INTECH loses a friend with death of Sanjaya Lall

Current and former staff members at UNU Institute of New Technologies are mourning the death of Sanjaya Lall, the eminent academic who cast a giant shadow in the field of trade and competitiveness, globalization and its economic consequences, industrial policy and industrialization, and innovation and technological capabilities.

Born in Patna, India, Lall graduated from Oxford and was based there from 1968. At the time of his sudden death on June 18, he was professor of development economics.

"Sanjaya was a long-time associate of UNU-INTECH," said Lyn Mytelka, former director of the institute. "The breadth of his expertise and the rootedness of his intellectual strengths in long term research in Africa and Asia will be sorely missed. So, too, will his soft manner and keen interest in helping others. It is hard to believe that he has gone."

Rajah Rasiah, professor of technology and innovation policy at the University of Malaya and a distinguished senior research fellow with INTECH, described Professor Lall's death as "the passing of an academic legend."

"The world has lost one of its most potent appropriators of knowledge." he said. "Fortunately for us, although he is no longer with us, Sanjaya Lall’s inspiring works and the hundreds of prodigies he mentored unselfishly will now carry the torch of development economics for many decades to come."

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1 The newsletter of United Nations University and its international network of research and training centres/programmes; Issue 38: July–August 2005: http://update.unu.edu/archive/issue38_18.htm
Professor Sanjaya Lall

DECEMBER 13, 1940 - JUNE 18, 2005

Development economist who was much in demand as a consultant to Third World governments

SANJAYA LALL was one of the world’s pre-eminent development economists. As a prolific researcher and writer, a seasoned, well-travelled consultant to Third World governments and a gifted and sensitive teacher, he was held in the highest esteem by the academic community, national governments and international agencies alike.

In a distinguished and varied academic career spanning 40 years, Lall accumulated an unrivalled store of knowledge and experience about the economic needs and aspirations of developing and transition economies. He was much sought after for his counsel and guidance on the implications of globalisation, technological change and foreign direct investment for their industrial strategies, competitiveness and economic prosperity.

Lall worked with more than 40 governments, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, and, more latterly, in Central and Eastern Europe. In doing so, he displayed a rare gift of being able to offer pragmatic advice on how best to deal with real-life problems and challenges, without sacrificing any of the intellectual rigour underpinning his diagnoses or prescriptions.

Whether such advice was directed to the appropriate export strategy of Mauritius or Zambia, or the upgrading of industrial competitiveness in Sri Lanka or Indonesia, or the most suitable technological policies for India or Kenya, Lall’s unique expertise, his commonsense approach, and his eagerness to share his views with, rather than impose them on, governments was both greatly appreciated and most effective in its results.

Sanjaya Lall was born in Patna, India, in 1940 and took first-class honours degrees at Patna, in 1960, and Oxford, in 1963. After a short spell as an economist at the World Bank, he was appointed research officer at the Institute of Economics and Statistics in 1968, and later, lecturer in development economics at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford. His many scholarly achievements and services to the university were recognised with his promotion to a university professorship in 1999.

Lall wrote or edited 35 books, and contributed more than 100 papers to the leading scholarly journals on development-related topics. His writings on transfer pricing, the pharmaceutical industry, technological upgrading, export competitiveness and Third World multinational companies successfully applied the principles of economic theory to detailed empirical investigations.

He was a regular and valued consultant to the World Bank and a variety of UN agencies, including UNCTAD, where over the last decade he played a major role in the preparation of the respected annual World Investment Report.

For almost all of his professional life, Lall dedicated himself to advancing the economic welfare of developing countries. In his early writings, often jointly with his mentor, Paul Streeten, he was somewhat critical of the role of multinational enterprises (MNEs) in promoting this objective.

However, in later years — and particularly as globalisation evolved — he increasingly

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2 The Times, July 07, 2005.
directed his attention to the ways in which host developing governments might upgrade their institutions and reconfigure their economic policies, so as best to benefit not only from inward foreign investment but also from the overseas activities of their own MNEs. In particular, his writings on the role of inward investment in enhancing indigenous technological capacity and industrial competitiveness were acknowledged to be of the highest quality and of direct relevance to policy formation.

Lall’s most important contribution to development economics lay in improving the understanding of industrialisation in developing countries. Through painstaking industrial research he concluded that technological learning and the development of technological capabilities were essential for successful industrial restructuring. These would not occur automatically as a result of market forces, but might require deliberate policies, of national governments, including institutional upgrading, better education and training, and industrial promotion or protection. He argued that neglect of such policies was an important contributor to the failure of industrialisation after trade liberalisation in many African economies.

He was highly critical of simplistic market solutions to the development problems of poor countries, arguing that they were likely to fail because they did not recognise the need for active intervention by governments to promote industrial learning, and thereby promote competitiveness in the global economy.

Lall was an exemplar of the intelligent, creative, generous yet self-effacing scholar. He was an enthusiastic and exciting lecturer, an earnest yet generous debater, a sympathetic listener and a cultured and courteous individual.

He adored his family and fully embraced the pleasures of collegiate life. His home in Oxford provided boundless hospitality to his students and to scholars and friends in Oxford and from all over the world.

He is survived by his wife, Rani, and their three children.

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Curriculum Vitae

Professor Lall died suddenly on 18th June 2005. A graduate of Oxford and based here from 1968, he played an important role as a brilliant and respected teacher. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues and students.

He was a prolific researcher and writer who made pioneering contributions to our knowledge of FDI and corporate development, industrialisation, technological capabilities and learning and trade. As a global authority he was in constant demand from national governments and international finance and development agencies, particularly those of the UN and EU. Sanjaya also served as the Editor of Oxford Development Studies.

Professional Career

1965-68: Economist, World Bank, Washington, DC, USA.
1968-1999: Junior Research Officer, Research Officer and Senior Research Officer at the Institute of Economics and Statistics, then University Lecturer in Development Economics, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford.

3 http://www.economics.ox.ac.uk/members/sanjaya.lall/CV.htm
1999-2005: Professor of Development Economics, University of Oxford

Honours and Awards
Gold Medal for standing first in University Economics Honours, Patna, India, 1960.
Prize from St. John's College, Oxford, for obtaining First Class BA honours, 1963.
Honorary Director of Studies, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), New Delhi, 1981-82.

PUBLICATIONS
A. Books and Monographs


B. Articles in Refereed Journals


67. ‘“Market Stimulating’ Technology Policies in Developing Countries: A Framework with Examples from East Asia’ (with Morris Teubal), World Development, 26(8), 1998.
C. Articles in Books


D. Reports for International Agencies and Governments


52. Technology Policies in East Asia, for the Economic Commission for Latin America, Santiago de Chile, 1997.


60. Foreign direct investment, technology and competitiveness: trends and challenges, for the World Bank Africa Department, 1999.


E. Reprints, Translations and Working Papers


30. ‘Multinationals from India’ (in Danish), in Kontakt, no 5, 1982/3.


F. Articles in Non-Refereed Journals and Periodicals


14. ‘Multinational Companies and Concentration at the International Level: the Case of the Pharmaceutical Industry’, Social Scientist (India), April 1979.


23. ‘Foreign Involvement by European Firms and Garment Exports by Developing Countries’ (with G. Wignaraja), *Marga* (Colombo), 1993.


**Selection of Recent Research and Advisory Activities**

Advisor to Ministry of Industry, Syria, on industrial upgrading and competitiveness, 2002.

- Consultant to the International Labour Office on employment implications of globalization, 2002.
- Advisor to Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of Thailand, on international technology indices.
- Consultant to World Bank, assessing progress and impact of its Industrial Technology Development project in Turkey, 2002.
- Consultant to FIAS, ADB and DFID on workshop on FDI promotion in South Asia, held in Dhaka, April 2002. Acting as keynote speaker as well as presenter on export competitiveness.


Consultant to EU on technology policies in East Asia, for STRATA project on building science and technology in the European Union, 2002.


Consultant to UNCTAD and ICSTD on measuring the relevance of IPRs in developing countries, background paper for DFID project, 2002.


Consultant to UNDP on Human Development Report 2001, prepared background paper on technology development and policies.


Special adviser to the Director General of UNIDO on the future role of UNIDO, its research programme and publications, 2000.


Member of Board of Advisors to Asian Development Bank on study of industrial competitiveness in East Asia, 2000-2001.

Consultant to UNCTAD on World Investment Report 2000 on cross-border mergers and acquisitions and development.

Co-director of World Bank Institute research project on technology, foreign direct investment and competitiveness in East Asia, 2000-2001.

Consultant to World Bank on design of structural adjustment loan related to competitiveness in Thailand, 1999.


Consultant to World Bank on technology development project in Turkey: assessed achievements of first project and advised on structure of second project, 1998.

Invited speaker by Government of Tanzania and Confederation of Tanzanian Industry on industrial competitiveness, November 1998.


Consultant to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Indonesia, on export facilitation and procedures, for the Asian Development Bank, 1998.

Director of EU-financed study at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford, on ‘Small and Medium Sized Enterprises in Europe and East Asia’, to analyse and benchmark SME technical performance in five countries in Europe and three in East Asia. Two research officers employed in Oxford. Part of a larger project involving the universities of Edinburgh (co-ordinator), Rome, Athens and Jerusalem. (Oxford funding app. £ 180,000). Two years (1998-2000)


Co-ordinator and director of study financed by the European Union, Directorate General XII, Science, Research and Development. On Science and Technology Policies in Greece, Turkey, Mexico and Hungary. Involved two universities in Italy (Venice and Rome) as well as the Centro Studi Luca d’Agliano in Turin and the University of Athens in Greece. The Oxford part of the project, directed by myself, was based at Queen Elizabeth House and involved two research officer posts (Oxford component around £185,000, total project around £350,000). The two-year study, 1996-1998.

UN University World Institute for Development Economics Research (WIDER) paper on export strategies in East Asia, for study directed by G. K. Helleiner on Non-Traditional Exports in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1997.

Director of study of Manufactured Export Strategy in Zimbabwe, with special emphasis on small and medium enterprises, for the Ministry of Industry, financed by the Commonwealth Secretariat, London, 1997.

Invited contributor on ‘New Technologies and Asia’, for the study of Emerging Asia, to mark the 30th anniversary of the Asian Development Bank, co-ordinated by the HIID, 1996.

Consultant to World Bank to evaluate the impact of its Industrial Technology Development Project on institutions and firms in India, 1996.

Director of study of The Technological Response to Import Liberalization in Sub-Saharan Africa, with case studies of Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe financed by the United Nations University Institute for New Technologies (INTECH) and based at Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford. This study involved three researchers in Oxford and three in Africa. Published by Macmillan Press, London, 1999 (Total funding £100,000).


Director of study of Technology Development in Ghanaian Enterprises, financed by the ODA and Italian Government, as part of the Regional Programme on Enterprise Development (RPED) administered by the World Bank. The research project at the IES and involved collaboration with a team in Ghana, as well as researchers in Italy and the USA. Macmillan published the results in 1994 (paperback version in 1995).

Director of study, financed by the World Bank, on the Upgrading of Export Competitiveness in Sri Lanka, for the National Planning Department, Government of Sri Lanka, 1995-6.

Commissioned by the Operations Evaluation Department of the World Bank (which reports directly to its Board of Governors) to analyse the *World Bank’s Lending for Industrial Technology Development* in India, Indonesia, Korea, Mexico, Hungary and Spain (1993). Published in 1995, this is the Bank’s benchmark for assessing technology lending.

International expert on Industry and Energy, part of team funded by the Asian Development Bank to advise the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand on the formation of a ‘Growth Triangle’ in North Malaysia, South Thailand and North Sumatra, 1994.

Commissioned by Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, to contribute two chapters to 1996 publication entitled *Trade, Technology and International Competitiveness*. To be used as teaching material on World Bank courses.

Commissioned by the Operations Evaluation Department of the World Bank to assess its approach to industrial policy, with case studies of India, Indonesia and Korea (1989-91). This report was published in 1993, at the express wish of the Board.


Leader of team studying *Export Competitiveness And Upgrading* in Indonesia, for the Asian Development Bank, 1994-5. Study published by the Government of Indonesia, 1996.

Member of World Bank team preparing export development strategy for Jordan, 1995.

Leader of team preparing report for the Government of Malaysia on *Sustaining Export Growth*, funded by the Asian Development Bank, 1994-5.

Co-ordinator and research leader for study on *Transnationals and Industrial Restructuring* for UNCTAD, division on TNCs and Management, Geneva, 1995-96. The study covers six developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Published by UNCTAD in 2000.


Invited to contribute background paper on technology development for World Bank’s *World Development Report 1991*.

**Editorial**

Managing Editor, *Oxford Development Studies*.


Advisory Board, *Transnational Corporations*, UNCTAD, from inception.


**International lecturing invitations in 2002 (January-September)**

Speaker at 50th anniversary conference of BNDES (Brazilian National Bank for Economic and Social Development) on ‘New Paths of Development’, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, September 2002.
• Guest lecturer on globalization, technology and development at the economics department, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, September 2002.

• Speaker at Economic and Social Commission for West Asia, 'Forum on technology, employment and poverty alleviation', Beirut, July 2002.

• Lecturer at University of Cambridge, Advanced Programme on Rethinking Development Economics, August 2002.

• Keynote speaker at the Inter-American Development Bank conference on 'Regional integration and foreign direct investment', Washington DC, July 2002.

• Speaker at Institute of Policy Studies conference on 'Sustaining Singapore's competitiveness in the new global economy', Singapore, August 2002.

• Keynote speaker on 'Globalization and industrial development', Bangkok, Thailand, August 2002.

• Speaker at conference on innovation at the European Union, Brussels, March 2002.

• Guest lecturer at the UN Institute for New Technologies on competitiveness and its measurement, March 2002.

• Speaker at conference on 'The development state model and the Lebanese experience', Beirut, May 2002.

• Speaker at conference on 'Innovation for global competition', organised by TUBITAK, TITGV and TUSAID, Istanbul, Turkey, July 2002.

• Speaker at joint UNCTAD/ECLAC symposium on foreign direct investment in Latin America, Santiago de Chile, January, 2002.

• Lecturer at course on measuring industrial performance, UN Industrial Development Organization, Vienna, Austria, January, 2002.

Other relevant information


Background

Date of birth: 13 December 1940

Place of birth: Patna, India

Nationality: British

Marital status: Married, with three children

University Education

1958-60: BA Honours in Economics, Patna University, India. First Class Honours, standing first in University.


1963-65: M.Phil. in Economics, St. John's College, Oxford.