

Is it really development?

Viet bi Đ Đăng Tèo

Thứ 14, 14 Tháng 11 2012 11:18 - Lần cập nhật cuối Thứ hai, 10 Tháng 12 2012 13:52

Very lovely paper and poem!!!

"Lords of Poverty" was published in 1989, There had been lively debate surrounding it then. After 25 years later, the topic is being repeated, which shows that its caught the interest of a new generation of development workers. But its not a new subject by any means. The introductory poem in the book might ring some bells"

Excuse me, friends, I must catch my jet
I'm

off to join the Development Set;
My bags are packed, and I've had all my shots
I have traveller's checks and pills for the trots!

The Development Set is bright and noble
Our thoughts are deep and our vision global;
Although we move with the better classes
Our thoughts are always with the masses.

In Sheraton Hotels in scattered nations
We damn multi-national corporations;
injustice seems easy to protest
In such seething hotbeds of social rest.

We discuss malnutrition over steaks
And plan hunger talks during coffee breaks.
Whether Asian floods or African drought,
We face each issue with open mouth.

We bring in consultants whose circumlocution
Raises difficulties for every solution –
Thus guaranteeing continued good eating
By showing the need for another meeting.

The language of the Development Set
Stretches the English alphabet;
We use swell words like "epigenetic"
"Micro", "macro", and "logarithmic"

It pleasures us to be esoteric –
It's so intellectually atmospheric!
And although establishments may be unmoved,
Our vocabularies are much improved.

When the talk gets deep and you're feeling numb,
You can keep your shame to a minimum:

Is it really development?

Viết bởi Đặng Tèo

Thứ 7, 14 Tháng 11 2012 11:18 - Lần cập nhật cuối Thứ hai, 10 Tháng 12 2012 13:52

To show that you, too, are intelligent
Smugly ask, "Is it really development?"

Or say, "That's fine in practice, but don't you see:
It doesn't work out in theory!"
A few may find this incomprehensible,
But most will admire you as deep and sensible.

Development set homes are extremely chic,
Full of carvings, curios, and draped with batik.
Eye-level photographs subtly assure
That your host is at home with the great and the poor.

Enough of these verses – on with the mission!
Our task is as broad as the human condition!
Just pray god the biblical promise is true:
The poor ye shall always have with you.
-Ross Coggins