



## **GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER** **November 2009**

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### **2010 Joint World Conference**



The third announcement of the Joint World Conference to be held in Hong Kong has been released. <http://www.swsd2010.org/en/index.html>

In the announcement the programme from 10<sup>th</sup> June to 14<sup>th</sup> June is outlined. Most of the plenary speakers have confirmed their participation. The key note speaker is to be Mr. Sha Zukang the UN Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs.

Conferences are not just opportunities for networking and learning. ICSW uses conferences to extend ICSW's social policy and social development agendas.

Prior to the opening of the conference the UN and ICSW are preparing a pre-conference workshop on social protection with special emphasis on the Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPF-I) that has been adopted by UN agencies, the International Labour Organisation and The World Bank. ICSW supports the SPF-I and is using the 2010 Joint World conference to bring the SPF-I to the notice of civil society. For more information on the SPF-I (English, French and Spanish) <http://www.socialsecurityextension.org/gimi/gess/ShowTheme.do?tid=1321>

Our Hong Kong hosts advise us that they are receiving up to 100 inquiries a day. This is an indication that the first Joint Conference of the International Association of Schools of Social Work, the International Federation of Social Workers and ICSW will be a great success. Already members of ICSW such as the Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health are organising major participation from their country.

The closing date for workshop abstracts has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> December to accommodate the considerable interest being shown by potential participants. Inquiries must be made through the Conference website.

### **ICSW Members arrested in Zimbabwe**

ICSW learned with some distress that NANGO board chairperson Dadirai Chikwengo and Chief Executive Officer Cephaz Zinhumwe, were arrested by Zimbabwe police. They were later released after a harrowing time in police cells. NANGO (National Association for Non-Governmental Organisations) had been conducting the annual NGO Directors Summer School. The meeting was of NANGO members. The subjects had included HIV and AIDS, humanitarian relief and rights issues.

The NGOs said the police charges stemmed from a statement issued by the directors, in which they called for the intervention of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union to ensure that the Global Political Agreement was fully implemented.

Let us have no illusions about the problems that civil society faces in the Global South. Quoting the President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, "We have a new phenomenon of NGOs... I don't know whether this creature is for the better or for the worse, but in our country we have seen a situation

where they have exceeded their terms of reference, and perhaps we might have to reconsider the advisability of having NGOs". (Source: *The Africa Report* No.19 October-November p.9)

Do not think that this type of attitude is the exception. Unfortunately many of our members face day to day harassment by governments who do not like being questioned on their corruption or inappropriate uses of government resources. ICSW wishes all strength to NANGO and all members of civil society that are constantly under threat for representing the human rights of people in poverty or disadvantage. A news report on the arrests can be found at <http://allafrica.com/stories/200910261738.html> For more information on the proceedings of the Director Summer School visit [www.nango.org.zw](http://www.nango.org.zw)

### **New WHO report on Women and Health**

November saw the release of a major WHO Report "Women and Health. Today's Evidence, Tomorrow's Agenda" Launching the report, entitled *Women and health: today's evidence tomorrow's agenda*, WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan called for urgent action both within the health sector and beyond to improve the health and lives of girls and women around the world, from birth to older age. "If women are denied a chance to develop their full human potential, including their potential to lead healthier and at least somewhat happier lives, is society as a whole really healthy? What does this say about the state of social progress in the 21st century?" asked Dr Chan. Up to 80% of all health care and 90% of care for HIV and AIDS-related illness is provided in the home - almost always by women. Yet more often than not, they go unsupported, unrecognized and unremunerated in this essential role. The report seeks to identify key areas for reform, both within and outside the health sector. Strategies to improve women's health must take full account of gender inequality and address the specific socioeconomic and cultural barriers that prevent women from protecting and improving their health. The Report is freely accessible on the WHO web site at [http://www.who.int/gender/women\\_health\\_report/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/gender/women_health_report/en/index.html) The printed version can be purchased through the WHO online bookshop at [www.who.int/bookorders](http://www.who.int/bookorders)

### **Fighting for gender equality and women's rights**



ICSW representative to the UN in Geneva Anne Herdt reported on a series of NGO Interactive Roundtables on the [Beijing +15 Regional Review Meeting](#) of the [United Nations Economic Commission for Europe](#) (UNECE) that took place in November in Geneva. The overall theme was "The Challenges of Gender Equality in the Context of the Economic and Financial Crisis." The meeting was attended by some 200 participants, mainly from civil society, but also some UN representatives.

Regional and thematic interactive discussions and the drafting of recommendations took place at the end of the first day and during the second day of the meeting. The interactive discussion focussed on the following Free Caucus themes:

- Care economy, unpaid work and decent work,
- Displaced women, migration and trafficking,
- Employability, education and training, information and communication,
- Human rights and responsibilities,
- Macro economics and gender budgeting,
- Minorities,
- Environment and climate change,
- The new gender architecture and one UN entity on women.

For an overview of the recommendations presented by various NGO representatives during the intergovernmental process of the ECE meeting, see the article [Beijing +15 ECE Regional Review Meeting: challenges remain.](#)

## 7th Global Conference on Health Promotion

The WHO organised the 7th Global Conference on Health Promotion with the theme *Promoting health and development: closing the implementation gap*. The conference was held in Nairobi, in the last days of October 2009. It is the latest in the series, which began in Ottawa in 1986 and produced the Ottawa Charter on Health Promotion.

Health and development today face unprecedented threats. The financial crisis threatens the viability of national economies in general and of health systems in particular. Global warming and climate change exert a toll in human life, especially in lower income countries. Security threats create a sense of shared uncertainty for communities around the world. In this context, health promotion has never been timelier or more needed.

The conference participants were largely from government and research institutions. Civil society was not a large component but WHO supports civil contributions to the health promotion activities.

ICSW Executive Director Denys Correll facilitated the sub plenary - *Civil society and NGOs: Closing the implementation gap*. The sub plenary was organised by the NGO Alliance for Health Promotion. The objectives of the session were:

1. Present and share initial ideas and experiences on community assets, community empowerment, partnerships, intersectoral cooperation and capacity building
2. Propose actions in which all stakeholders across sectors and at different levels can contribute to Health Promotion
3. Strengthen NGO and civil society working relationship with governments, WHO and other partners/agencies

Concluding messages were formulated at the session and forwarded to the drafting committee for consideration when finalising the Call to Action

1. For more effective health promotion, governments and international agencies must deepen their engagement with civil society and NGOs to create an enabling environment that empowers grass-roots communities.
2. In addressing the social determinants of health, civil society is an indispensable resource in health promotion because of its strong connection to the diverse needs of the community.
3. In order to bring to scale successful projects for broader implementation, civil society and NGOs are responsible to enhance their accountability by monitoring and evaluating their programs for effective resource allocation at all levels.



## The Norwegian Forum of Health and Social Issues Centenary Conference

In late October 2009 the Norwegian member of ICSW celebrated its 100 years. Executive Director Denys Correll addressed the centenary conference on *International experiences in a globalised world*.

The paper examined the history of ICSW in the areas of the conferences, regionalism, focus on the global South, national committees, North-South collaboration, United Nations, leadership and the global financial crisis. The full paper can be found at <http://www.icsw.org/publication/pp.htm>



## New on the ICSW Website

### Content

Global Cooperation Newsletter October 2009

Global Cooperation Newsletter October 2009 (Es)

Global Cooperation Newsletter October 2009 (Fr)

European Newsletter November 2009

European Newsletter October 2009

South East Asia and the Pacific Newsletter

Link to Latin America region website:  
<http://www.cibs.cbciss.org/>

South Asia Region Newsletter

Link to the North East Asia region website  
Black Sea Newsletter

New Members

### Link

[http://www.icsw.org/doc/10\\_Global\\_Cooperation\\_Eng\\_Oct\\_2009.doc](http://www.icsw.org/doc/10_Global_Cooperation_Eng_Oct_2009.doc)

[http://www.icsw.org/doc/10\\_Cooperacion\\_Mundial\\_Oct\\_2009\\_Espa-ol.doc](http://www.icsw.org/doc/10_Cooperacion_Mundial_Oct_2009_Espa-ol.doc)

[http://www.icsw.org/doc/10\\_CooperationMondiale\\_FR\\_Oct\\_2009.doc](http://www.icsw.org/doc/10_CooperationMondiale_FR_Oct_2009.doc)

[http://www.icsw.org/doc/ICSW\\_European\\_newsletter\\_November\\_2009.doc](http://www.icsw.org/doc/ICSW_European_newsletter_November_2009.doc)

[http://www.icsw.org/doc/ICSW\\_European\\_newsletter\\_October\\_2009.doc](http://www.icsw.org/doc/ICSW_European_newsletter_October_2009.doc)

[http://www.icsw.org/doc/SEAPNewsletter\\_2\\_October2009.doc](http://www.icsw.org/doc/SEAPNewsletter_2_October2009.doc)

<http://www.cibs.cbciss.org/>

<http://www.icsw.org/doc/SouthAsiaNewsletterNo6Nov09.doc>

<http://www.icsw.org.tw/eng/nea/>

[http://www.icsw.org/doc/IUBSNGO\\_Newsletter\\_No\\_4\\_November\\_%202009\\_eng.doc](http://www.icsw.org/doc/IUBSNGO_Newsletter_No_4_November_%202009_eng.doc)

<http://www.icsw.org/intro/memberliste.htm#ata>

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