



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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Kumi Naidoo

EDITORS

Joe Cressy
Katsuji Imata

COPY EDITOR

Laureen Bertin

MANAGING EDITOR

Eric Muragana

OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Bipasha Ray
Carol Baloyi
Henri Valot
Julia Sestier
Tracy September
Raya Ubenova
Vicente García-Delgado, Esq

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

e-CIVICUS offers a useful channel through which you and your organisation can share your news.

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY-GENERAL

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



A global call to address humanitarian crises

By Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As frequent news reports are showing, millions of people around the world are suffering from humanitarian crises. For this week's column, I have asked my colleague, Irfan Mufti, Campaign Manager of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) to write a piece on the impact of these crises on citizens. I invite you to review his column. Warm regards, Kumi Naidoo.



Last grain in the bucket....?

By Irfan Mufti, Campaign Manager, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

The current food crisis has hit several millions in the world mainly in under-developed countries with already weak economies. Currently the crisis is badly affecting 800 million people (over 70% women) that were already affected by chronic hunger. The price of vegetable oils is up 97 percent in the first three months of 2008. The price of wheat is up 87 percent, dairy products by 58 percent, rice by 46 percent. There is a recognised food crisis in at least 45 countries, of the 2.13 bn tonnes of food produced only 1.01bn is grown for feeding people. Developing countries could face an increase of 33% in aggregate food import bills this year if trends persist - this is too much too quick. The crisis is already affecting millions, women in particular that cannot afford basic food like rice, maize and corn and are going hungry. To read this week's column, [click here](#).

Civil society and xenophobic violence exodus in South Africa

Source: AFP, <http://afp.google.com>

"The big problem is co-ordination of information between authorities and non-governmental organisations. It's not very well organised," Francoise Le Goff, director of the Red Cross in Southern Africa told AFP. "The government is still looking for shelters for people and we're still in an emergency situation." She added that "in Zambia, our teams are expecting the arrival of 25,000 Zimbabweans, or 5,000 families," while more than 5,000 Zimbabweans had been helped to Mozambique. Muriel Cornelius, programme co-ordinator for South Africa for aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF) told AFP: "The situation is about to get worse. People have still not received aid and they're not even under tents." "The reaction of civil society is incredible but it is not enough," she added. For more information, [click here](#).

Journey to Justice speech to help change history

By Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary General and one of the Co-Chairs of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

Kumi Naidoo told world leaders at the Jubilee Debt Campaign on 18 May that they had done "too little, too late" in terms of tackling debt in real, life-changing terms. Kumi urged that "Although \$88

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-civicuseditorialguidelines-finalDraft.doc.

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CONTACT US
P.O. Box 933
Southdale, 2135
South Africa
Tel: +27 11 833 5959 Fax: +27 11 833 7997

billion has been wiped off the slate of 20 countries, it is still a case of too little, too late, and this needs to be addressed with a real sense of urgency and political will to tackle this issue head-on."We want to see the 100-plus countries still struggling with debt to benefit but the bureaucracy, controls and conditions that go with such deals are restrictive." To view his speech "Journey to Justice" speech to debt campaigners, [click here](#).

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 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](#).

Sony Radio Academy Award Winning Show - Live at the CIVICUS World Assembly

The BBC World Service radio show 'World Have Your Say' recently won the 'listener participation award' at the 26th Sony Radio Academy Awards. Over the last twenty-five years these Awards have stood the test of time and sought to recognise the very best of the UK radio industry, nationally, regionally and locally. Each year, entries are submitted for consideration as Gold, Silver or Bronze winners, and World Have Your Say won Gold. CIVICUS World Assembly delegates will have the opportunity to experience the radio show live when World Have Your Say broadcasts from the CIVICUS World Assembly in Glasgow. Delegates and listeners get to decide the agenda for each show by posting on their blog, e-mailing them or attending their open editorial meetings during the World Assembly For more information, [click here](#).

CIVICUS World Assembly Background Papers now available

At every World Assembly, CIVICUS commissions various individuals and organisations to design, develop and draft a high quality 'key ideas paper' on the sub-theme of the World Assembly. The final product serves as a background paper which provides a current, critical analysis of the sub-theme, articulates the key challenges to civil society engagement in that area, and identifies innovative approaches to dealing with those challenges from around the world. These papers are intended to enhance discussions and encourage productive debate at the World Assembly. For more information, [click here](#).



Interview with the host partner of the CIVICUS World Assembly

e-CIVICUS interview with Martin Sime, Chief Executive, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)

SCVO is the umbrella body for all non-governmental organisations, and charities in Scotland and comprises 45,000 NGOs in Scotland with up to 130,000 paid staff and over 1.2 million volunteers. Members of SCVO staff have attended all but the first of the World Assemblies and have actively participated in CIVICUS projects and programmes for a number of years. From the outset, we knew that a combination of the CIVICUS World Assembly and the Gathering would be beneficial to both events, as it would give us the opportunity to welcome the CIVICUS delegates and to showcase some of the innovative aspects of Scottish civil society, as well as its approach to common issues. For more information, [click here](#).

1112 16th Street NW,
Suite 540
Washington D.C.
20036 USA
Tel: +202 331-8518
Fax: +202 331-8774

Websites:

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www.civilsocietywatch.org
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Do you have a friend who works for a more just world?
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We value your comments, suggestions and contributions.
Speak to us at editor@civicus.org

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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 action-oriented newsletter distributed to over 7,400 people around the world, featuring insightful interviews,

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Do you think that fair trade, debt relief and better aid to underdeveloped countries can help solve the current global food crisis?

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

Previous question: Do you plan to participate in this year's GCAP mobilizations on the food crisis and the MDG Call to Action?

Results: Yes - 75%, No - 16%, Don't Know - 10%

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 [click 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.

Take few minutes to complete e-CIVICUS Readers' Survey

Deadline to complete the survey extended: 28 June 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](#).

Legitimacy, Transparency and Accountability Needs Assessment Survey

Deadline to complete the survey: 27 June 2008

CIVICUS' members, partners and programme participants on various occasions expressed the need to effectively share the learning and develop capacities regarding the transparency and accountability of civil society organisations (CSOs). The CIVICUS Legitimacy, Transparency and Accountability (LTA) programme has devised a survey that aims to identify the needs and challenges of CSOs in order to know how best to assist CSOs in improving their LTA structures. With a participatory approach, the programme in the upcoming phase will aim to co-ordinate and strengthen LTA initiatives within civil society around the world. For more information on the survey, [click here](#).

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>



e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES

The benefits of civil society taboo failure

By Paula Goldman, Source: Social Edge

There's a nice little discussion of the relationship of civil society to the taboo of failure over at Social Edge. Avoiding revealing or exploring failure is a crippling part of the culture of much of civil society, and the Social Edge participants explore some of those dynamics, presenting a few exceptions, and point the finger at the dynamics of giving and fundraising as a key reinforcer of this problem. For more information, [click here](#).

Europe's soft powerlessness in Uzbekistan

By Andrew Stroehlein, Source: The Wall Street Journal Europe

Any dictator concerned about Western condemnation of his actions could learn a lot from Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov. Tashkent's strongman, with some help from Berlin, has just outmanoeuvred the European Union (EU) to get the sanctions against his regime lifted. Three years ago, the EU agreed on an Uzbek arms embargo and visa bans against top regime officials involved in the brutal crackdown on demonstrators in the eastern city of Andijan. EU foreign ministers praised Tashkent for releasing a handful of human rights activists even as thousands of prisoners of conscience remain behind bars. For more information, [click here](#).

Correction: More fears rise around Doha deal

The link if this article was not reflective from previous edition of e-CIVICUS 389

By Aileen Kwa, Source: Inter Press Service (IPS)

As World Trade Organisations (WTO) negotiations pick up, some developing countries are in growing doubt that a deal liberalising their economies further could help them cope with the food crisis. Inter Press Service (IPS) spoke to an ambassador from an African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) country that declined to be named. His country is a net food importer and is now struggling to deal with the high food prices on the world market. "WTO should not prevent us from having the policy space that we want to protect our agricultural sectors. We cannot totally rely on an import market to feed our population. An agreement that does this (constrains our policy space) will not fly at this time. We cannot be constrained unduly in what we can do in agriculture." For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS

Business, civil society, and politics during the Beijing Games

By Christina L. Madden, Source: Policy Innovations, www.policyinnovations.org

China may have come a long way since Mao, but the country's recent crackdowns on Tibet and the Falun Gong have sparked protests worldwide, with many people calling for boycotts of the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the opening ceremonies, and the sponsors. When the torch started off on its Journey of Harmony earlier this year, the president of the International Olympic Committee insisted that the Olympic Games are not political and that China's pre-Games promise to improve its human rights and environmental record was purely a moral obligation. Others argue that corporations, the Chinese government, and the international community have a larger responsibility in holding China to its word. For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society slams Kosovo election agreement

Source: BalkanInsight.com

Civil society groups in Kosovo have criticised an agreement among political leaders under which Kosovo will comprise a single election zone in the new election law. "Democracy in Action", a coalition of NGOs that monitored previous elections in Kosovo, says it has been ignored by political

parties in the talks on the new election law. Valmir Ismaili from Kosovo's Democratic Institute, which is part of the Democracy in Action coalition, told Balkan Insight that Kosovo should have "at least seven election zones, in order to boost the responsibility of the elected to their electorate." For more information, [click here](#).

Liberian civil society groups stand up for peace in Zimbabwe

Source: Afriquenligne, www.afriquenligne.fr

In commemoration of African Liberation Day, Liberian civil society groups have urged Africans, their leaders and governments, as well as the international community to resort to peaceful action in resolving the current political crisis in the East Africa. In a communiqué issued at the end of the one-day celebration, aptly dubbed Zimbabwe Day and themed "Stand Up for Zimbabwe, Now!", the groups called for an "immediate end to the continuing violence in Zimbabwe" involving the ruling ZANU-PF and the opposition Movement for Democratic Change and all others with direct stake in the political process in that country". For more information, [click here](#).

Latin Americans CSOs issue statement for heads of state summit

Source: European Network on Debt & Development

On the occasion of the Fifth Summit of Heads of State and government of Latin America, The Latin American Network on Debt, Development and Rights (LATINDADD) has issued a statement making recommendations on debt, economic partnerships and climate change. It concludes by calling for a "new regional financial architecture under an alternative economic model". For more information, [click here](#).

Civil society participation in strengthening Freedom of Expression in Nepal

Source: ARTICLE 19

Trainers from civil society organisations and public bodies in Nepal participated in a training of trainers workshop last week on freedom of expression hosted by ARTICLE 19, the Federation of Nepalese Journalists and Freedom Forum in Kathmandu. The third and final meeting of the Agenda for Change, in which high level representatives of different sectors of society gathered to formulate policy recommendations for strengthening freedom of expression in the country was also held last week. "Protection of freedom of expression should become a priority for the new Constituent Assembly in Nepal. We are convinced that the training workshops and the recommendations furnished by the media professionals will help make this possible," said Toby Mendel, Senior Director of Law, Article 19. For more information, [click here](#).

ACCOUNTABILITY

Explanatory Note on Technical Committee Changes to the AA1000AS

Source: AccountAbility, www.accountability21.net

The second public AA1000AS Revision wiki period is underway following the revisions made by the Technical Committee. Some substantial changes were made during their meeting and we are very interested in your feedback. A summary note explaining the TC discussions and the rationale behind the changes can be viewed on the wiki main page. AccountAbility invites you to add your thoughts on the changes to the wiki, or e-mail us at daniel@accountability21.net. The question is "Should there be an organisational accreditation programme for the AA1000AS?" This is your chance to shape the debate by participating in AccountAbility's short survey, so please [click here](#).

Publication: Corporate Social Responsibility, Accountability and Governance: Global Perspectives

By Istemi Demirag, Source: Greenleaf Publication

The 'business case' for corporate social responsibility, which suggests that socially and environmentally aware companies can expect to reap financial rewards, is seemingly gaining widespread acceptance within the business community. This is particularly apparent in the ever-

increasing number of prominent companies parading their social, ethical and environmental credentials by producing paper- or web-based social and environmental, or sustainability, reports. In so doing, reporting companies claim, they are demonstrating a clear commitment to transparency and accountability to their key stakeholder groups. For more information, [click here](#).

GET INVOLVED!

Stop torture campaign

Source: Amnesty International

For over 45 years, Amnesty International has consistently campaigned against torture and for individuals at risk of torture - thousands of whom have subsequently been released. In 2006, Amnesty International recorded cases of torture and ill-treatment in 102 countries. There are no exceptions to torture humanity, not in war or during any other crisis. For more information on the campaign, [click here](#).

Filmmakers Against Racism Appeal

Source: Uhuru Productions/Tri Continental Film Festival

Filmmakers Against Racism is an initiative launched on 23 May in response to the shocking wave of xenophobic violence hitting South Africa and will be producing six 24 minute documentaries. The initiative will split 140 minutes to broadcast and 30 second of Public Service Announcements will be broadcast by South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), and E-TV and M- NET will cover community TV stations. Filmmakers Against Racism is supported by the South African Screen Federation and the Independent Producers Organisation and brings together a collective of reputable film production houses and individual talent, in collaboration with independent producers and directors. For more information on the pledge of solidarity, [click here](#).

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

Big success for the Swiss NGO-campaign in support of the UN-Millennium Goals

Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

Alliance Sud, the Swiss Alliance of development organisations, and the Swiss partners of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), are proud to announce that their campaign "0,7% - together against poverty" has successfully jumped a hurdle towards a more active role of Switzerland in support of the UN-Millennium Goals. Within one year, more than 60 Swiss NGOs, labour unions and churches have collected 201'679 signatures of citizens urging the Government to increase its spending for development aid to 0,7% of GDP. For more information, [click here](#).

Unfinished business: ten years of dropping the debt

Source: Jubilee Debt Campaign

Jubilee Debt Campaign's tenth anniversary report finds that at least another \$400 billion of debt cancellation is needed if the world's poorest countries are to combat the challenge of global poverty. Despite the commitments made by world leaders over the last ten years to tackle the debt crisis, the \$88 billion of poor country debt that has so far been cancelled is not enough, the report finds. On 16 May 1998, 70,000 people from across Britain and the world took part in one of the biggest demonstrations the UK has ever seen: a human chain around the G8 summit in Birmingham, demanding an end to poor country debt. It was a day that changed the world for millions of people. For more information, [click here](#).

Missing: 75 billion for the world's poor, say campaigners

Source: CONCORD and the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

development NGOs whose members represent over 1,600 NGOs supported by millions of citizens across Europe, reveals that on current trends the European Union (EU) will have given 75 billion Euros less in aid by 2010 than it promised, threatening progress on the UN Millennium Development Goals set for 2015. If the recent record of slow progress continues, Europe will find it harder to meet its target with every year that passes. For more information, [click here](#).

Africa Day and the Millennium Development Goals

Source: UN New service

This year, Africa Day (25 May) has special significance as we focus on realising the Millennium Development Goals [MDGs], our vision for a better world in the twenty-first century," United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, referring to the eight anti-poverty targets with a 2015 deadline on the occasion of Africa Day. He noted that the UN will continue its close co-operation with the African Union (AU) regarding security issues, including the conflicts in Darfur and Somalia. For more information, [click here](#).

Donors take step forwards to untie aid

Source: European Network on Debt and Development

Donor governments agreed recently that they would untie their aid to more countries. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee announced that they have extended the previous commitment - which was to untie aid to all Least Developed Countries to include all HIPC countries. This effectively adds 8 more countries to the list of 31 countries, which are Bolivia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Republic of Congo. This is a step forward. The tying of aid to donor goods and services decreases the value of aid by up to 30% and distorts development priorities. But a huge amount of aid is in fact still tied. Eurodad, CSOs around the world and developing country governments are calling on donors to also untie food aid and technical assistance in two areas where progress urgently needs to be made. The High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra this year is where commitments on these areas need to be made. For more information, [click here](#).

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

U.N. report seeks action to address food crisis

By Andrew Martin

Source: The New York Times

In anticipation of a global summit on the food crisis, the United Nations called on world leaders to agree to urgent measures to ease demand for grains and alleviate high food prices. The report, by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, suggests that countries might need to reconsider policies that encourage the production of ethanol and other biofuels. The report also suggests that the food summit in Rome, which will run June 3 to 5, will give world leaders a chance to renew a war on hunger. The report by the United Nations food agency said 22 countries were particularly vulnerable to sharp increases in food and fuel prices because many of their people were already hungry, and they depended on imports for fuel, and in some cases, for major grains. For more information, [click here](#).

G8 ministers pledge strong will on climate amid doubts

Source: Agence France Presse, www.afp.com

Environment ministers from the world's top industrial powers called Monday for more effort to halve greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, but little headway was seen in setting more immediate goals. Ministers from the Group of Eight held three days of talks here in a bid to set the tone for a summit involving the G8 leaders, which opens July 7 in the northern Japanese resort of Toyako and is expected to focus on climate change. The ministers in a statement said they hoped the summit would "go beyond" the agreement set by last year's talks in Germany to "seriously consider" halving the world's output of greenhouse gases by 2050. UN scientists who shared last year's Nobel Peace Prize

warned that unless human-made climate change is halted, the world risks a growing number of natural disasters and droughts, putting millions of people at risk and threatening the extinction of some animals and plants. For more information, [click here](#).

PROFILES



DONOR: Firelight Foundation

The Firelight Foundation gives grants to grassroots and community-based projects directly supporting the needs of children affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa, and advocates for the needs and rights of children who are orphaned or affected by HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. Firelight strives to increase the resources available to grassroots organisations that are strengthening the capacity of families and communities to care for children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. For more information, [click here](#).



MEMBER: The Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO)

The Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO) is the first generic membership body for civil society organisations in Nigeria that facilitates effective advocacy on issues of poverty and other developmental issues. Established in 1992, NNNGO represents over 800 organisations ranging from small groups working at the local level, to large networks working at the national level. The Network is charged with the objectives of identifying, registering, co-ordinating, building capacity and mobilising civil society organisations to promote interconnectivity and bring equity, justice, peace and development to grassroots communities throughout Nigeria, including the implementation of NEEDS, SEEDS, LEEDS and the MDGs. NNNGO's membership is over 20 national organisations and over 250 membership organisations focusing on different thematic areas of development, all of which work to support a diverse range of membership communities across the nation. For more information, [click here](#).

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

Striking a Balance: a guide to enhancing the effectiveness of non-governmental organisations in international development.

By Alan Fowler

Alan Fowler's work is written for all those involved in development of NGOs. The book describes the objectives of sustainable people-centred development and the processes required to achieve it, focusing on the five factors which determine effectiveness: suitable organisational design; competent leadership and human resources; appropriate external relationships; mobilisation of high quality finance; and the measurement of performance coupled to 'learning for leverage'. In each area the book explains the capacities needed and how they can be assessed and improved. For more information, [click here](#).

The Education Rights of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants in South Africa

By Sarah Motha and Editors: Brian Ramadiro and Salim Vally

This booklet analyses the growth of mining in South Africa in the late 1800s and 1900s which resulted in workers from all over the world coming to South Africa. Most of these miners came from countries in Southern Africa - Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, Lesotho and elsewhere. All too often the suffering of many of these people before they came to South Africa and while they are here, is not always understood. Even worse, they are falsely blamed, harassed and attacked for the problems that exist in country - problems such as unemployment and crime. Refugees and migrants are vulnerable and can easily be made into scapegoats. The causes of unemployment and its social consequences like crime lie largely in the economic choices South Africa government has made and should not be blamed on migrants. For more information, [click here](#).

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Between Local and Global: How Civil Society Networks Enable a Two-Way Process

21 June 2008, Glasgow, Scotland

From June-December 2006, INTRAC's Central Asia Programme carried out a research project for Oxfam Novib looking at the links between NGOs and networks in Central Asia and their counterparts in global civil society (CS). Three sectors were studied: sustainable livelihoods, gender, and political/social rights. The research question asked was "Why is CS in Central Asia so isolated and what steps can be taken to improve links and support?" The INTRAC's Central Asia Programme is currently organising workshops jointly with colleagues from Ghana, who will bring their own experience and ideas. For more information, [click here](#).

Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance

19-22 October 2008, Manila, Philippines

Climate change is the 21st century crisis. According to the United Nations Human Development Report, it is still a preventable crisis. Coping efforts must include: 1) disaster risk reduction; 2) adaptation and 3) mitigation. The Third Global Congress of Women in Politics and Governance will host female and male parliamentarians, decision-makers in national government, environment organisations/agencies, youth leaders and media practitioners, funding/donor agencies and organisations. For more information, [click here](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Ending Global Slavery competition

Application Deadline: 18 June 2008

Ashoka's Changemakers and Humanity United have launched the competition to identify innovative approaches to exposing, confronting and ending modern-day slavery. The opportunities are numerous. Beyond the funding that will be awarded for the three most innovative entries, your organisation will be showcased to our global ChangeMakers community of thought leaders, investors and enthusiasts. For more information, [click here](#).

Open Society Fellowship

Application Deadline: Rolling basis

The Open Society Institute (OSI) has recently launched a new fellowship programme to support outstanding idea entrepreneurs from around the world. The Open Society Fellowship enables innovative professionals including journalists, activists, scholars, and practitioners to work on projects that inspire meaningful public debate, shape public policy, and generate intellectual energy within OSI. The fellowship focuses on four areas: National Security and the Open Society; Citizenship, Membership and Marginalisation; Strategies and Tools for Advocacy and Citizen Engagement; and Understanding Authoritarianism. Fellows' projects may include books, articles, outreach for documentary films, online media, and efforts to seed new campaigns and organisations. For more information, [click here](#).

WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Civil Society and Development Masters Module

8-22 July 2008, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

The overall aim of this course is to engage debates over the character of post-apartheid development in South Africa, highlighting advocacy, policy, programmatic and project interventions by civil society

The course will draw upon 'political economy' traditions to explore the overall configuration of power relations in public policy formulation, which in turn is an outcome of institutional evolution, accumulation processes, social struggles and other factors both global and domestic. For more information, [click here](#).

Organisational Development Training

23 June 2008 - 27 June 2008, Oxford, UK

A current concern and priority for managers and senior practitioners in Civil Society Organisations is how to develop the capacity of their organisations and of their partner organisations. This course is designed for those with some experience of organisational capacity building, and who wish to explore organisational development as a planned learning process aimed at improving organisational performance and self-awareness. The course will enable you to design and facilitate organisational change processes. For more information, [click here](#).

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS & NOMINATIONS

Call for proposals: Reaffirming Human Rights for all: The Universal Declaration at 60

Application Deadline: 9 June 2008

NGOs worldwide are invited to submit proposals for Midday Workshops. As in previous conferences, workshops will be held 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. (13:30 – 14:45) each day of the conference. If participating NGOs wish to organise a workshop, they are encouraged to complete the Midday Workshop proposal form and send it by e-mail to middayworkshops2008@gmail.com. For more information, [click here](#).

Call for Contributions/Abstracts: III InterAmerican Women's Forum against Corruption

Application Deadline: 30 June 2008

The 2008 Inter-American Women's Forum Against Corruption will include panel presentations, case discussions, open clinics (experts' advising), cultural and social activities, strategy building to include a gender perspective in public policies against corruption and actively fight against the culture of impunity. Even though the forum's activities will focus on how corruption impacts on the women's rights of the Americas, experts of other continents will also participate. The InterAmerican Women's Forum against Corruption is hosted by the School of Law of Universidad Buenos Aires in Argentina between 29 September - 1 October 2008 and co-sponsored by UNIFEM and United Nations. For more information, [click here](#).

APPOINTMENTS

This week 28 new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#).

JOBS OF THE WEEK

Consultant

Impact Planning and Learning Framework Development

Application Deadline: 4 June 2008

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For more information, [click here](#).

Web Coordinator

Application Deadline: 9 June 2008

Friends of the Earth International (FoEI)

Location: Amsterdam, The Netherlands
For more information, [click here](#).

CONTACT e-CIVICUS

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We value your comments and suggestions. Please send these to the Editorial Team at editor@civicus.org.

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