



DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT  
SERVICE (DSS) : ASIA

OCCASIONAL PAPERS

# HOW NETWORKS FUNCTION:

*SOME STRUCTURAL AND  
INTERACTIONAL ASPECTS OF  
THE IRED NETWORK IN  
ASIA : COLOMBO*

**Sunimal Fernando**

64, Horton Place, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.  
Tel: (94-1) 695481; Fax: (94-1) 580721/502561;  
Telex: 21537/22933 Metalix CE.

- Introduction
- What Constitutes a Network
- Network Durability
- Networking
- Network Density
- Transactions and Exchanges
- Range
- Network Clusters
- Multiplexity of Network Linkages
- Intensity of Networks Links
- Investment and Directional Flow
- 'Action Sets' and Network Activation
- Network Zones
- Network Centrality

*The newly recognised responsibility of NGOs in nation building requires a new strategy; one that aims at strengthening the grassroots associations, helping them to acquire the know-how that they need to manage their resources and take over their own destinies ..... Here is where the networking process can be so useful. By exchanging experiences and information, grassroots and national associations are turning into a force for dialogue, representation and negotiation. And it is to facilitate such exchanges that IRED Development Innovations and Networks was created.*

*(Ideas and Actions: 177:1987/6)*

## Introduction

IRED- Development Innovations and Networks is an international Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) established in september 1980 and registered under Swiss Law as a Non Profit Making International Association. It has a membership at present of over 200 individuals from all parts of the world, constituting the nucleus of a World Network committed to Participatory Development.

IRED has a General Secretariat in Geneva and five Development Support Services of the IRED Partners in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

IRED has a global network, at present, of nearly 700 partners in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, consisting of Peasants' Organisations, Craftsmen's Organisa-



INNOVATIONS ET RÉSEAUX POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT  
DEVELOPMENT INNOVATIONS AND NETWORKS  
INNOVATION Y REDES PARA EL DESARROLLO

**NETWORKING STRATEGIES  
THE IRED EXPERIENCE**

by Fernand Vincent  
General Secretary of the  
International Network of IRED

Geneva, November 1986