



World Alliance for Citizen Participation

e-CIVICUS

A Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter Promoting Civic Existence, Expression & Engagement

Please send contributions, comments and questions to editor@civicus.org.

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CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

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ABOUT e-CIVICUS

The CIVICUS weekly electronic publication is keeping tens of thousands of people informed of the developments taking place in civil society, the factors that are affecting them and the impact they are having on creating an informed and knowledgeable society.

e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY-GENERAL

Send your comments and contributions to editor@civicus.org.



Which will win out on food crisis - Greed or Guilt?

By Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

This week we saw some big gestures but small progress in the fight to tackle the soaring cost of food worldwide. But in the wash of statistics, finger-pointing, excuse-making and rescue packages from governments and international agencies, we often miss the real stories from people who have been affected by this current crisis. Protests from thousands of hungry Somalis on their capital's streets were met with gunfire and at least five people were killed. Thousands more are lining up for free food handouts in Nigeria where bakeries have gone on strike to protest at rising flour costs. For a country rich in commodities, poor city-dwellers often don't eat more than a small loaf of bread a day. To read more on this week's column, [click here](#).

Food crisis adds to women's burden in Asia

By Marwaan Macan-Markar

As if the burdens they shoulder are not enough, Asia's women are being compelled to bear the additional weight of rising food prices, say women's rights activists from across the region. "With increasing prices of rice, oil, fuel, transport and all basic commodities, women workers in Asia are the worst hit," declared the Committee for Asian Women (CAW), a regional non-governmental organisation (NGO), at the launch of a campaign to seek higher wages for female workers. "Workers who produce society's food, shelter and clothing are, themselves, in a perennially vulnerable hand-to-mouth existence," added CAW in its statement to push for better incomes for women in the formal and informal sectors. For more information, [click here](#).

U.N. bodies under fire for food crisis

By Thalif Deen, Inter Press Agency (IPS)

As the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) readies for a summit of world leaders next month, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on Monday defended the Rome-based U.N. agency, which has come under fire for its failure to help meet the growing challenges of hunger worldwide. The harshest attack came last week from Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, who described the FAO as a "bottomless pit of money, largely spent on its own functioning, with very little effective operation on the ground." Wade continued "the FAO, headed by Jacques Diouf of Senegal, should be merged with another Rome-based U.N. agency, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to establish a single mega-agriculture body". For more information, [click here](#).

e-CIVICUS offers a useful channel through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate the issues you face. Please send us your contributions no later than Tuesday for publication in the coming week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must focus on civil society issues or have a civil society angle. To read the contribution guidelines, please visit www.civicus.org/new/media/e-civiceditorialguidelines-finalDraft.doc.

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Have your say in e-CIVICUS Readers' Survey

By Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary General

Deadline to complete the survey: 28 May 2008

As you may know, CIVICUS has been distributing its electronic newsletter, e-CIVICUS, to partners and CIVICUS members since 1999. This free weekly electronic publication keeps over 85, 000 readers informed of the developments, influences, issues and impacts of civil society around the world. e-CIVICUS is available in English and in a number of different electronic formats such as html, word, pdf and text. In order to maintain and improve on the delivery of quality information with regard to news, issues, debates, events and other key developments of civil society in the global arena, CIVICUS needs your feedback on e-CIVICUS. All survey responses will be kept strictly confidential and the results will be for internal use only. To complete the survey, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Should governments make a greater effort to involve civil society and the private sector in tackling the current global food crisis?

To answer the question, [click here](#).

Previous question: Should civil society engage more actively with international trade union movements and their decent work campaigns?

Results: Yes - 90%, No - 9%, Don't Know - 1%

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT e-CIVICUS

The e-CIVICUS newsletter keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. As a subscriber you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work. So why keep it to yourself?

Do you have a friend who works for a more just world? Would you like to share this newsletter with them? Why don't you suggest they register for a free subscription?

They can send us an e-mail to subscriptions@civicus.org or fill out the subscription form [here](#). Alternatively, please forward their e-mail address to KumiNaidoo.e-civicus@civicus.org and we'll contact them on your behalf. Please send us your contributions no later than Monday every week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

COUNTDOWN TO THE 2008 CIVICUS WORLD ASSEMBLY

CIVICUS looks forward to your participation in the World Assembly. Let's Act Together for a Just World!!!



Register now for the CIVICUS World Assembly

The 8th CIVICUS World Assembly will take place from 18-21 June in Glasgow, Scotland. This year, the World Assembly will focus on the theme of *People, Power and Participation*, looking at how civil society accesses, engages with and participates in all forms and spheres

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TELL A FRIEND

Do you have a friend who works for a more just world?
Would you like to share this newsletter with them?
Please forward their e-mail address to
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We value your comments, suggestions and contributions.
Speak to us at editor@civicus.org

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You can make an on-line donation at
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Join CIVICUS

Join or renew your CIVICUS Membership on-line now at
www.civicus.org/new/joinv2.html



2008 CIVICUS World Assembly
The World Assembly will take place between 18-21 June 2008, Glasgow, Scotland. Building on and continuing the success of past World Assemblies, the overall theme for this event is *Acting Together for a Just World*. This overall theme will be explored through the focus theme of *People, Participation and Power*.



Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin

The CIVICUS e-newsletter Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin is an

of governance at the local, national and international levels. Register online now to participate! The World Assembly will bring together members of civil society, government, donors, business and media who will explore "Acting together for a just world" through the focus theme of "People, Participation and Power". For additional information on the programme and what to expect, browse through our e-flyer available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#). To register, please [click here](#).

CIVICUS' Members activities during the World Assembly

CIVICUS is grateful for the support of its Members and looks forward to meeting those who are able to attend this year's 8th CIVICUS World Assembly. During the World Assembly, CIVICUS will host its annual Members' Meeting during which CIVICUS Secretary General-elect; Ingrid Srinath, will be introduced to CIVICUS Members. Kumi Naidoo, who has served as CIVICUS Secretary General for almost 10 years, together with the CIVICUS Board, will provide members with an update on CIVICUS Programmes, Finance, Governance, and Strategic Planning Process since last year. During this time, Members will be encouraged to interact, ask questions, provide feedback, and give guidance to CIVICUS on its current programme and proposed work for the future. A Members' Cocktail will also be held to provide an opportunity for CIVICUS Members to meet and interact with both CIVICUS staff and Board members. For more information, [click here](#).

The CIVICUS World Assembly experience - A testimonial

Since the first CIVICUS World Assembly was held in Mexico City in 1995, it has attracted thousands of delegates from across the globe. Each World Assembly manages to empower and inspire participants in its own way. After every World Assembly, CIVICUS receives feedback from delegates and speakers which reinforces the necessity for an event of this kind that creates a space for open dialogue on common issues faced by ordinary citizens from very diverse backgrounds. One such example is a report by Galia Chamita, PhD, from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Sciences who attended the 7th World Assembly in Glasgow in 2007, and shared experiences. For more information, [click here](#).

e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES

Civil society in action - Israel

By Ruth Mason, The Jerusalem Post

I recently had the privilege of observing the inner workings of Israeli democracy in action. Thirteen women, all Ethiopian immigrants, were gathered in a hotel conference room in Tel Aviv, listening intently as a young sabra explained the ways ordinary citizens can influence the people in power. These listeners, some in pants and sandals, others in long skirts and head scarves, were moved to try and influence decision-makers to take action about the growing number of Ethiopian immigrant women killed by their husbands in the last 10 years. For more information, [click here](#).



Green movement forgets its politics

Viewpoint by Ann Pettifor - Source: British Broadcasting Cooperation (BBC)

Organisations campaigning on climate change need to learn the lessons of the anti-slavery and anti-apartheid movements, says Ann Pettifor. By focusing on individuals rather than governments, initiatives such as the recent Energy Saving Day are bound to fail in their bid to reduce emissions, she argues. Scientists finally agree on the threat to the planet posed by rising temperatures. Books on the subject proliferate. For more information, [click here](#).

Honor journalists who report on abuses of power

By Eduardo Bertoni

Since 1993, UNESCO has celebrated "World Press Freedom Day" during the first week in May. I have spent more than a decade working for freedom of expression and defending journalists from prosecution for doing their job. Therefore, every year around this time I am usually part of public discussions that try to answer a simple question: How free is the press today? Many people --

action-oriented newsletter distributed to over 7,400 people around the world, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at www.civilsocietywatch.org

CIVICUS blog

What do you think? Have your say on the CIVICUS Blog! CIVICUS seeks to amplify the voices and opinions of ordinary people and give expression to the enormous creative energy within civil society. Our recently launched blog gives you the opportunity to use your voice and engage with the rest of civil society. Have your say by visiting <http://civicus.civiblog.org>



including myself -- answer this question by raising concerns over increased governmental restrictions on the press. These restrictions include efforts to pass or maintain legislation that has -- sometimes explicitly, sometimes obliquely -- one clear goal: muzzle journalists who criticise the government or public figures. However, today there is another growing threat against the press, and this threat comes from one of the press's natural allies: civil society. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

Human Rights Watch urges probe of organ trafficking claims in Kosovo

Source: JURIST legal news and research

New information concerning charges that separatist Kosovo Liberation Army leaders were involved in trafficking organs taken from Serb prisoners during the 1998-1999 war in Kosovo justifies a probe into the allegations, Human Rights Watch said on Monday. HRW urged Kosovo and Albania to launch an investigation into the allegations, and said that it had sent letters to both Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci and Albanian Prime Minister Sali Berisha in April but had had no reply as of May 2. In April, Serbia announced that it plans to officially request that the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) resumes a probe into the organ trafficking allegations. For more information, [click here](#).

Activists slam trade ministry over EPAs in Uganda

By John Odyek, New Vision

Civil society organisations and the parliamentarians last week clashed with the trade ministry officials over the signing of an interim Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the European Union. In a meeting with the parliamentary committee on tourism, the trade ministry officials told civil society representatives that they could not stop negotiations with the EU because some of them had expressed reservations over the agreement. "We have a right to put forward our views. It is arrogance on the part of the ministry not to listen to us," Jane Nalunga, the SEATINI executive director, responded. For more information, [click here](#).

Restrictive media law amendment moves forward in Russia

Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)

An amendment that would allow the Russian courts to close media outlets for publishing defamatory statements has made its way through the parliament's lower house, according to local press reports. "This law, if passed, would be detrimental to the media because it would allow for the closure of entire media outlets, not just the punishment of the author of the defamatory materials in question," Andrei Richter, director of the Moscow-based Media Law and Policy Institute, told CPJ. "It would also send a strong signal to the media that the state is watching what they publish, which, in turn, would have a chilling effect on their coverage." For more information, [click here](#).

East African Law Society lawyers to sue China over Zimbabwe

Source: The EastAfrican

Lawyers from East Africa and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) are seeking legal action against the Chinese government over arms supplies to Zimbabwe. The East African Law Society and the Law Society of the Southern Africa Development Community say they have finalised preparations to institute legal action at the International Criminal Court (ICC). Two weeks ago, the 77,000-tonne *An Yue Jiang* ship carrying several container loads of weapons for the Zimbabwe Defence Force, including three million rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 1,500 rocket-propelled grenades and more than 3,000 mortar rounds and mortar tubes, was denied entry by several Southern African countries. For more information, [click here](#).

An imprisoned human rights activist nominated for the Peace Nobel Prize in Uzbekistan

Voice of Freedom Central Asia

An internet project of the Freedom House reports that members of the unregistered Committee for

Giving Freedom to Prisoners of Conscience are collecting signatures to call for awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Mutabar Tadzhibayeva, the Uzbek human rights defender who has been in prison for over two years. More information from the Committee can be requested by email at uzbek.uzniki@rambler.ru. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil Society Forum Declaration to 12th Session on trade development

Source: Reality of Aid

The Civil Society Forum, meeting on the occasion of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XII - (20-25 April 2008), took place in Accra, Ghana from 17 to 19 April 2008. It convened social movements, pro-development groups, women's groups, trade unions, peasants and agricultural organizations, environmental organisations, faith-based organisations, and fair trade organizations, inter alia, (referred to as We thereafter) who expressed a variety of perspectives on trade, investment and competition policies, and their impacts on development. Participants of the forum are united in the defence of a number of principles, positions and actions that they wish to present to the member States of the United Nations Trade and Development Conference at its 12th session. For more information, [click here](#).

How to Measure the Immeasurable?

The European Volunteer Centre (CEV)

On April 18-19, the European Volunteer Centre (CEV) held a conference, "Putting Volunteering on the Economic Map of Europe," organised in co-operation with Slovenska Filantropija in Ljubljana, Slovenia, with 100 participants from 24 countries, from more than 50 local, regional, national and international organisations as well as universities, local authorities and Slovenian ministries. Professor Lester Salomon from the Johns Hopkins University in the United States, which has been doing research on the contribution of the voluntary sector and volunteering to national economies and their Gross Domestic Product (GDP), called upon CEV Members and the volunteer movement to contact their national statistics offices to call for the inclusion of volunteering into the economic statistics of Europe. For more information on the workshops and discussions, [click here](#).

ACCOUNTABILITY

Improving the effectiveness of social purpose organisations through Constituency Voice

Source: www.KeystoneAccountability.org

Those who participate in, and who are affected by, the work of human development organisations -- their constituents -- have a right to a voice in defining what success looks like, influencing their strategies and participating in measuring performance. Sustainable developmental change enables these people to take greater control and responsibility for their own development. This tenet guides Keystone's work, which believes that organisations learn and perform best when they are held to account by their constituents. For more information, [click here](#).

The State of Responsible Competitiveness 2007 - Chinese version launched at Golden Bee International CSR Forum

Source: AccountAbility, www.accountability21.net

The Chinese version of The State of Responsible Competitiveness 2007 was launched at the Golden Bee International CSR Forum in China on 25 April by AccountAbility and Chinese partners WTO Tribune. The Chinese version of the new report includes exclusive essays from Alex MacGillivray, Head of Programmes at AccountAbility; Simon Zadek, Chief Executive of AccountAbility; and Chen Siwei, Vice Chairperson of the 17th Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. For more information, [click here](#).

Standards of Political Conduct for Corporations

Source: Corporate Accountability International

Corporations often cause harm, and get away with the serious harm they inflict on people and the

environment around the world because of their political influence. Corporations typically use this influence to block or eliminate proposed public protection, and to promote and enact policies and regulations that benefit their bottom line at the expense of the public good. Trans-national corporations, in particular, operate worldwide, without limits on their power and influence or strong, enforceable standards to protect people and the environment. To build a better world, regulators and policy-makers must be free to protect people and the environment without business interference. For more information, [click here](#).

GET INVOLVED!

Join the Campaign to End Poverty by 2015

Source: United Nations Millennium Campaign

This is the historic promise 189 world leaders made at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 when they signed onto the Millennium Declaration and agreed to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are an eight-point road map with measurable targets and clear deadlines for improving the lives of the world's poorest people. World leaders have agreed to achieve the MDGs by 2015. It's up to civil society to make sure leaders follow through on these commitments. The United Nations Millennium Campaign supports and inspires people from around the world to take action in support of the Millennium Development Goals. Join the UN Millennium Campaign and be part of the generation that puts an end to poverty. For more information, [click here](#).

Join the Africa 15% Now Campaign

Source: Africa Public Health Rights Alliance

The Africa "15% Now!" Campaign is the flagship campaign of the Africa Public Health Rights Alliance (APHRA) with the objective of advancing health rights and health development through actualising the African Union Abuja pledge for AU member states to allocate at least 15% of national budgets to health. Genuine and sustainable social and economic development is impossible without a successful Public Health policy. In turn, a successful Public Health policy is not achievable without sustainable health financing from governments. To sign the campaign petition, [click here](#).

Join the campaign on Challenging Corporate Abuse

Source: Stop Corporate Abuse, www.stopcorporateabuse.org

For more than 30 years, Corporate Accountability and its members have challenged corporate abuses that endanger public health, democratic institutions, the environment and people's lives. Our campaigns have called some of the world's largest trans-nationals to account, forcing each to respond to the public interest. For more information, [click here](#).

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

G8 action urged to avert six million mother and child deaths every year

Source: The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health

The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health has called on G8 leaders to fulfil their previous commitments to global health and commit to new, long-term financing for essential interventions that could avert the deaths of over 6 million mothers, newborns and children every year. The statement calls for an additional \$10.2 billion annually, the estimated cost to ensure universal coverage of basic services needed to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5 on reducing child death and improving maternal health by 2015, respectively. For more information, [click here](#).

Global business leaders unveil new plans to fight poverty

Source: Department for International Development (DFID)

The Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, and the Administrator of the United Nations Development

Programme, Kemal Derviş, welcomed more than 80 CEOs from some of the world's largest companies to London to showcase new business initiatives to reduce poverty in the developing world. Over the next five years, the initiatives are expected to save almost half a million lives, create thousands of jobs, and benefit millions of poor people across Africa and Asia. The initiatives are part of a concerted push to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that will enable poor people to access current information, money and business expertise as well as creating new business and employment opportunities. For more information, [click here](#).

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Source: World Institute for Development Economics Research

This book provides cutting edge analytical insights into whether the MDGs are likely to be achieved. The volume presents empirical analyses of key determinants of the MDG target variables, which recognise that most of the MDG targets are endogenously related. These inter-dependencies are crucial not only in analysing the MDGs but also devising strategies aimed at their achievement. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

Green World Congress calls for UN Parliamentary Assembly to overcome international democratic deficit

Source: Committee for a Democratic United Nations

The outcome statement of the second Global Greens Congress adopted on 4th May in Sao Paulo has called for "the establishment of a UN Parliamentary Assembly" as one step to overcome the "international democratic deficit." "In the face of global challenges such as climate change it is pretty clear that more effective international decision-making is required. This demands that the world's citizens are better incorporated into international institutions. Hence the proposal for a body composed of elected representatives," said Senator Isabelle Durant, Secretary-General of the Belgian party Ecolo, in Brasil. The leader of the Green Party of Canada, Elizabeth May, commented in Sao Paulo that "governments mainly care about advancing their national interests. By contrast, a UN Parliamentary Assembly could help to promote the global common interest." For more information, [click here](#).

Food crisis due to greed, says development bank

By Ingrid Melander

The global food price crisis is largely due to greed and market speculation rather than food shortages, the head of Southern African Development Bank, Jay Naidoo said. "These increases in food prices are not the consequence of food shortages, it's the consequence of human greed that is putting at risk the lives of millions of men, women and children," Jay Naidoo told Reuters. "There are companies that are making super profits on this issue," he added, blaming the rising cost of food on speculation on commodities markets and the impact of surging prices of oil. Governments and world bodies should take concerted action to control surging food prices, he said on the sidelines of a conference on malnutrition in Brussels. For more information, [click here](#).

Nobel Laureate endorses Mindanao civil society's plea for IMT to stay

By Gus Miclat, Special to MindaNews

Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate in 1976 for her role in the peace process in Northern Ireland endorsed Mindanao civil society's appeal for the Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team (IMT) to stay on. She also called on the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to actively and sincerely pursue peace talks whatever it takes. Maguire knows from experience as she led citizen efforts in Northern Ireland to get the Irish Republican Army, the British government and the divided population of Catholic and Protestant Northern Ireland to seek the path of non-violence and peace in resolving their animosities and conflicts. Her efforts - along with others - eventually paid off with both the IRA and its political wing Sinn Fein striking a deal to co-

govern Northern Ireland with their Protestant political rivals. For more information, [click here](#).

China to join post-Kyoto emission deal

Source: The Australian, www.theaustralian.news.com

China will pledge to "actively join" a post-Kyoto Protocol deal on tackling global warming, in a planned joint statement with Japan during President Hu Jintao's visit to Tokyo. Multilateral negotiations are underway for completing a pact by the end of next year to follow the landmark Kyoto Protocol, which requires rich nations to slash greenhouse gas emissions blamed for climate change. The US and some other Western states have balked at making mandatory cuts as developing nations such as China, one of the world's biggest emitters of carbon dioxide, are not bound to slash emissions under Kyoto. China has been cautious about setting binding emission cut targets for developing countries, arguing that such nations are responsible for current levels. For more information, [click here](#).

PROFILES



DONOR: La foundation Daniel Langlois

Founded in 1997 the *Daniel Langlois Foundation for Art, Science, and Technology* is a private, charitable organisation with an international scope. The Foundation aims to further human knowledge by supporting artistic, scientific and technological research, through bringing art and science closer together within a technological context on two levels: first, by nurturing a critical awareness of technology's impact on ourselves and on our natural and cultural environments and second, by promoting the exploration of aesthetics reflecting the environments that we shape. The Foundation also seeks to promote the emergence of knowledge founded on local practices that contribute to the growth and well-being of people in their communities and environments. For further information, [click here](#).



MEMBER: CECODES

Established by the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA), CECODES is a non-profit, non-governmental development research organisation. Its mission is to carry out research on policy impact assessment and to implement solutions on capacity strengthening of communities with a focus on disadvantaged communities. CECODES aims to contribute to the improvement of policies and governance capacity with the goal of balancing three institutions: State, Market (private), and Civil Society. CECODES Programmes include research and development; transfer of knowledge and technology, including training; seminars, dialogues and publications; and international/domestic co-operation. For more information, [click here](#).

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

Is there scope for CSO participation in Bank training programmes?

A study by World Learning

World Learning released in April 2008 a study which describes the World Bank's internal and external training programmes and assesses whether there would be interest by civil society to participate in and collaborate with World Bank training efforts. The report, which was carried out jointly with the Bank, drew its findings from a threefold methodology that included a global survey of over 1,350 CSO respondents; eight in-country focus groups with civil society; and interviews with headquarters staff in various World Bank units. For more information, [click here](#).

Poverty Reduction in China: Is High Growth Enough?

By Guanghua Wan, UNU Policy Brief

The slowdown and in some years reversal of poverty reduction in China forcefully demonstrates that

growth is not sufficient for combating poverty even if that growth is of unprecedented magnitude. Policy initiatives should take into consideration inequality, especially urban-rural disparity. This Policy Brief provides a summary of the research findings from UNU-WIDER's project on Inequality and Poverty in China. It also offers policy recommendations for tackling the poverty-growth-inequality inter-relationships in the short- and long-term. In particular, it is suggested that the only long-term policy option for the Chinese government is to encourage urbanisation. For more information, [click here](#).

Report: Southern Perspectives on Reform of the International Development Architecture

Source: Wilton Park Conference

The future of multilateral and bilateral co-operation for development is in question. It is either in crisis or in the process of reinvention. Two short years ago hopes for governance and policy changes that would assist poor countries were running high in the aftermath of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the release of the Commission for Africa report and the commitments made at the Gleneagles Group of 8 (G8) meeting and the UN Millennium Review Summit. Subsequently, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Doha Development Round of trade negotiations stalled and the purpose of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were increasingly questioned. G8 members did not scale up their aid flows substantially and major new donors and creditors emerged outside of the Paris Declaration framework. For more information, [click here](#).

Report on the State of Media Freedoms in Jordan in 2007

This is the periodic annual report published by the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) on World Press Day on 3 May of each year. The three-part report deals with the amendments introduced to the legal framework of the legislation governing the freedom of opinion and expression for 2007, and the evaluation of the amendments that have been introduced, as well as violations committed against freedom of the press in 2007, whether as regards the printed or electronic press or space channel transmission. For more information, [click here](#).

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness

2-4 September 2008, Accra, Ghana

In September 2008, ministers from over 100 countries, heads of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, donor organisations, and civil society organisations from around the world will gather in Accra for the Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (2-4 September). Their common objective is to help developing countries and marginalised people in their fight against poverty by making aid more transparent, accountable and results-oriented. The Third High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Third HLF) will review progress in improving aid effectiveness, broaden the dialogue to newer actors and chart a course for continuing international action on aid effectiveness. For more information, [click here](#).

2008 COMMACT International conference

28-30 October 2008, Brisbane, Australia

The COMMACT supports people-centred development organisations and projects in countries around the world. Their activities are diverse and provide, for example, education and skills, economic independence, housing, health, and family support. In common they share the aim to empower and enable poor and marginalised individuals, groups and communities to increase the control they have over their lives. The theme for the conference will be "Advancing People-Centred Development: Constructing sustainable alternatives from the Grass Roots". For more information, [click here](#).

International Anti-Corruption Conference

30 October - 2 November, Athens, Greece

Preparations for the 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) are underway. The theme for this year's conference is "Global Transparency: Fighting corruption for a sustainable future," with a focus on the role of transparency and accountability in human security, climate change, sustainable globalisation, natural resources exploitation and management. The conference will host world leaders and representatives from civil society, government and the private sector who will engage in open debates in a set of four plenary sessions to address the critical issues that will define our common future. There will also be around 40 workshops linking the issue of corruption with the conference themes. For more information, [click here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Atlas Service Corps. Become an Atlas Service Corps Fellow

Application Deadline: 18 May 2008

Atlas Corps is a completely new kind of social venture taking a new approach to facilitating international co-operation in the citizen sector. One of the fundamental beliefs of Atlas Corps is that the problems in the world are too big to ignore, and too overwhelming not to work together to address. Atlas Service Corps is now accepting applications for the 2008-09 fellowship programme. To learn more about the fellowship programme and the application process, [click here](#).

Donner Canadian Foundation Awards

Application Deadline: 15 May 2008

Non-profit social service agencies have an opportunity to win a share of \$70,000 in prize money through the Donner Canadian Foundation Awards for Excellence in the Delivery of Social Services. The Donner Awards encourage best practices and greater accountability by recognising Canadian non-profit organisations that excel in providing social services. Award recipients are selected based on a ranking of their performance in ten key areas, including management and governance, the use of staff and volunteers, innovation, programme cost, and outcomes monitoring. The top organisations in each of the nine categories of social service delivery will win \$5,000 awards while the \$20,000 *William H. Donner Award for Excellence* will be presented to the highest performer. For more information, [click here](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS & NOMINATIONS

Call for Action: Nominations for Oversight Committee

Application Deadline: 12 May 2008

A potential oversight committee to the 2nd Independent Evaluation of the UNAIDS was formed between January and February 2008. As stated, "the Membership of the Oversight Committee included representatives of donor and recipient countries, UNAIDS stakeholders, including Cosponsors, Member States, civil society, while ensuring appropriate representation of people living with HIV, and relevant independent experts, including representation from the TERG/MERG". In the first call only one person living with HIV had been identified, which is Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga. The NGO delegation fought for the decision to re-open the call for a second person living openly with HIV to be on the Oversight Committee. For more information, [click here](#).

APPOINTMENTS

This week 25 new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#).

JOBS OF THE WEEK

Publications Internship

Application Deadline: 14 May 2008
Global Health Council
Location: White River Junction, USA
For more information, [click here](#).

Policy Officer

Application Deadline: 21 May 2008
ActionAid UK
Location: London, England
For more information, [click here](#).

Communication Project Manager

Application Deadline: 14 May 2008
Greenpeace
Location: Amsterdam - The Netherlands
For more information, [click here](#).

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