

## **GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER** **February 2010**

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**2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development The Agenda** Following last month's news that Hong Kong received nearly 2000 abstracts; the organisers have extended the early bird registration to 1<sup>st</sup> April. This enables those who have just had their abstracts accepted to take advantage of the cheaper registration rate. Notices are going out right now from Hong Kong advising of abstract acceptances. The conference will be held from 10th to 14th June 2010. Visit the website to see what you will be missing if you do not register and attend [www.swsd2010.org](http://www.swsd2010.org)

### **UN Commission for Social Development Meets in New York**



The Commission for Social Development passed a resolution on promoting social integration in order to eradicate poverty, promote full and productive employment and achieve stable, safe, peaceful harmonious and just societies for all. These goals were set forth in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and its Programme of Action. The Commission also approved texts relating to the rights of people with disabilities and older people.

The resolution on social integration urges governments to develop and broaden social protection systems, including coverage for workers in the informal economy, focus on the needs of the poor and people at risk of falling into poverty. The resolution gives particular attention to universal access to basic social security.

ICSW particularly welcomes the focus on social protection. In the ICSW statement to the Commission, ICSW states: *What is really needed is the development of comprehensive social protection systems that can be established before another crisis hits.* ICSW supports the ILO/WHO led social protection floor initiative that has two elements. First ensuring the availability, continuity and geographical and financial access to essential services such as water and sanitation, food and adequate nutrition, health, education, housing and other social services such life and asset saving information. Second, realising access by ensuring a basic set of essential social transfers, in cash and in kind to provide a minimum income and livelihood security for poor and vulnerable populations and to facilitate access to essential services. The ICSW submission can be found in UN languages at [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2010\\_ngostats.html](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csd/2010_ngostats.html) or <http://www.icsw.org/un/un.htm>



From left Yao Ngoran Chief NGO Unit UN Dept Economic & Social Affairs, Christian Rollet (hidden) Charles Abbey

The Commission resolution expressed deep concern over the negative implications for social development caused by the world financial, economic, food, energy and climate change crises, the lack of results in multilateral trade negotiations and the loss of confidence in the international economic system. Recognising the need for policies to promote social justice, social cohesion, economic recovery and growth, and environmental sustainability and the inadequate implementation nationally and internationally of the broad social development agenda, the Council would call for further attention to employment and social integration issues.



Hoi Wai Chua (second from right) representing ICSW member the Hong Council of Social Service and host of this year's conference was a member of the High level panel discussion to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development. Charles Abbey Vice President of ICSW spoke during the panel discussion on behalf of ICSW. In part he said, *there is a new wave of governments and civil society who wish to reclaim the spirit of the Copenhagen agenda.*

*The comprehensive vision of social development agreed upon at the World Summit provides an excellent and durable base to shape the agendas of national governments and international organisations. On this occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary let us join together to recommit our governments and civil society to the Commitments and Programme of Action of the Copenhagen Summit.*

The priority theme for the Commission's 2011-2012 review and policy cycle is poverty eradication, taking into account its relationship to social integration and full employment and decent work for all. Thanks to the UN Division for Social Policy and Development for the use of their photos.



## China Association of Social Welfare Launched



The China Association of Social Welfare was launched in Beijing on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January. 300 delegates from all over China attended the opening ceremony in the People's Congress Hall. The launch was honoured by the presence of many dignitaries including Mr. Chen Changzhi Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress. Prior to the official ceremony delegates elected Mr. Liu Guanghe first Chairman of the Association.

ICSW Executive Director Denys Correll was invited to be present and speak at the launch. Mr. Correll congratulated the China Association of Social Welfare on its impressive beginnings.

In his remarks Mr. Correll recognised the Mission of the Association to look to the future of social welfare in China by bringing together the thousands of organisations that are providing services to disadvantaged people in the community. He noted that creating links between social welfare theory and practice will aid the work of practitioners in welfare delivery. ICSW welcomes the Association's international commitment through the exchange and cooperation with international social welfare organisations. The establishment of accreditation of social welfare services to ensure that wherever a person is located in China they can expect the same standard of service.

During his visit to China Mr. Correll had the opportunity of many discussions on social welfare issues with his host Ms. Feng Xiaoli who is a Vice Chairman and Secretary General of the Association.

## 4<sup>th</sup> ASEAN GO-NGO Forum



The 4th ASEAN GO-NGO Forum for Social Welfare and Development was held in Singapore in January 2010. It was organised by the ASEAN Secretariat and the Singapore Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports.

ICSW enabled a comprehensive attendance by civil society leaders from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

This was the first Forum at which NGOs from all ten countries were attended. ICSW presented the results of its research and with its members negotiated recommendations to go to governments. Prior to the formal meeting with government officials ICSW conducted a meeting for participating NGOs and gathered views on key issues to be considered by the Forum.

Two ICSW research papers were submitted to the Forum – *The Global Financial Crisis and its Social Impact in the Countries in ASEAN* and *Closing the gap: Making the Rights-Based Approach Real for People with Disabilities (PWDs) in the ASEAN Region, December 2009* are on the ICSW website <http://www.icsw.org/region/seap.htm>

## Donors' mixed aid performance for 2010 sparks concern

[http://www.oecd.org/document/20/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34447\\_44617556\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37413,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/20/0,3343,en_2649_34447_44617556_1_1_1_37413,00.html)

The OECD reports that aid to developing countries in 2010 will reach record levels in dollar terms after increasing by 35 per cent since 2004. It will still be less than the world's major aid donors promised five years ago at the Gleneagles and Millennium + 5 summits. Though a majority of countries will meet their commitments, the underperformance of several large donors means there will be a significant shortfall.

Africa, in particular, is likely to get only about USD12 billion of the USD25 billion increase envisaged at Gleneagles, due in large part to the underperformance of some European donors who give large shares of official development assistance (ODA) to Africa.



In 2005, the 15 countries that are members both of the European Union and of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) committed to reach a minimum ODA country target in 2010 of 0.51% of their Gross National Income. Some will surpass that goal: Sweden, with the world's highest ODA as a percentage of its GNI at 1.03% is followed by Luxembourg (1%), Denmark (0.83%) and the Netherlands (0.8%).

Belgium comes in at (0.7%), the United Kingdom (0.56%), Finland (0.55%), Ireland (0.52%) and Spain (0.51%). (See table: all figures are in 2004 dollars and relate to net ODA).

Others will fall short: France (0.46%), Germany (0.40%), Austria (0.37%), Portugal (0.34%), Greece (0.21%), and Italy (0.20%).

Aid has increased strongly as 16 donors have honoured their commitments. But underperformance by the others, notably Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, and Portugal, means overall aid will still fall considerably short of what was promised. These commitments were made and confirmed repeatedly by heads of governments and it is essential that they be met to the full extent."

## New Book on regional social policy and global governance

B. Deacon, L. van Langenhove, M. Macovei and N. Yeates (eds.) World-regional social policy and global governance: new research and policy agendas in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America London: Routledge. ISBN 978-0-415-45659-3, 244 pages

This volume explores the case for and the prospects of the development of world-regional social policies as integral elements of a pluralistic, equitable and effective system of global governance. Further details about the book can be found by following this link:

<http://www.routledgepolitics.com/books/World-Regional-Social-Policy-and-Global-Governance-ISBN9780415456593>

## Finland National Institute for Health and Welfare

[http://www.thl.fi/en\\_US/web/en](http://www.thl.fi/en_US/web/en)

The National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) is a world renowned research and development institute under the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. THL has an International Affairs Unit <http://idc.stakes.fi/EN/index.htm> which specialises in health and social sector development. It comprises three specialised teams: International collaboration and project development, the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI) and International Co-ordination. Recent publications include two new books on social work in Russian.

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Views do not necessarily represent policies of ICSW. Newsletter Editor: Denys Correll – Executive Director.

ICSW C/- MOVISIE Netherlands Centre for Social Development

PO Box 19129

3501 DC Utrecht

Netherlands

Website [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org) Email: [icsw@icsw.org](mailto:icsw@icsw.org)

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