

Development priorities?

A catastrophic storm has hit the world, the East of England is devastated and Cambridge flattened. There is just a single small boat of survivors on the river Cam, heading for a new land to re-establish life and develop a new world. Then they encounter six other survivors floundering in the river, pleading to be taken on board - but there is room for only one! Who to rescue?

No, this is not a post-Apocalypse event but the scene at the Cambridge Humanitarian Centre's seminar to launch their latest [Cambridge International Development](#) report! We, the delegates, are in the boat. The six "survivors" are on a panel, role playing as a Banker, an Artist, a DFID Policy Maker, an Academic & an NGO Worker. Each has 10 minutes to plead why their skills in 'development' justify being rescued! Then we in the 'boat' are invited to discuss in groups who to choose and to subject the panel members to questions. Finally, the sixth panelist speaks - he is "The Devil", claiming that he can make everything go wrong unless he is saved!

It was a novel and enjoyable approach to identifying development needs and encouraging interaction between delegates! We all had something to talk about over the wine and sandwiches that followed!

And who was rescued? The Artist, of course, on a sympathy vote!

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Note that the Humanitarian Centre is a corporate member of TAA