



# **GLOBAL COOPERATION**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### *July 2007*

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**From the editor**

As editor I face a real dilemma each month. I keep the newsletter to four pages. (French and Spanish versions are a bit longer because of translation).

This month I started with 20 pages of content. There is good information arriving in my in box each day which is of interest to those working in social welfare and social development. I have decided to keep the Global Cooperation to four pages so that it remains easy to read. I will however put a longer version in English on our web site ([www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org) – what's new) for those who wish to keep up with new information.

I send ICSW Regional Presidents information that is specific to their regions and they may include this in their regional newsletters. Regional newsletters exist in East and Southern Africa (French and English), Central and West Africa (French and English), South East Asia and the Pacific (English) and Europe (English). In the next month or so we will have a new website and you will be able to subscribe to regional newsletters as well as this global newsletter.

**Cooperation with International Association of Schools of Social Work and  
International Federation of Social Workers.**

Each year the Presidents and the Executive Directors of the three organisations meet to plan cooperative events. The main focus of our meeting in June this year was the *2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: The Agenda*. The conference will be held in December 2010 in Hong Kong and will be hosted by the national members of the IASSW, IFSW and ICSW. This is the first time in over a decade that the IASSW, IFSW and ICSW will come together in a joint conference.

While at our meeting in London we met with the "DeA: working for local government improvement" and the General Social Care Council (GSCC).

In their summary of the meeting the DeA reported on their website that the social work profession is experiencing a worldwide resurgence.

Social work has never been more relevant to the challenges of modern society worldwide, and people want to do the job.

Lynne Berry, Chief Executive of the GSCC, outlined her work with regulators from 14 other countries. She reported a global interest in social care and particularly the movement of labour. The UK's model of regulation is unique in its coverage of regulation, conduct and social work training. The forthcoming phased regulation of the entire 1.5 million social care work forces is an unprecedented undertaking.

There are 95,000 registered social workers and social work students in England. A minority of these work in local government. Many work in the voluntary and private sectors and another 10,000 are independent practitioners. Social work is now the equal tenth most popular profession for graduates, equal with medicine. This is an extraordinary transformation for a profession that has had a bad press in the past. Social workers from over 80 countries are coming to England to work. The top four countries are South Africa, Australia, USA and India.

The Department of Health's recruitment campaign has brought 6,000 more social workers into the workforce. But the number of jobs requiring them has grown too, so demand is still exceeding supply. This situation of excess demand is seen around the world. Extraordinarily, Ethiopia's new school of social work had 1,200 applications for 32 places this year and the government asked all 67 Members of Parliament to undertake the graduate programme.

What explains this resurgence? The international consensus is that the profession's greatest strength is its flexibility – the way social workers can work effectively in different contexts, reflecting the diversity of human experience.

Social workers are most valued because they are comfortable with complexity, with balancing conflicts of interest, and dealing with risk and uncertainty. In some parts of the world these skills are needed to deal with acute problems of poverty or the consequences of conflict or disease. In others, their exercise of judgment is most valued.

### **UN and Employment**

ICSW has regularly lobbied for employment to be restored to global targets for the alleviation of poverty. It was a key result of the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 but was dropped when the MDGs were created in 2000. We have heard that the Secretary General of the UN Ban Ki Moon will propose to this year's General Assembly that "Full Employment" be added to the MDGs. ICSW welcomes this proposal and urges members of ICSW to lobby their governments to support the proposal in the General Assembly. ICSW's position on *Promoting full employment and decent work for all* can be found at [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org) under *What's New*

### **World Economic and Social Survey 2007**

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs has released its latest annual flagship publication, *World Economic and Social Survey 2007: Development in an Ageing World*.

The complete publication is available on our website and can be accessed at <http://www.un.org/esa/policy/wess>. Copies of the publication can also be ordered through the UN sales division at

<https://unp.un.org/details.aspx?entry=E07WEP&title=World%2BEconomic%2BSituation%2Band%2BProspects%2B2007>

### **Eighth Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting**

Extracts from the official communiqué.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (8WAMM) was held in Kampala, Uganda, from 11-14 June 2007. Delegations from 32 countries attended the meeting.

Ministers acknowledged that increased investments in gender equality must be a priority to ensure sustained economic growth, the achievement of democracy, peace, security and development.

Ministers expressed their concern that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which are seriously off-track are the ones based on the achievement of gender equality: improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, (MDGs 3, 5 and 6).

Ministers noted that substantially more effort is required to achieve gender equality as evidenced by the following statistics in Commonwealth countries:

- Only five out of the 53 countries have achieved 30 per cent representation of women in national parliament;
- 30 million children are not in primary school, the majority of those are girls;
- 60 per cent of HIV and AIDS cases globally are in the Commonwealth, and a growing proportion are women and girls;
- 300,000 maternal deaths per annum; and
- Some Commonwealth countries are amongst those with the highest infant and maternal mortality rates.

The Meeting discussed the following agenda items:

- Tracking the Money for Gender Equality
- National Women's Machineries (NWMs) and Public Sector: Role in Financing Gender Equality
- Financing HIV and AIDS Interventions: Implications for Gender Equality
- Investing in Gender Equality: Promoting Peace and Democracy.

The full communiqué is in the extended newsletter on the ICSW website. ICSW was represented at the Ministers' meeting by Roselyn Nakiryia, Programme Coordinator for ICSW based in Uganda.

### **Anti Corruption**

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the former finance minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, has called on the U.S. and other rich countries to pay greater attention to the ways in which their policies and practices undermine anti-corruption efforts in the developing world. Developing countries themselves must lead the fight against developing country corruption, she said. But rich countries, too, must consider how they sometimes "aid and abet" corruption that hurts poor people and costs developing countries billions of dollars.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/general/detail/13938> - for the news item on corruption.

<http://www.cgdev.org/doc/event%20docs/Ngozi%20Remarks.pdf> – for the full text of the speech by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala,

The full item from the Centre for Global Development 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007 is in the extended newsletter on the website.

### **The Backlash against Civil Society in the Wake of the Long War on Terror** (click on

the title or [http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/publications/cswp/cswp26\\_abstract.htm](http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/CCS/publications/cswp/cswp26_abstract.htm)

London School of Economics – Center for Civil Society, April 2007, Jude Howell, Armine Ishkanian, Ebenezer Obadare, Hakan Seckinelgin, and Marlies Glasius.

I highly recommend this short paper to readers of Global Cooperation.

The euphoria which emerged in the late 1980s with the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the spread of democratic regimes has been replaced in recent years by a backlash against civil society. This has particularly intensified after "September 11" and the ensuing global 'war on terror.' This working paper examines the causes of the backlash against civil society, describes the manifestations of that backlash, and reflects upon the implications for the future. It considers how the growing prominence of security concerns and the concomitant expansion of counter-terrorist measures across the world threaten the spaces for civil society to flourish and act. It argues that while the manifestations of the backlash, may appear to be disparate, unconnected phenomena, on closer inspection it is clear that they are intricately intertwined

### **OECD on Health**

The health system is failing to deliver medicines and vaccines to combat the infectious diseases that plague tropical countries. What can be done?

Innovation and poverty reduction were in the spotlight at the [OECD High Level Forum on Medicines for Neglected and Emerging Infectious Diseases](#) in Noordwijk-aan-Zee, 21 June 2007. The Forum recognised that the health innovation system is failing to deliver

necessary medicines, vaccines and diagnostics to cure poor people, plagued with infectious diseases. This is compounding poverty. Policies and practices need to change.

### **More on health from Centre for Global Development**

**[Does the IMF Constrain Health Spending in Poor Countries?](http://www.cgdev.org/content/general/detail/14100)** (Click on the heading or go to <http://www.cgdev.org/content/general/detail/14100>)

Some critics argue that IMF programs in low-income countries unnecessarily limit health spending, hurting poor people. The IMF argues that its programs are designed to ensure the fiscal stability needed for poverty-reducing growth and that the IMF merely sets targets for overall spending, with countries themselves deciding what part of the total to allocate to health. A CGD working group chaired by visiting fellow David Goldsbrough has concluded that IMF influences on health spending are indirect but potentially significant. The report finds that IMF programs have often been too risk-averse; that the IMF board and management have not made sufficiently clear what is expected of IMF staff in exploring the macroeconomic consequences of alternative aid scenarios; and that wage bill ceilings have been overused and should be limited to situations when burgeoning payrolls threaten macroeconomic stability.

### **Conferences**

#### **2007 North East Asia Regional Conference of ICSW**

Host: Korea National Council on Social Welfare

Dates: 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007

Venue: Busan, Korea (Paradise Hotel in Busan & Nurimaru APEC House)

Theme: "Issues and Challenges for Cultural Diversity in North East Asia"

Sub themes: International Marriage, Migrant Workers, Interracial Children and North Korean Defectors

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#### **2008 ICSW 33<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference on Social Welfare**

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July 2008

Venue: Tours, France

Contact Information: [comite.service.francais@wanadoo.fr](mailto:comite.service.francais@wanadoo.fr)

This will be the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ICSW. The theme of the conference is Social Work, Social Protection and Social Development: Where have we been? Where are we going?

In the long version of this newsletter there are reports on new publications from the Centre for Global Development, the UNDP International Poverty Centre, the UN Research Institute for Social Development and the Council of Europe.

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Please distribute this newsletter as widely as possible.

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## **GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER** **August 2007**

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**Southern African Development Community – Council of Non-Governmental Organisations 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum**

**UNESCO takes a lead on social development**

**Japan and African Civil Society**

**National Development Strategies Policy Notes**

**ICSW Europe Conference *Equal Opportunities for Individuals, Groups and Nations***

**Newsletter of the International Association of Schools of Social Work  
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### **Southern African Development Community – Council of Non-Governmental Organisations 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum**

ICSW delegates participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> SADC Civil Society Forum held in August in Lusaka, Zambia. After the Forum SADC Council of NGOs General Secretary Abie Dithlake commented that the Forum clearly demonstrated the desire by civil society to engage with SADC processes and take responsibility for their destiny. There were 300 registered delegates at the forum which was about 150 more than expected.

Mr Dithlake said that civil society has begun a process of asserting their rights as citizens of the region. There are major challenges ahead to achieve the main objectives of the SADC CNGOs. The Forum achieved its objectives and in particular united civil society efforts to work together. In addition to the outcomes of the two previous forums the Council has a full agenda for this year leading to the 2008 Forum in South Africa.

Denys Correll Executive Director ICSW presented a paper on *Working together with Regional Apex Organisations and Lessons/messages of support from other regions*. The paper covered

- Global economics and social policy;
- Copenhagen and beyond
- Moving from global to regional development
- National and regional economics and social policy;
- The current reality of civil society intervention in national and regional policies
- Regional Social Policy agendas
- Lessons from other regions
- Civil society influence in regions
- Possibilities for Cooperation

The full paper can be found in "Top News" at <http://www.icsw.org/>

Zimbabwe was a main issue for Forum delegates. Cephas Zinhumwe, Chief Executive Officer of the ICSW member in Zimbabwe, the National Association for Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) wrote after the Forum: "In spite of Zimbabwe being clearly in doldrums, SADC Heads of States have been disappointingly lethargic in their responses. In fact, SADC has consistently believed the Zimbabwe story as told by the ruling party. Consequently only quiet diplomacy premised on the principles of non-interference, culminating in Mbeki believed talks between the two major political parties in Zimbabwe is all there is to talk about."

"Convinced that the Zimbabweans true story needs to be told to the SADC region by other independent voices, NANGO being the umbrella and voice of NGOs in Zimbabwe facilitated the participation of various civil society organizations at the SADC-CNGO Civil Society Forum. The main objectives for NANGO in sending a delegation to Zambia were to raise awareness on the real situation on the ground, the depth of economic collapse and extent of human rights and political challenges in the country with a view to mobilize solidarity from counterparts in the region."

### **UNESCO takes a lead on social development**

In July Ministers of Social Development from 19 countries met in Paris during the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO programme on Management of Social Transformations (MOST). Denys Correll Executive Director represented ICSW at the meeting. Under the rules of UNESCO Mr Correll was able to contribute to discussion as an observer.

Participants included Ministers from Argentina, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, Iran, Malaysia, Montenegro, Morocco, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, Syria, Uganda, Venezuela and officials from many other countries. The participants shared their experiences on linkages that can be created between social science research and policy development. The aim is to strengthen the capacity of governments to act effectively for the welfare of their citizens and social development in their countries.

With the exception of Greece, it was disappointing that Ministers holding positions on the Intergovernmental Council from the global North were very obviously absent from the meeting in Paris.

As a result of the debates, a common observation emerged: it is necessary and urgent to strengthen the dialogue between social science research and policy development, and to involve civil society representatives in order to face the challenges generated by globalization.

At the opening session, on Monday July 16, UNESCO Director General, Koichiro Matsuura, underlined that the UNESCO "MOST Programme has made a specific effort to support multi-partite networks at sub-regional and regional level with a view to producing policy-relevant knowledge under its priority themes". (Click here for information on the [MOST program](#))

During the debates, Pierre Sané, Assistant Director General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences, emphasized that "for too long, social policies have been unilaterally imposed to developing countries by external organizations such as the World Bank. These politics were the same every where and for every country".

Johan Schölvink Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development at the UN made some very interesting points. He said "social policy is also about redistribution, social justice and the regulation of market institutions and social structures that may be required to alter the natural and unequal outcomes of economic activity". "The internal "weight" of social ministries within the government is very important, but sometimes they have difficulties in making their voice heard"

As a result of this meeting, the 35 members of the MOST Intergovernmental Council, in the framework of which the ministerial roundtable was held, agreed on several recommendations to be forwarded to the UNESCO General Conference to be held in October 2007.

Among other recommendations members stressed that the Millennium Development Goals will not be reached without strengthening dialogue between researchers and social policies, and urged all member states to accelerate the implementation of the MOST National Liaison Committees.

It was particularly pleasing to see in the recommendation on the Millennium Development Goals that the Goals should be pursued through intensified regional effort and through a better integration of economic and social policies.

The recommendations to UNESCO include two that relate to civil society. The wording (to be confirmed) is *Governments, policy makers and the international community are encouraged to support social science research through adequate funding and to engage social science and civil society communities in policy dialogues on research strategies, priorities, methodologies and results while respecting academic freedom and In recognition of the increasing need to improve policy formulation, the MOST Programme should continue to concentrate on the improvement of the relation between policy-making and social science research, promote social science research that feeds into policy agendas and seek civil society and community groups' contribution to the nexus at national, regional and international levels.*

What does this mean for civil society? Denys Correll observed that there was a commitment by Ministers for Social Development to engage with civil society. Already ICSW has received an invitation from the Economic Community of West African States to speak on defining social development at their forthcoming meeting of Ministers and experts on Social Affairs. MOST is committed to strengthening the cooperation with regional groups of social development ministers. In some countries there are new moves to open dialogue with civil society and researchers. Morocco is one example where discussions have begun. ICSW and civil society should participate in these initiatives.

Johan Schölvinck's point on social ministries is important. Civil society has a role to support these ministries in the economic and fiscal debates within government.

### **Japan and African Civil Society**

Kumi Naidoo, CIVICUS Secretary-General reported in his recent newsletter that he met with Sayaka Funada Classen Vice-Chair of TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF), which is actively engaged in the TICAD IV (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) process. The TICAD IV conference will take place in late May 2008 and will serve as a key event leading up to Japan's G8 summit in July 2008.

According to their website, the TICAD Civil Society Forum (TCSF) is a non-profit organisation established in July 2004. Its main mission is to deliver the voices of civil society and grassroots of Africa to Japanese policy makers and citizens. TCSF aims to improve Japan's policy to Africa and to contribute to the betterment of the livelihoods of ordinary and poor people in Africa. To achieve this goal, TCSF has conducted several activities including a review and analysis of Japan's policy, advocacy and publicity, and the holding of seminars in and outside of Japan.

In the course of discussions with Sayaka Funada Classen she stressed that Japanese civil society was keen to create space for African civil society voices to be heard directly. She is keen to ensure that Japanese civil society plays a role to ensure that southern voices in general and African voices in particular are the ones that are predominant in the activities planned for next year's G8 in Japan. She said that it was critically important for civil society to be able to deal with the contradictions that exist between north and south, if we want our governments to change.

### **National Development Strategies Policy Notes**

The UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs has produced an extremely useful and comprehensive set of Policy Notes to guide National Development Strategies. The notes cover: (i) Macroeconomics and Growth, (ii) Financial Policies, (iii) SOE Reform, (iv) Investment and Technology Policy, (v) Trade Policy, and (vi) Social Policy

The UN DESA Policy Notes provide practical guidance on how to operationalise equitable and employment-generating policies in each subject, following the applied style of widely used toolkits, complementing them by presenting uncovered and/or alternative development topics.

The Policy Notes have been developed in cooperation with UN agencies. They have been officially reviewed by distinguished academics/development specialists including the Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz. (More in the long version of this newsletter at <http://www.icsw.org/publication/gnl.htm>) The policy notes can be found at <http://esa.un.org/techcoop/policynotes.asp>

### **ICSW Europe Conference *Equal Opportunities for Individuals, Groups and Nations***

The **European Region** conference on “Equal Opportunities for Individuals, Groups and Nations” was organised by the International Council on Social Welfare – European Region and Vilnius University in June, 2007. The papers from the conference can be found at <http://www.icsw.org/region/e.htm>

### **Newsletter of the International Association of Schools of Social Work**

The International Association of Schools of Social Work now has an electronic newsletter which can be found on their website <http://www.iassw-aiets.org/>

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