have been integrated in the GIS. Charles-Noël Ebang has conducted research on the medical diagnostic sector. The data integrated in 2005 to the GIS (the 2001 Census of India data) were processed through statistical and mapping analyses.

Results in 2006

A workshop presenting some results of the project was organised in partnership with the Centre for the Study of Regional Development in May 2006 at Jawaharlal Nehru University. On this occasion, two Masters students supervised within the framework of the project, Géraldine Savin and Joseph Chauvin from the University of Provence, also shared the results of their work on peri-urbanisation in Bangalore.

An international conference on the Indian healthcare system was organised in partnership with the department of Geography of the Delhi School of Economics on 4th-5th December 2006 at the University of Delhi. A report presenting the main results of this conference will be submitted to the Health Planning Commission of India.

4. PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH

The promotion of the CSH research activities is conducted through a policy of insertion into academic networks, organisation of seminars and conferences, publication and dissemination of works. The CSH researchers are further involved in the dissemination of the Centre's research findings beyond academic circles, through interviews with journalists from both the French and Indian print media, as well as radio. These various activities aim at maximising the visibility of the Centre.

4.1. Conferences, seminars and lectures organised by the CSH

The CSH organises international conferences, seminars, workshops and round tables in collaboration with its Indian and/or European partners, mainly in Delhi, but in other cities as well. The CSH also organises individual lectures, in collaboration with other institutions in Delhi. In Delhi, the India International Centre is a major partner (although not an exclusive one) for the organisation of such scientific events: this allows us to reach a larger audience, including not only researchers and academics, but also senior civil servants, ex-diplomats et al.

In 2006, the CSH has also launched two regular research seminars, held in its premises, in the framework of collective projects, with selected invitees.

4.1.1. Seminars, conferences, workshops

International Conference *Liberalisation experience in Asia. A normative appraisal*, organised by CSH in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Indian Statistical Institute, French Centre for Research on Contemporary China, Hong Kong, with the support of the World Bank and Embassy of France in India, at ICSSR, New Delhi, 12th-13th January 2006.

International Workshop *Urban Actors, Policies and Governance in Mumbai*, organised by Department of Economics, University of Mumbai and the CSH at University of Mumbai, Mumbai, 23rd February 2006.

Workshop *The Transformations of the Peri-urban Area of Indian Metropolises: the Cases of Bangalore and Delhi*, organised by CSH in collaboration with Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), at the Geographic Information Systems Laboratory, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi, 19th May 2006.

International Conference *Multidimensions of Urban Poverty in India*, co-organised by CSH and Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai at IGIDR, 6th-7th October 2006.

International Conference *Emerging Health Challenges and the Response of Indian Healthcare System*, co-organised by CSH and the Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics (DSE), University of Delhi, at DSE, Delhi, 4th- 5th December 2006, with the support of *Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme*, Paris, and Embassy of France in India.

4.1.2. Lectures and research seminars

New States for a New India. Critical appraisal of the creation of Chhattisgarh, talk by Samuel Berthet, Research Affiliate (CSH), co-organised by CSH and India International Centre (IIC) at IIC, New Delhi, 17th February 2006.

Cultural Dynamics and Strategies of the Indian Elite. Indo-French relations under the Raj, presentation-discussion of the book by the author Dr Samuel Berthet, co-organised by CSH and the French Information Resource Centre (FIRC), New Delhi, at FIRC, 16th December 2006.

Research seminar at the CSH on *Contemporary forms and Challenges of Political Mobilisation in India* in the frame of the collective project on "India's Democratic Renewal in Question":

Workshop for the launch of the project *India's democratic renewal in Question*, organised by the CSH, at CSH, New Delhi, 17th January 2007.

A partial genealogy of political mobilization theories, by Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal (CSH-CNRS), 5th July 2006.

Emerging links between urban management, collective action and (re)mobilization of the middle class in Mumbai – Framing hypothesis

and preliminary findings, by Marie-Hélène Zérah (IRD-CSH), 26th July 2006.

Politics of Dalits in Women's Activism in Uttar Pradesh: Exploring the nuances of identity and citizenship, by Radhika Govinda (doctoral student, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Cambridge), 6th September 2006.

Backward Political Mobilization and Democratization Process in Bihar: Attempting a Definition, by Cyril Robin (CSH), 27th September 2006.

Can the Transition Paradigm Enlighten our Understanding of Indian and Pakistan Divergent Political Trajectories toward Democracy, 1947-2007, by Lionel Baixas (CSH), 8th November 2006.

Challenges to Indian Federalism: Politics of Identity and Self-Determination, by Sanjay Kumar Pandey (CSH-JNU), 29th November 2006.

Legislative governance in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, by Pradeep K. Sharma, 20th December 2006.

Research seminar at the CSH on *Dynamics of Contemporary Islam in South Asia* in the frame of the international project on “Restructuring of contemporary Islam and economic dynamics in Asia, from the Caucasus to China”:

Dynamics of Contemporary Islam in South Asia, presentation of the project by Laurent Gayer (CSH), 4th May 2006.

Uses of state services by Indian Muslim women, particularly in the field of health and education, by Sarah Mehta (Fullbright scholar, India/Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi), 9th June 2006.

Political Islam in Bangladesh: Events and Emotions, by Mollica Dastider (Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi), 11th August 2006.

Transnational preachers Ahmed Deedat and Zakir Naik, by Samadia Sadouni (Centre for the Study of Sub-Sahara Africa, Bordeaux and the French Institute of South Africa, Johannesburg), 4th October 2006.

4.2. Publications and papers

The CSH promotes its own range of publications:

- A series of books with an Indian publishing house, Manohar Publishers, the Manohar-CSH Series (42 titles from 1994 to 2006);

- A series of documents created in 2001 (with an editorial board), the *CSH Occasional Papers*, that can be downloaded freely from the CSH website (18 titles from 2001 to 2006).
- A newsletter *PATTRIKA* published since 1999, in collaboration with the French Institute of Pondicherry and the *Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient*, with three issues per year, which can be downloaded freely from the CSH website.

CSH researchers not only publish their research findings in the CSH collections, but also with other publishers, in India or in Europe, as well as in scientific journals in English or in French (refer to the list below for 2006). Through the participation of its researchers in working groups, its reports and its publications, the CSH contributes not only to academic debates, but also towards influencing the thought-processes of public decision-makers and economic think tanks.

4.2.1. Books

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HUCHET J.F., RICHET X., RUET J. (ed.), *Globalisation in China, India and Russia: Emergence of National Groups and Global Strategies of Firms*, Academic Foundation, New Delhi, 2007, pp. 364p.

JAIN R.K., ELSENHANS H. (ed.), *The European Union in World Politics*, Radiant Publishers, New Delhi, 2006, 324p.

JAIN R.K., ELSENHANS H. (ed.), *India, the European Union and the WTO*, Radiant Publishers, New Delhi, 2006, 316p.

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KALRA P.K., RUET J. (ed.) *Against the Current (Vol. III). Electricity Act and Technical Choices for the Power Sector in India*, Manohar-CSH, New Delhi, 2006, 219p.

KUMAR G., *Local Democracy in India: Interpreting Decentralization*, Sage Publications, New Delhi, 2006, 326p.

SAINT-MEZARD I., *Eastward Bound. India's New Positioning in Asia*, Manohar-CSH, New Delhi, 2006, 499p.

CSH Occasional Papers

CHAKRABORTY D., SENGUPTA D., *IBSAC (India, Brazil, South Africa, China): A Potential Developing Country Coalition in WTO Negotiations*, CSH Occasional Paper 18, New Delhi, 2006, 162p.

DUPONT V., SRIDHARAN N. (ed.), *Peri-urban dynamics: Case studies in Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai*, CSH Occasional Paper 17, New Delhi, 2006, 110p.

EGRETEAU R., *India's Troubled Northeast and its External Connections*, CSH Occasional Paper 16, New Delhi, 2006, 158p.

4.2.2. Chapters in books

ARABINDOO P., "Neighbourhood transformations in peri-urban Chennai", in DUPONT V., SRIDHARAN N. (ed.), *Peri-urban dynamics: Case studies in Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai*, CSH Occasional Paper 17, New Delhi, 2006, pp. 17-53.

BANERJEE P., SENGUPTA D., "Economic Growth, exports and the Issue of Trade Facilitation: An Indian Perspective", in SENGUPTA D., CHAKRABORTY D., BANERJEE P. (ed.), *Beyond the Transition Phase of the WTO: An Indian Perspective on Emerging Issues*, Academic Foundation, New Delhi, 2006, pp. 609-638.

BURTE H., KRISHANKUTTY M., "On the edge: planning, describing and imagining the seaside edge of Mumbai", in DUPONT V., SRIDHARAN N. (ed.), *Peri-urban dynamics: Case studies in Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai*, CSH Occasional Paper 17, New Delhi, 2006, pp. 87-109.

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GAYER L., "Les Rangers du Pakistan: de la défense des frontières à la protection intérieure », in BRIQUET J.-L., FAVAREL-GARRIGUES (eds.), *Milieus criminels, pratiques illicites et pouvoir politique*, Paris, Karthala (in press).

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ZERAH M.-H., "Urban Water and Waste Water", in RASTOGI A. (ed.), *India Infrastructure Report 2006. Urban Infrastructure*, 3iNetwork, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, pp. 130-159.

4.2.3. Articles in journals with an editorial board

BAUD I., DHANALAKSHMI R., "Governance in urban environmental management: comparing accountability and performance in multi-stakeholder arrangements in South India", *Cities*, Vol. 24, No.2, pp. 133-147.

BERVOETS S., GRAVEL N., "Appraising diversity with an ordinal notion of dissimilarity: an axiomatic approach", *Mathematical Social Sciences* (forthcoming).

DELAGE R., "L'Inde à l'épreuve du multiculturalisme: contextes et perspectives géographiques », *Géographie et cultures*, 2006, no. 58, pp. 19-32.

DUPONT V., "Conflicting stakes and governance in the peripheries of large Indian metropolises – An introduction", *Cities*, Vol. 24, No.2, pp. 89-94.

GAYER L., "Guns, slums and 'yellow devils': a genealogy of urban conflicts in Karachi, Pakistan", *Modern Asian Studies*, Cambridge University Press (in press).

GAYER L., "The volatility of the 'other': identity formation and social interaction in diasporic environments", *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal (SAMAJ)*, Paris, No. 1 (in press).

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d'action diplomatique et pratiques de sous-traitance stratégique en Inde et au Pakistan", *Transcontinentales*, Paris, no.3, 2nd Semester 2006, pp. 103-127.

GOVINDA R., "Politics of the Marginalized: Dalits in Women's Activism as India", *Gender and Development Journal* (Taylor and Francis), Vol. 13, No. 2.

GRAVEL N., POITEVIN M., "The progressivity of Equalization Payments in Federations", *Journal of Public Economics*, September 2006, vol. 90, pp. 1725-1743.

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TAWA LAMA-REWAL S., "Le local et le global dans le mouvement indien des femmes », *Cahiers du Genre*, no. 40/2006, « Travail et mondialisation. Confrontations Nord/Sud », Paris, pp. 183-202.

ZERAH M.-H., "Conflict between Green Space Preservation and Housing Needs. The Case of the

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ZERAH M.-H., “A l’heure de la participation pour la desserte des services urbains : le cas de Mumbai – Inde St”, *Bulletin de l’Association des Géographes Français – Géographies*, 2006, pp. 191 -204.

4.2.4. Papers presented at symposiums, seminars and lectures

BAIXAS L., “Reassessing the Transition Paradigm: a South Asian Perspective”, paper presented in the Seminar *Contemporary forms and challenges of political mobilisation in India*, CSH, 27th September 2006.

BERTHET S., “New States for a New India? Critical Appraisal of the Creation of Chhattisgarh”, lecture given at India International Centre, New Delhi, 17th February 2006.

BOCHATON A., LEFEBVRE B., “Studying Medical Tourism in India and Thailand: The challenges of a multi-sited fieldwork”, paper presented at the Workshop *Questions of Methodology: Researching Tourism in Asia*, Asia Research Institute, Singapore, 5th-6th September 2006, 15p.

BOCHATON A., LEFEBVRE B., “Medical Tourism in India and Thailand: an heterotopia in the time of globalization”, paper presented at the Symposium *Of Asian origin: Rethinking Tourism in Contemporary Asia*, Asia Research Institute, Singapore, 7th-9th September 2006, 12p.

CHAPELET P., “India in the world of pharmaceuticals: the duality of a new challenger”, paper presented at the Symposium *Emerging health challenges and the response of Indian healthcare system*, Delhi University, Delhi, 4th December-5th December 2006, 23p.

DELAGE R., “Uncoordinated Networks: Muslim Educational Institutions and the Will for Reform”, paper presented at a Research Seminar, ISIM, Leiden, 17th October 2006, 13p.

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GAYER L., “Oublier la politique? Politisations et dépolitisations victimaires dans le mouvement sikh pour le Kalistan (1984-1995)”, lecture given

at the Symposium *Mobilisations de victimes*, Universities of Paris I/Paris X, 16th June 2006.

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GOVINDA R., “Dalit Assertion and Hindutva Politics from a Feminist Lens: Reflections on Women’s Activism in Uttar Pradesh”, lecture given to students of Classes XI and XII, Gyan Bharti School, Delhi, 15th September 2006.

GOVINDA R., “Dalit Women in Development in Development Discourse and Praxis: A Grassroots Perspective from Uttar Pradesh, North India”, paper presented at the *British Association of South Asian Studies Annual Workshop*, Bath, 2nd November 2006.

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GRAVEL N., “How can we make our lifestyles sustainable?”, paper presented at the Conference *Energy, Environment, and Development*, TERI, Bangalore, 14th-15th December 2006.

GRAVEL N., “When can we say that a society is better than another”, lecture given at Hyderabad (12th September 2006), Chennai (13th September 2006), Trivandrum (15th September 2006), Kathmandu (5th November 2006) and Delhi (11th December 2006) in the context of *French Science Today* lectures, organised by the French Embassy in India.

GRAVEL N., SRIDHARAN., “What explains housing prices in Delhi? A hedonic analysis”, paper presented at the conference *Real estate trends in the national capital region*, organised by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers of India (CREDAI), Delhi, 1st December 2006.

GRAVEL N., MOYES P., “Ethically Robust comparisons of distributions of two individual attributes”, paper presented at *the South Asian Meeting of the Econometric society*, Chennai, 18th-20th December 2006.

GRAVEL N., MUKHOPADHYAY A., “Is India better off now than 15 years ago? A robust multidimensional answer”, paper presented at the International Conference *Liberalization experiences in Asia: A normative appraisal*, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Delhi, 10th-11th January 2006.

GRAVEL N., MUKHOPADHYAY A., “Is Urban India better off now than fifteen years ago? A multidimensional dominance answer”, paper presented at the International Conference *The multidimensions of urban poverty in India*, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, 8th October 2006.

HIMANSHU., SEN A., “Recent evidences on poverty and Inequality in India”, paper presented at the International Conference *Economic Openness and Income Inequality: Policy Options for Developing Countries in the New Millenium*, Shanghai, China, 26th-27th August 2006.

HIMANSHU., “Urban Poverty in India by Size-Class of Towns: Level, Trends and Characteristics”, paper presented at the International Conference *The Multidimensions of Urban Poverty in India*, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, 6th-7th October 2006.

HIMANSHU., “Employment and wages of Dalits in post-liberalisation period”, paper presented at the Seminar *Towards Dignity: Access, Assertions and Aspirations*, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi, 8th-9th December 2006.

LEFEBVRE B., “Metropolisation and social change: The Harayana’s villages in the shades of Delhi”, paper presented at the Workshop *The transformations of the peri-urban area of Indian Metropolises. The cases of Bangalore and Delhi*, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, 19th May, 10p.

PANDEY S.K., “Challenges to Indian Federalism: Politics of Identity and Self-Determination”, paper presented at the Seminar *Contemporary forms and challenges of political mobilisation in India*, CSH, New Delhi, 27th September 2006.

PETHE A., “Analyse This: Deciphering the code of Mumbai budgets”, paper presented at the International Workshop *Actors, Policies and Urban Governance in Mumbai*, Mumbai University, 23rd February 2006, 42p.

ROBIN C., “Backward political mobilization in Bihar: Attempting a definition”, paper presented at the Seminar *Contemporary forms and challenges of political mobilisation in India*, CSH, New Delhi, 27th September 2006.

SADOUNI S., “Transnationalism and new modes of Islamic preaching in South Africa and India: the example of international preachers Ahmed Deedat and Zakir Naik”, paper presented at the Seminar *Dynamics of contemporary Islam in South India*, CSH, New Delhi, 4th October 2006.

SINGH S., “India’s Look East Policy”, paper presented to Masters Students of National University of Vietnam, Hanoi, 26th December 2006.

SINGH S., “Ganga-Mekong Cooperation Initiative”, paper presented at Institute of Asia Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, 2nd October 2006.

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and challenges of political mobilisation in India, CSH, New Delhi, 5th July 2006.

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4.2.5. Reports, dissertations, theses

EBANG C-N., *La diffusion des équipements médicaux dans le système de soins : L'exemple des centres de diagnostic à Delhi*, MA dissertation in Geography, University of Rouen, 2006, 86p.

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ZERAH M.-H., *India*, in *Water Market Asia: Projects & Opportunities in the Water & Wastewater Sectors*, Global Water Intelligence, Media Analytics Ltd, London, Oxford, 2006, pp. 243-259.

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4.2.6. Other works

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5. PROSPECTS

A word of warning for the coming financial years – or the necessity of adjusting resources to the scope of activities and missions

This 2006 Activity Report demonstrated the dynamism of CSH in terms of research programmes, the initiation of collective projects, the organisation of scientific events and publications, as well as its efforts to affiliate students and integrate them within the research team. However, in order to maintain the CSH pace of activities and to carry out its different missions, a substantial adjustment in the resources of the Centre would be necessary.

Given, on the one hand, the rate of inflation in India, the increasing costs in a metropolis like Delhi and the significant upward revision of the salary grid of the French Embassy (that applies to the CSH), and, on the other hand, the reduction in real terms of the operating subsidy from the French Ministry since 2005, in the coming financial years the latter will not even cover the fixed costs and other regular functioning expenses. Thus, no credit will be left for the implementation of the research programmes. Although the CSH has made significant efforts to mobilize external funding for its research projects, and will definitely have to pursue them more vigorously, the projects cannot be fully funded by other institutions and require generally a share of funding by the CSH.

The current financial situation and trend cannot obviously be sustainable. Unless the operating subsidy from the Ministry is adjusted to take into account the revised salaries and other increasing costs, the CSH may have to reduce in particular the financial support offered to

European doctoral students and to Indian post-doctoral fellows (in the form of scholarships and/or support for field work), and to reduce as well the expenses for the promotion and dissemination of its research activities. As a result, some of the main missions of the CSH would seriously suffer —research training, scientific cooperation, promotion— and more generally the visibility of the French Centre’s actions.

2007: a year of transition for the CSH

The year 2007 will be marked by two significant departures at the end of August: that of the present director, who has been also coordinating the research section on “Urban Dynamics”; and that of the coordinator of the research section on “Economic transition and sustainable development”. It would seem desirable that the concern to maintain and consolidate the present orientations should be an important factor for the selection of the new incumbents. This pertains to the main thematic areas of research, as well as the concern for scientific recognition through publications of high standard.

In addition, in order to ensure the continuity of the institutional relations established by expatriate researchers at the CSH, as underlined in a previous activity report, it is imperative to favour recruitment through the deputation of researchers or professors who already occupy a post in recognised research institutes or universities. Past experience has shown us that the lack of employment security of the directors and researchers recruited could lead to early departures (in search of better job opportunities) and/or difficulties in maintaining their scientific collaborations after their contract with CSH ends.

Véronique Dupont
Director, CSH
New Delhi, 27th February 2007