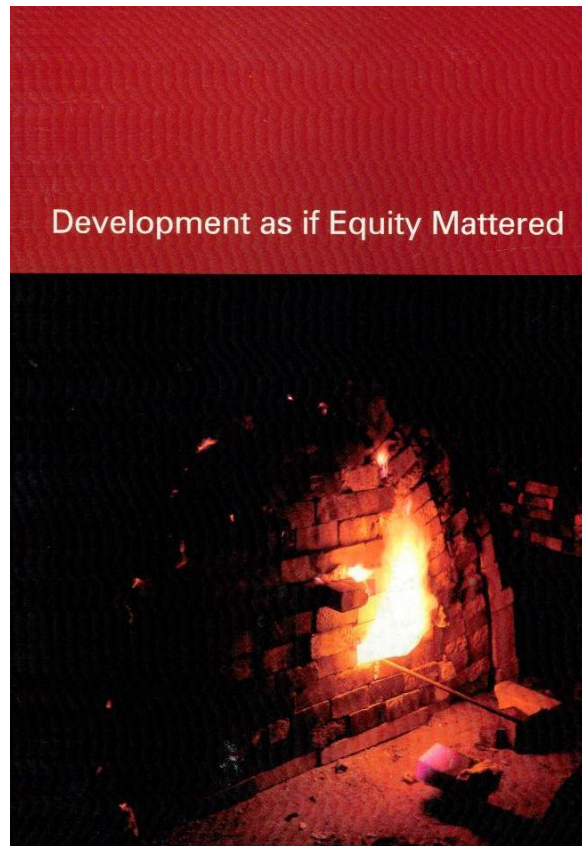


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



“Equity is a political notion, not a matter of precise definition or measurement. It is concerned with justice; with elimination of discrimination; with securing a voice in institutions; with access to political process; with fair and conscionable enjoyment among all of the benefits from the use of a nation’s resources; and with consciousness of the needs of others to come. Development without equity is incomplete and, ultimately, unsustainable.

This was the outlook of the International Conference on Public Policy, Natural Resources and Equity, focusing on the theme, “Development as if Equity Mattered”, held in

Georgetown, Guyana, on September 24-26, 2001, with the principal objective of examining the concept of equity in development and exploring ways of overcoming barriers to equity in development.

The Conference was essentially a civil society undertaking, with participants drawn from a wide variety of disciplines and backgrounds, including international and regional organisations, academia, the private sector, NGOs, CBOs and indigenous groups. It also had the participation of representatives of Guyana Government agencies and the Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development of Guyana, the latter providing a most relevant point of reference for the emphasis on natural resource policy and management and to illustrate the equity dimension in sustainable business development.

This Report approaches the discussions, findings and recommendations of the Conference along three basic thematic lines: exploring the macro environment as a framework for building equity in development; process and concrete activities aimed at ensuring equity in development; and overcoming barriers to equity in development, with a special focus on the Iwokrama Programme...”

***To obtain a copy of this publication,
please feel free to contact our office.***