

# TRIBUTE TO SMITU KOTHARI



A very dear member of the *Development* Editorial Board Smitu Kothari passed away on 23rd March 2009 in New Delhi unexpectedly of heart failure.

Smitu, noted Indian and international scholar, author and activist has contributed to the SID network for over twenty years. He was actively engaged in the work of key SID programmes in the 1990s and 2000s: the Sustainable Livelihoods Programme, Women and Politics of Place Programme, the South Asia SID-SAN network as well as being an active member on the editorial board of the journal *Development*. He brought to SID his vision, his insights, friendship and solidarity. Memorably he guest edited the first issue of the journal to be published by Palgrave Macmillan on the 'Violence of Development' in 2004.

Most of all Smitu brought to the journal's work his humanity, his love and respect for people and nature and strong sense of social justice. He was deeply involved in ecological, cultural and human rights issues striving to forge collectively global alternatives to the world's injustices. He played a unique role as an activist intellectual in SID forging links among many people on the issues he held dear.

As well as contributing to the journal's ongoing work he was a noted scholar. He published articles and books that critiqued contemporary economic and cultural development, the relationship of nature, culture and democracy, developmental displacement, people's governance and social movements.

Smitu was a source of inspiration and support to the journal's mission to work towards social justice and development. He will be sadly missed. The journal will feature series of essays in memory of Smitu in the forthcoming issue on 'Beyond Economics' volume 52 number 3 to be published in September 2009.

As fellow editorial board member Sanjay Reddy noted:

*'Smitu was a person of great heart and intellect, and his loss is truly a loss for the world which goes well beyond those who knew and appreciated him.'*

Wendy Harcourt  
Editor