

8 August 2002

Dear John,

Thank you for your mail. I read this in Dhaka, Bangladesh where I have just arrived from India. In both places I have done my first of 3 or 4 field visits to the case study areas of my PhD. I went to Nepal in April so the first round is now complete.

All in all my PhD is on schedule all be it with the necessary changes and hick-ups. One unexpected advantage is that my supervisor has been able to include 2 of the 3 case studies in an ADB study. This means that the first of the visits financially and time-wise double as study and consultancy assignment. Furthermore I had assumed that I would have to visit each country and case study area 4 times. It now seems likely that for Bangladesh and Nepal 3 visits will be sufficient.

A negative development was that my notebook and passport were stolen in Holland on the way to the airport at the end of June. This, together with the need to make an extra return trip to the Netherlands to get a new passport and visa, upset my carefully planned summer schedule and meant that I had to skip most of my holiday plans with the family. Luckily I had backed up the hard disk the morning of the theft so I lost no data at all!

I should mention that I have gathered considerably more reading material than I have had time to read. I still hope to catch up later this year when the work pressure is less...

Well, good luck with your courses. I hope they will be as helpful to others as they were to me!

Greetings,

Dirk R Frans  
PhD Researcher