



GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER **January 2009**

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The year begins – observations by Executive Director Denys Correll

Most of us face this year with a mixture of trepidation and hope. Trepidation, as no one knows what will happen to the global economy and how long the recession will have a negative impact on the most vulnerable in our communities. Hope, that the USA will rise to a new position in the world and throw off the belligerence of the Bush administration.

In the next few weeks ICSW representatives will attend the UN Commission for Social Development. The theme for discussion this year is social integration. ICSW's statement is on our website <http://www.icsw.org/un/un.htm>. During the Bush years the USA was notorious for its obstructionist approach in the UN including the Commission for Social Development. There were too many stories of the US representatives blocking issues that could only benefit the people ICSW represents. I hope that era has ended.

We wish President Obama every success. The world has put much on his shoulders.

Earlier this month President Christian Rollet and I met with colleagues in South Asia with the aim of revitalising the ICSW activities in that region. Our hosts in Kerala, India were enthusiastic to bring about a new momentum. In parallel our Vice President, Charles Abbey has been working tirelessly representing the issues of poverty and social development in various international meetings.

In January Christian Rollet and I represented ICSW at meetings to plan the global conference to be held in Hong Kong in 2010 www.swsd2010.org/en/index.html and the conference to be held in Stockholm in 2012. Plans are well advanced for Hong Kong. The programme to be held over five days (10th to 14th June 2010) will be a great success. The conference is owned jointly by the International Association of Schools of Social Work, the International Federation of Social Workers and ICSW. To represent the core interests of the three owners the conference will examine subjects from the points of views of policy, education and practice. Then to reflect our levels of activity the programme will cover issues at global, regional, national and local levels. The three themes are: Life course challenges and actualization; Equity and social inclusion; Sustainable environment. The conference will be opened by the three presidents who will present an integrated vision for the future.

Researchers and civil society meet

Regular readers will know that ICSW promotes a nexus between the research and practice communities. We advertise new work coming from the UN Research Institute for

Social Development (UNRISD) – see below. In January UNRISD conducted a consultation with representatives of civil society (including ICSW Programme Coordinator, Roselyn Nakirya).

The purposes of the consultation were:

- 1) To identify key emerging issues that might be addressed in future research, and to better understand the research needs and concerns of NGOs;
- 2) To seek suggestions about how to improve the communication of research results to the NGO community; and
- 3) To present the results of UNRISD research to NGO stakeholders.

The consultation was organised to help UNRISD design the next phase of its research agenda (2010-2014), as well as to develop new approaches in the way the Institute relates to civil society organisations.

UNRISD staff outlined current research which included;

- Social policy and development
- Flagship report on poverty
- Gender and development
- Markets, business and regulation
- Civil society and social movements.

A collation of research ideas submitted by the participants prior to the meeting resulted in the grouping of suggestions under 6 research themes - Human rights and discrimination; Civil society; Market regulation; Social policy/social protection; Sustainable development and environment; Governance, Institutions and policy making

The global financial crisis: what needs to be done?

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation publishes well researched papers. In this paper Christopher Rude reviews the causes for the current financial crisis, its effects on the world economy, and in particular the social costs for developing countries. It argues for global financial reforms that tilt the balance in favor of the democratic state over financial markets. Special attention is given to a revision of the Basel II's Three Pillars, and the creation of comprehensive market regulation to increase transparency and reduce market risk. To relieve the immediate crisis, the paper argues for additional liquidity measures targeted at the interbank market, and fiscal stimulus packages.

Please find the Briefing paper N°12-2008 directly under <http://library.fes.de/pdf-files/bueros/usa/05869-20081126.pdf>

Norway tops official development assistance

Norway committed USD3.7 billion to development assistance in 2007, a substantial increase over the previous year. It now gives the world's highest level of official development assistance as a percentage of gross national income (0.95%).

Norway is also consistently at the forefront of donor efforts to improve the international aid system, as well as its own development policies and programmes. It supports aid effectiveness. Its flexible approach to development assistance enables quick reaction to changing situations and new opportunities. Norway's development co-operation has innovative practices e.g. it is looking at how Official Development Assistance (ODA) can be a catalyst for non-ODA contributions to the global challenges of development and poverty reduction.

The OECD Development Assistance Committee has its main findings and recommendations of its review of Norway's ODA on at www.oecd.org/dac/peerreviews/norway.

Speculation a major contributor to global food crisis

Excessive speculation in agriculture commodity markets has played a major role in the rapid rise and fall in global food prices, contributing to a massive increase in undernourished people and commodity market instability, according to a new report by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP). The full report can be read at: www.iatp.org

Globalizing care economies and migrant workers explorations in global care chains

One reviewer has said on this book by Nicola Yeates: 'This book is certain to become a new reference point for future discussions of gender, care and globalization. Nicola Yeates combines feminist engagement with the intellectual insights of a sophisticated scholar. Her study analyses how family cultures struggle to manage the global economy and migration imperatives, and how devastating that process can be. It is essential reading for anyone who cares about gender and globalization'. - Lise Widding Isaksen, Department of Sociology, University of Bergen, Norway £50 Order on line from www.palgrave.com

International Poverty Centre Publications

Title: Eliminating Gender Inequalities Reduces Poverty. How? **Authors:** Joana Costa and Elydia Silva **Series:** One Pager # 73. The authors argue that tackling all types of gender inequalities reduces poverty levels. The greatest impact comes from promoting women's participation in the labour market.

<http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager73.pdf>

Title: Opportunity NYC: A Performance-based Conditional Cash Transfer Programme. A Qualitative Analysis **Author:** Michelle Morais de Sá e Silva **Series:** Working Paper # 49. The author expands on her previous publications on New York's cash transfer programme and the lessons for developing countries. Click [here](#) to download: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper49.pdf>

Title: Cash Transfers and Child Labour: An Intriguing Relationship **Author:** Guilherme Issamu Hirata **Series:** One Pager # 71. The author analyses the impact of cash transfer programmes on child labour. Click [here](#) to download: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCOnePager71.pdf>

Title: Are the MDGs Priority in Development Strategies and Aid Programmes? Only few are!

Author: Sakiko Fukuda-Parr **Series:** Working Paper # 48. The author argues that, contrary to popular belief, numerous PRSPs and aid programmes do not adequately address the MDGs. Click [here](#) to download: <http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper48.pdf>

UNRI SD Releases

Literature Review: Social Protection of the Rural Population

This paper aims to overview some of the existing literature on social protection mechanisms for the rural poor in the field of old-age protection and health protection as well as their possible effects on poverty reduction. It examines shortcomings and difficulties in the provision of social protection mechanisms for the rural poor as well as possible ways of how to overcome some of these obstacles.

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Social Protection and Poverty Reduction

In the last decade, social protection has emerged as a policy framework employed to address poverty and vulnerability in developing countries. This paper has two main aims: firstly to provide an overview of social protection, and secondly to provide an assessment of its potential contribution to addressing poverty and vulnerability in developing countries.

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[n&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/83C1E8A40087D478C12574FE0039328F?OpenDocument](http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/83C1E8A40087D478C12574FE0039328F?OpenDocument)

Cash Transfers, Social Protection and Poverty Reduction

The aim of this paper is to evaluate the use of cash transfers as a tool for reducing poverty and inequality in developing countries. The paper concludes that in practice transfers are never really universal and where they involve identifying and targeting specific groups of people they can be relatively simple to administer. However, targeting based on social categories is likely to involve major errors of inclusion and exclusion.

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Governing Women: Women's Political Effectiveness in Contexts of Democratization and Governance Reform

Though the proportion of women in national assemblies still barely scrapes 16% on average, the striking outliers-Rwanda with 49% of its assembly female, Argentina with 35%, Liberia and Chile with new women presidents this year-have raised expectations that there is an upward trend in women's representation. But getting into public office is just the first step in the challenge of creating governance and accountability systems that respond to women's needs and protect their rights. The essays in this volume, edited by Anne Marie Goetz, consider the conditions for effective connections between women in civil society and women in politics, for the evolution of political party platforms responsive to women's interests, for local government arrangements that enable women to engage effectively, and for accountability mechanisms that answer to women. The book's argument is that good governance from a gender perspective requires more than women in politics. It requires fundamental incentive changes to orient public action and policy to support gender equality.

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8th IFSW – Pan African regional conference - 14th -16th April 2009

The conference of International Association of Schools of Social Work and International Federation of Social Workers will be held in Libya. ICSW represented by Judith Kaulem regional president for East and Southern Africa has joined the IASSW and IFSW in planning the conference. The Theme of the Conference is: "Promoting Social Work Education, Practice and Social Development in Africa". The four tracks are Social Work Education, Social Work Practice, Forging Links and partnerships in social work education and practice, Human Rights and the environment.

Further information will be in the newsletters for East and Southern Africa and Central and West Africa.

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February 2009

In this edition:

Social Integration – the UN Commission for Social Development

New publication from UNCTAD

Free online trial to Sage social work and social policy journals

International Social Work

Human Rights Council

New Research

New IPC Publications

New on ICSW Website

Social Integration – the UN Commission for Social Development

ICSW saw the largest number of national, regional and global organisational representatives speak at UN on the topic of social integration. The occasion was the annual meeting of the UN Commission for Social Development. The Commission has a two year cycle. In the first year the Commission receives statements from governments and NGOs. In the second year it reaches its conclusions. This year was the first year of the cycle. The meeting is always held in February when New York experiences snow, ice and sub- zero temperatures.

ICSW's statements on social integration have been widely circulated and are on the UN website as well as at <http://www.icsw.org/un/un.htm#2009>.

ICSW's core members are national umbrella organisations of NGOs. After the Commission meeting we sent each member the statement made by the representative of their country. ICSW is keen for members to know what their governments are saying on behalf of their citizens. Government statements are at http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2009_stats1.html.

The UK presented an excellent statement. Some quotes. "while employment still remains the best route out of poverty and is critical to achieving the MDGs, increasing access to employment is not just about income, it is also a route to social inclusion". Further the UK spoke strongly on the ILO initiative (supported by ICSW) of a "global social floor". This is a "basic social protection package ... which might provide access to basic health care, education, social assistance to the poor or unemployed, and a basic pension". The UK recognises that a global social floor "if pursued and followed through by the international community, (could) make a significant contribution to facilitating social integration". The UK suggests that the introduction of a global social floor should be a "country-led and country owned approach". ICSW supports this initiative and will include the global social floor as part of the national councils' training programme in global South regions. If you would like more information on the global social floor there were excellent presentations during the Commission meeting by Isabel Ortiz (UN), Michael Cichon (ILO) and Gaspar Fajth (UNICEF). The presentations can be found under the heading "A new deal for people in a global crisis - social security for all" <http://www.icsw.org/un/un.htm#2009>.

ICSW representatives and representatives of the Hong Kong Council of Social Service met with Mr. Sha Zukang the Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs. Mr Sha has agreed to be the principal guest of the joint global conference of International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Council on Social Welfare and

International Federation of Social Workers. The conference is to be held 10th to 15th June 2010 <http://www.swsd2010.org>.

ICSW representatives at the UN meeting were Christian Rollet, President; Charles Abbey, Vice President and Denys Correll. Hong Kong Council of Social Service representatives were Hoi Wai Chua, Tsang Johnny Wing Keung and Poon Silas Kwong Fai.

New publication from UNCTAD (UN Conference on Trade and Development)

ICSW has not until now included UNCTAD publications in Global Cooperation. We are pleased to advise you of Policy Brief No. 6 - "Sustaining African Agriculture - Organic Production" Agriculture has returned to the centre of international policy debates. Years of declining investment, inadequate extension services and the availability of subsidized food exports from the developed world have undermined agricultural production in many developing countries, particularly in Africa. This Policy Brief examines the potential contribution of organic agriculture. http://www.unctad.org/en/docs/presspb20086_en.pdf

Free online trial to Sage social work and social policy journals

Sage is offering access to a large range of Social Work and Social Policy Journals until 31st March 2009. To register, cut and paste this URL to your web browser:

<https://online.sagepub.com/cgi/register?registration=SOCIAL09ETOC>

Once registered, you will have access to 12 journals. You can browse abstracts, perform quick or advanced keyword searches, and download full-text articles.

International Social Work

ICSW is a partner in the journal International Social Work. The latest edition (1st March 2009; Vol. 52, No. 2) has a range of articles relevant to social workers through out the world. You can see the contents and can sign up to receive the table of contents for each issue. <http://isw.sagepub.com/content/vol52/issue2/?etoc>

In the latest issue ICSW contributed the News and Views section. Denys Correll examines national and international NGOs. He reviews changes that are influencing the directions of non-government organizations both at national and international levels. Countries providing development aid are placing increasing emphasis on recipient countries determining their own development priorities. This increases the importance of civil society being part of policy setting and the budget processes within countries. The article is under International Social Work at <http://www.icsw.org/publication/isw.htm>.

Human Rights Council

ICSW UN representative in Geneva, Anne Herdt arranged for ICSW to be one of the joint signatories to a statement submitted by international organisations that are in consultative status with the UN. The statement is entitled "Human right to peace versus racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance". The long statement concludes with the request to the Human Rights Council to further promote the rights of minority groups, African descent people and indigenous peoples suffering from racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia, to social justice and equity, non-discrimination and gender equality, respect of all human rights, cultural diversity, linguistic rights, solidarity, peace and friendly relations among all nations, races, ethnicities or religions. The statement can be found at http://www.dzeno.cz/?c_id=17739

New Research

Fiscal Reforms, Developmental State Capacity and Poverty Reduction

This paper provides a survey of the variations in taxation systems and processes of tax reform in less developed countries. The purpose is to shed light on how different tax systems and tax reform policies contribute to processes of state-building and how changes in tax policies present specific challenges for Least Developed Countries in mobilising the resources necessary to both finance growth and reduce poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals.

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Labour Market Policies, Poverty and Insecurity

The paper sets out to evaluate the performance in terms of poverty alleviation of conventional labour market and social policies and arrangements in the era of globalised labour markets. It concludes that most of the labour market interventions reviewed have suffered from common failures such as lack of transparency and accountability, high costs, chronic inefficiency in terms of misused resources and ineffective targeting, thus failing most of the time to reach the poorest and to reduce inequalities in labour markets.
<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/1A798782A702F157C12574FE0039FF8A?OpenDocument>

Migration and Social Policy in Asia

The paper addresses the complexities arising from the interaction between both South-South and South-North migration in the sub-region of South Asia and their implications for social service provisioning and social policy. This and the following four papers were prepared for the UNRISD – IOM – IFS project on Social Policy and Migration in Developing Countries.
<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/FF0CD30FBDCADAB7C12574F000343306?OpenDocument>

Migration and Social Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa

The paper focuses on intra-regional migration in sub-Saharan Africa, its root causes and its implications for social policy and social service provisioning in the region.
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Migration and Poverty: Linkages, Knowledge Gaps, and Policy Implications

This paper identifies links between migration and poverty and implications for social policy
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International Migration, Risk Management and Social Policy: The Latin America Case

This paper examines several of the issues related to international migration, risk management and social policy in the Latin American context.
<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/296CB311EAAB2ADDC12574F000329643?OpenDocument>

Human Resource Flows From and Between Developing Countries: Implications for Social and Public Policies

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Explaining Ireland's Development: Economic Growth with Weakening Welfare

This paper is divided into three main sections. The first section offers an overview of the principal development strategies used by the Irish state, the social policies associated with them and their impact on poverty. The second section of the paper examines Ireland's present welfare regime in detail arguing that the nature of Ireland's policy regimes and the place of welfare within them reflect the nature of the country's political institutions and the ways interest groups interact with them. The paper's third section turns to the role of politics and political institutions in accounting for policy regimes that are surveyed in parts 2 and 3.
<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/D35985C0845ED8F3C12575120031778C?OpenDocument>

Social Insurance (Pensions and Health), Labour Markets and Coverage in Latin America

In the last quarter-century, particularly the last 15 years, virtually all 20 countries of Latin America have reformed their social insurance health programmes, and most of them have undertaken structural reforms to privatize totally or partially their pension programmes, albeit with considerable differences in their models, scope, depth and speed. Around 2004, coverage in health programmes averaged 41 per cent of the total population (below the International Labour Organization/ILO minimum norm of 75 per cent), ranging from 7 to 34 per cent in 10 countries, and had stagnated or decreased in nine. Coverage in pension programmes averaged 31 per cent of the labour force—26 per cent in private systems and 39 per cent in public systems (both above the ILO minimum norm of 20 per cent); however, this exhibited a declining trend. The transformation of the labour market toward increasing informality and flexibilization has had an adverse impact on coverage and the above-mentioned reforms, and past and current social insurance policies have not adapted to the changing labour market. This paper, divided into four parts, analyses the relationship between the labour market, social insurance (pensions and health) and coverage of the labour force and the population in Latin America.

<http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BF3C2/setLanguageCookie?OpenAgent&langcode=en&url=/80256B3C005BCCF9/search/6E08841FF30C8F83C125751200320B25?OpenDocument>

New IPC Publications

Title: Why Aid Does Not Increase Savings in Sub-Saharan Africa? Authors: John Serieux and Terry McKinley Series: One Pager #75 <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCOnePager75.pdf>

Title: Aid and Savings in Sub-Saharan Africa: Should we worry about Rising Aid Levels? Author: John Serieux Series: Working Paper # 50 <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper50.pdf> In these One Pager and Working Paper, the authors argue that the reason sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest savings and investment rates, despite receiving high levels of aid, is largely explained by capital outflows

New on ICSW Website

Upload date	Content	Link
13.02.2009	ICSW South Asia Regional Newsletter, January 2009	www.icsw.org/doc/South_Asia_Newsletter_Jan09.doc
17.02.2009	ICSW East and Southern Africa Regional Newsletter, January 2009	www.icsw.org/doc/ESA_Newsletter_2009_January_Eng.doc
19.02.2009	United Nations: A new deal for people in a global crisis - social security for all, February 2009	www.icsw.org/un/un.htm#2009
19.02.2009	Global Social Policy (GSP) Digest 9.1, January 2009	www.icsw.org/doc/GSP_Digest_9_1.doc
24.02.2009	Closing the Gap: Making the Rights-Based Approach Real for People with Disabilities in the ASEAN Region	www.icsw.org/doc/ClosingTheGap_WordDoc_DStubbsICSW_ASEAN_Dec08_19Feb09.doc

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