

## **GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER**

### **June 2009**

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#### **Strengthening civil society in Africa**

ICSW has just conducted a three day capacity building programme for national umbrella councils in Eastern and Southern Africa. The capacity building programme was based on feedback from member councils that attended the first workshop held in Mauritius in 2007.

At the conclusion of the Mauritius workshop participants completed national plans to be submitted to their boards. Before this workshop in Johannesburg each participant provided ICSW with a progress report on the implementation of the plans. Many success stories emerged including training programmes for board members, governance manuals, new strategies for budget influence, growth in membership of national councils, new forms of recognition of national councils by government and adoption of value and policy statements by the boards of national councils.

An outcome of this workshop is the establishment of an area on the ICSW website where members will be able to share documents with other councils.

The ICSW workshop was co-sponsored by the Southern Africa Development Community Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (SADC-NGO) and the South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO). One of the presentations at the workshop was on the SADC CNGO engagement with SADC.

ICSW is committed to the engagement of civil society in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Plan of Action on aid effectiveness or as it is increasingly described – development effectiveness. This subject was addressed in the workshop.

As a result of a needs analysis, a day was devoted to policy analysis. The intention was to better equip national councils to develop policy advice to government.

Mobilising resources for national councils is a fundamental part of the job of executive directors. The participants (most of whom were executive directors) shared knowledge on their sources of income and exchanged information on trends in fund raising.

Further work was done on project planning and management with the emphasis on the "Logical Framework Approach". The aim of this session was to provide participants with an overview of the logical framework analysis.

The final session was led by Professor Vivienne Taylor who is the author of the report prepared for the African Union "Social protection in Africa: An overview of the challenges".

In addition to the participants from Southern Africa, five presidents or representatives of ICSW regions were engaged in the workshop. (Central and West Africa, South East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, North East Asia and Europe).

Evaluations completed by the participants indicated a high level of satisfaction from their participation in the workshop. A more substantial report of the capacity building workshop will be circulated to members.

Following the workshop the global Board of ICSW met in Johannesburg.

The workshop was made possible by elected officers of ICSW contributing many voluntary hours. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) provided the resources and a representative of Sida attended part of the workshop and the Board meeting.

### **Combating human trafficking**

The Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recently launched a Handbook for parliamentarians on Combating Trafficking in Persons. Launched in April 2009 during the 120th IPU Assembly in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), the Handbook stresses that trafficking in persons is a form of modern-day slavery – a human rights violation that constitutes a crime against the individual and the State.

The Handbook, the 16th in the series of IPU handbooks, is intended to encourage parliamentarians to take an active part in halting human trafficking. It contains a compilation of international laws and good practices developed to combat human trafficking. The handbook offers guidance on how national legislation can be brought in line with international standards by, for example, defining trafficking in persons and criminalizing all its forms. It outlines measures to prevent commission of the crime, to prosecute offenders and to protect victims. It also contains advice on how to report on human trafficking and how to enlist civil society in the cause.

The handbook can be obtained in English or French in print version or PDF by visiting <http://www.ipu.org/english/handbks.htm#traffickingp>

Readers can read more on trafficking in the 10 member countries of ASEAN in the ICSW study [Trafficking and Related Labour Exploitation in the ASEAN Region ICSW, November 2007](http://www.icsw.org/region/seap.htm) to be found at <http://www.icsw.org/region/seap.htm>

### **Private Sector Participation in African infrastructure: Is it worth the risk?**

*Author: Kate Bayliss    Series: Working Paper # 55*

Download: <http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCWorkingPaper55.pdf>

The current strategy to attract private sector participation in utility provision focuses on reducing risk to the private sector. However, the author argues, the risk is simply transferred to governments, taxpayers and end-users.

### **What is poverty reduction?**

Owen Barder raises fundamental questions about the purpose of aid transfers. For many donors the purpose is "poverty reduction" but in the relatively narrow sense of growth that reduces poverty. But poverty reduction has other dimensions, including enabling the poor to live better lives through long-term, redistributive transfers while their country is developing, even with programs that might not contribute to growth. Barder's key concern is that the focus on

poverty reduction through growth ignores such key tradeoffs as that between reducing current and future poverty and between addressing the causes and symptoms of poverty. This is an important paper for practitioners and students on the way the aid system works.

<http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1421599> (PDF, 714 KB)

### **New Zealander heads up United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Former Prime Minister of New Zealand, Helen Clark was appointed as Administrator of UNDP in April 2009. When taking up her appointment Helen Clark vowed to sharpen her agency's focus on cutting poverty despite the multiple crises currently facing the world. UNDP is the largest of the independently-funded UN agencies and, under its special General Assembly mandate, leads the world body's work on sustainable development and promoting good governance in the developing world.

"I also want to communicate more widely the work of UNDP – we have much to our credit and the story must be told," she said.

### **Controversial Criticism of International NGOs**

President of Sri Lanka Mahinda Rajapaksa criticised international NGOs saying that despite the presence of many foreign NGOs in the former LTTE rebel headquarters town of Kilinochchi, no sustainable development has taken place. "None of these organisations have built community centres, roads and houses, or have provided electricity, water or other facilities to the people," he was quoted as saying in the state-run Sunday Observer.

Hironobu Shinbuya, CEO of Save the Children Japan (SCJ), in an interview with IPS, frowned on 'foreign' experts' tendency to impose untested - often prohibitively expensive - western solutions on local communities.

Shinbuya said, "I am not knocking down western ways... I am only saying that some of the institutional framework - whether the U.N., banks [World Bank/IMF], or international corporations - needs a paradigm shift in the way they work".

At the G20 summit last month, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown echoed this sentiment in his call for a paradigm shift in the leadership structure at the World Bank and IMF - traditionally controlled by the U.S. and Europe.

Shinbuya's perspective has found a resonance with Sri Lankan aid workers who agree that Asian NGOs could achieve much more locally than western NGOs.

Jehan Perera, director of the foreign-funded National Peace Council, which is promoting a peaceful end to the country's ethnic conflict, says Shinbuya's view is very much in line with the Sri Lankan government's perception of western NGOs.

"There is wariness against NGOs who are involved in social reforms, peace building and calling for an end to the war," Perera said. "The government is cautious of international NGOs involved in humanitarian work as they are believed to be conduits of information [from conflict zones] to the international community," he said.

(Extracts from Feizal Samath <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=46577>)

### **New Book 'The global social policy reader'**

'The global social policy reader' collects together for the first time a comprehensive range of key papers by international leaders in the field from a wide range of sources that explain the concepts, actors and processes that constitute global social policy. The Reader will have broad appeal among undergraduate and postgraduate students in a range of social science subjects. For more information check:

[https://www.policypress.org.uk/catalog/product\\_info.php?cPath=10227&products\\_id=1725](https://www.policypress.org.uk/catalog/product_info.php?cPath=10227&products_id=1725) The book is available through the website with a 20% discount.

### **The State and civil society in Africa: A North African perspective**

African journal of Political Science and International Relations, February 2009, Hamdy A. R. Hassan. This paper looks at the concept of civil society in the Arab and African regions. It provides a historic overview of Arab and African civil society development, including civil society's relation with the State and analyses the political, bureaucratic and economic constraints for civil society in these regions.

<http://www.academicjournals.org/ajpsir/PDF/Pdf2009/Feb/Hassan.pdf>

### **African Economic Outlook goes online**

Information on Africa and its economy is now at AfricanEconomicOutlook.org. You can find on the site comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This website claims it is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects.

<http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/>

<http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/fr/>

### **Donors support for poor countries in crisis**

In May 2009 Members of Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the world's major donor countries, and other donors, have adopted an [Action Plan](#) to support poor countries trying to cope with the economic and financial crisis.

Globally, aid has risen and most donors are so far holding to their promises in the face of the crisis. But, despite this trend, some DAC members have decreased their aid and others are unlikely to meet their commitments.

In the [Action Plan](#), Members of the DAC agree to assist developing countries by:

- Meeting their existing aid commitments, in particular in Africa.
- Helping low-income countries finance both short- and long-term priorities.
- Making the most effective possible use of aid.
- Financing international institutions in a timely and predictable manner.
- Tackling the crisis using all instruments available, not just official aid.

[http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_33721\\_42851542\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/22/0,3343,en_2649_33721_42851542_1_1_1_1,00.html)

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