

CDA Collaborative Learning Projects' Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of its new Executive Director, Steve Darvill, an expert in humanitarian and development assistance. He will assume his responsibilities in January, replacing the organization's founder and current Executive Director, Mary B. Anderson, who retires in October.

Steve Darvill has over twenty years of policy formulation and implementation experience in humanitarian, development, and peace-building work. He is currently Humanitarian Aid Adviser with the Development Cooperation Directorate of the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. Previously he was humanitarian/peace-conflict adviser to the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) in Canberra and has also served with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including Care Australia and WaterAid. His assignments have involved extensive fieldwork in more than twenty countries, including Timor Leste, Indonesia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Burma/Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Iraqi Kurdistan.

Looking ahead to his new position, Steve Darvill says, "I am excited to be able to contribute to further development of global policy and strategy within this unique organization. I am committed to ensuring that CDA continues to provide a critical but constructive sounding board for practitioners and policy-makers."

CDA's Board and staff look forward to working with the incoming Executive Director to carry on the work of CDA. Ambassador Jonathan Moore, a Director on the Board, comments, "Mr. Darvill's appointment will continue to advance CDA's role as a highly valued leader in development and humanitarian practice, and he will further strengthen CDA's ongoing relationships with donors, partners and beneficiaries."

CDA Collaborative Learning Projects is a non-profit organization committed to improving the effectiveness of international actors who provide humanitarian assistance, engage in peace practice, and support sustainable development. It collaborates with international and local colleagues in humanitarian assistance agencies, development agencies, peace practice groups, and corporate enterprises.

CDA is best known for its development and promotion of the peace and conflict impact assessment tool known as "Do No Harm" analysis. This tool helps agencies identify how their presence interacts with conflicts and institutions in the societies where they work, minimizing the ways aid reinforces conflict and enhancing the chances for peace.

In his previous positions, Steve Darvill has been associated with CDA's work, including the Reflecting on Peace Practice Project (RPP) and the Listening Project. He was selected earlier this summer by the Board of Directors following an extensive international search. The Board noted particularly the wide respect Steve enjoys among colleagues in aid agencies and governments, including those with whom he has worked in the OECD.

Mary B. Anderson has led the organization since founding it in 1985, then named the Collaborative for Development Action. Commenting on his appointment, she states, "We are delighted that Steve will assume the leadership of CDA. His rich background and distinguished career in humanitarian and development action have well prepared him for this position. We are anticipating his arrival with great enthusiasm. His responsibilities will enable him to continue to contribute to international efforts to improve assistance to people around the world."