



Rory Brooks on his trip to Bangladesh

## Brooks sees Bangladeshi success for himself

The principal funders of the University's Brooks World Poverty Institute (BWPI) have visited Bangladesh to see for themselves how its work is improving the lives of the poor.

The BWPI was made possible by a donation of £1.3 million over three years from the Rory and Elizabeth Brooks Foundation, one of the largest known gifts in Europe to fund poverty research.

Rory and Elizabeth, accompanied by University researchers and post graduate students, visited two schemes in the country in which BWPI researchers are directly engaged with partners in Bangladesh.

One initiative works with the people who live on the sand islands on the Jamuna River north of the capital Dhakar - known as Chars - who are

severely affected by flooding and river erosion.

Thanks to help from the Chars Livelihood Project, houses are now raised on plinths to protect them from flooding, providing families with a stable environment to work and live.

The party also visited a microfinance banking scheme in a Dhakar slum, which allows people on low and irregular and unreliable incomes to borrow and save regularly.

Rory Brooks said: "It was enlightening and rewarding to witness at first hand how research into poverty and

development can help to make improvements to people's lives by encouraging new approaches to deep-seated problems.

"These projects in Bangladesh offer a glimpse into how entrenched problems can begin to be tackled.

"It's clear from the work at BWPI that top quality research, working with other actors and agencies, can play a vital role in this process.

"Both Elizabeth and I are delighted to be able to do what we can to accelerate the benefits of this work."

## Douglas Alexander launches IDPM golden jubilee

Secretary of State for International Development Douglas Alexander dropped in on the University's Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM) to launch the celebrations for its 50th anniversary year.

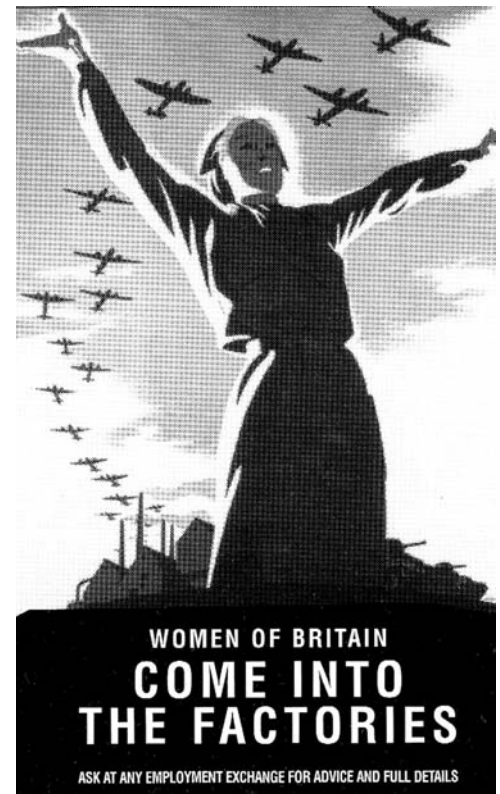
One of the oldest organisations of its kind, IDPM promotes social and economic development through education, training, consultancy, research and policy analysis.

Since it was established in 1958, IDPM has trained more than 10,000 people from across the globe.

During his visit, the Secretary of State paid tribute to the contribution that IDPM and other UK researchers are making to our understanding of development.

IDPM Director Dr Willy McCourt said: "A visit from the Secretary of State was the ideal way to begin our Golden Jubilee.

"We look forward to extending the links that we already have with him and with the Department for International Development."



## Women's work

The often unrecognised contribution of the 'hidden army' of women factory and engineering workers to World War II is being celebrated at an event later this month.

The Women's History Network North West is being launched on Friday 14 March at a special event at the Imperial War Museum North. The event is being sponsored by the University's Gender Research Network which is based in the School of Social Sciences.

The event - which takes place in International Women's Week - will feature a film entitled 'The Ladies Bridge' which depicts the reconstruction of Waterloo Bridge in London during World War II. The film will be followed by a discussion of the role of women's war labour in the North West.

The event begins at 5pm and the film and discussion will take place between 6pm and 7pm.

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