

GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER **January 2011**

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This new book edited by Seth Lartey and Deepti Sastry is a compilation of presentations from the governance and democracy workshop held at the 2009 Commonwealth People's Forum in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Drawing on case studies from West and Central Africa, South Asia, Caribbean, and the Pacific, it explores various governance debates and makes recommendations to policy makers on the effective participation of citizens in democratic processes.

Timothy M Shaw, Professor and Director, Institute of International Relations, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago says "The authors in this publication draw on the themes of governance and democracy, both fundamental to Commonwealth principles. Governance and democracy are key principles for civil society in the Commonwealth, helping build a framework to support effective and legitimate institutions."

To request a hard copy, contact geninfo@commonwealth.int or download <http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/NewsArticle.aspx?articleID=142> (106 pages 1.4Mb)

Reflections on a year at UNRISD by the Director

Sarah Cook reflects on her first year as Director of the UN Research Institute for Social Development. (Extracts). "My tenure started with an outstanding conference in late 2009 on the political and social dimensions of the global financial crisis." <http://www.unrisd.org/publications/cn25e> "The global context was marked by fiscal retrenchment, cuts in social spending, high unemployment, tightening aid budgets and on-going debates about viable policy alternatives for achieving balanced growth without compromising the poverty reduction and social gains of recent years. For UNRISD, these trends translate into new and urgent demands for research on social development, but also a restrictive resource environment for launching such work. The past year was marked above all by a high level of uncertainty: we enter 2011 with hope for greater security for all."

"For UNRISD, the highlight of the year was the publication of our long-awaited report *Combating Poverty and Inequality*. <http://www.unrisd.org/publications/povertyreport360pageUSD45>. The key messages, alongside detailed empirical support and policy options, speak directly to development debates and challenges that have been intensified by crisis: that addressing the multiple facets of inequality is inextricably bound up with reducing poverty and achieving inclusive growth; that the creation of productive employment must be a core goal of economic development; that social policies play an essential role in growth, equity, social reproduction and social cohesion—all of which are necessary for sustained poverty reduction; and that poverty reduction requires a serious analysis of the political arrangements that enable the poor to have voice in policy processes."

Social Movements and Poverty in Developing Countries

<http://www.unrisd.org/publications/pp-bebbington> Author: Anthony Bebbington (Professor of Environment and Society, and Director of the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University, United States) Paper No.: 32 Pages: 56

Poverty and inequality are both products and producers of the prevailing relationships of power in a society. By many definitions, social movements are understood as questioning the nature and exercise of power in society. As such they also play roles in challenging relationships of poverty and inequality. This paper explores some of these roles.

The paper first discusses characteristics of social movements—their motivations, emergence and strategies. Languages of justice and rights are far more prominent in social movements than are languages of poverty reduction. Movements rarely take on the mantle of "being poor" as an identity-based grievance, and few movement leaders think of themselves or their bases in this way. Indeed, many movements argue that a policy focus on poverty is depoliticising and diverts attention from structures of inequality and exclusion.

News from the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) Netherlands

The ISS produces much information of interest to social development practitioners in the January edition of the ISS Newsletter <http://www.iss.nl/About-ISS/ISS-newsletter/General-Newsletter-no.15-January-2011#events> there is coverage of *Gender trends in developing countries during financial crises* This paper looks at several financial crises: the Asian financial crisis, the Brazilian, Argentine and Turkish financial crises, around the turn of the last century. Data are analysed for a 10-year period around these crises. The data include gender indicators (mostly female-male gaps) in education, health and the labour market and show lack of progress or even declines in gender equality in these periods of crises in the eight countries analysed. Moreover, a control group of countries is used as counterfactual, indicating better performance on gender equality and hence, a diverging trend between the two country groups.

New Publications from International Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG)

(All publications can be found at <http://www.ipc-undp.org/>)

1) Can Social Protection Help Promote Inclusive Growth?

By Melissa Andrade, Fábio Veras Soares, Radhika Lal and Rathin Roy. The paper is based on the South-South dialogue organised by IPC-IG and held in Johannesburg from 11 to 14 October 2010. The papers show that governments in the global South are comfortable with broad definitions that emphasise the expansion of capabilities and opportunities. **Poverty in Focus # 22**

2) Global Poverty and the New Bottom Billion: What if Three-quarters of the World's Poor Live in Middle-income Countries? By Andy Sumner, Institute of Development Studies This paper argues that the problem of global poverty has changed because most of the world's poor no longer live in poor countries, meaning low-income countries (LICs). **Working Paper # 74 One Pager # 120**

3) Maximizing Co-Benefits: Exploring Opportunities to Strengthen Equality and Poverty Reduction through Adaptation to Climate Change by Leisa Perch. How countries fuel growth (and not just in structural and mechanical terms) determines who will have access to resources, how they will be used in a macro sense, and the sustainability of such actions. This paper is largely exploratory, seeking to identify options and structures rather than define solutions, and it focuses largely on adaptation in the context of national climate-change strategies. **Working Paper # 75 One Pager # 121**

4) The Consolidation of Social Assistance in Brazil and its Challenges, 1988–2008 by Luciana Jaccoud, Patricia Dario El-Moor Hadjab and Juliana Rochet Chaibub, Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA). This paper is one of a series of papers that was presented at the session on Social Development Strategies for Inclusive Growth at the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Academic Forum: A Policy Dialogue which was held on 12-13 April 2010 in Brasilia. **Working Paper # 76 One Pager # 122**

5) Cash Transfers and Gendered Risks and Vulnerabilities: Lessons from Latin America by Rebecca Holmes, Nicola Jones, Rosana Vargas and Fábio Veras Soares. This Policy Research Brief examines the extent to which gendered economic and social risks are addressed in CCTs in Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru. **Policy Research Brief # 16**

6) Impact Evaluation of the Expansion of the Food Subsidy Programme in Mozambique by Fábio Veras Soares and Clarissa Teixeira. This paper documents both the targeting performance of the 2008 expansion of the Food Subsidy Programme (PSA) in Mozambique and the impact of the programme in some key indicators. **Policy Research Brief # 17**

Transnational NGO Initiative-Preparing to make a leadership “leap”?

The Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs in the Maxwell School at Syracuse University (www.maxwell.syr.edu/leadershipinstitute) has announced the inaugural Transnational NGO Leadership Institute. This specialized “leap” program offers leadership training for up-and-

coming international NGO leaders seeking top NGO positions. Global professionals from all regions, sectors and organizational sizes are invited to attend a cost-effective, intensive and interdisciplinary program 15th to 19th September in upstate New York. Institute attendees transitioning to top leadership positions will be provided with state of the art knowledge about NGO leadership, competency and talent development approaches, as well as strategic and analytical skills. The program will enable participants to examine their personal leadership style, expand specific competencies and roles and network with peers.

Participants will examine five issues they are likely to encounter when making this leadership "leap":

- Leading in a complex context: the broader landscape of actors and issues
- Organisational governance: board leadership, organisational change and design
- Collaboration: communication, networks, partnerships, collaborative governance and leadership
- Power relationships: politics, symbolic leadership and leadership in times of change and crisis
- Strategic resource mobility: allocation and management

Contact information

Open registration for the inaugural Transnational NGO Leadership Institute begins on 1st January 2011. Contact Tosca Bruno-van Vijfeijken, Director for Education and Practitioner Engagement, Transnational NGO Initiative, Maxwell School at Syracuse University at tmbruno@maxwell.syr.edu or +1 (315) 443-5073 for more information. The TNGO Initiative website can be found at: http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/moynihan_tngo.aspx

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

WHO marked International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December 2010 by announcing the upcoming date for the launch of the next *World report on disability*. http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/en/ The report, the first to be issued in decades summarizing the best available scientific evidence on disability, will be launched 9 June 2011. To help build awareness ahead of the launch, WHO has started a social media campaign, including a Facebook page, http://www.facebook.com/pages/World-Health-Organization-WHO/154163327962392?sk=app_4949752878 and has released the first of a series of videos featuring women with disabilities talking about their lives. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5QXcFk4kvA>

African Union Conference of Ministers in charge of social development

In November 2010 ministers met to discuss *Strengthening Social Policy Action Towards Social Inclusion*

The opening statement was made by H.E. Adv. Bience P. Gawanas AU Commissioner for Social Affairs. Material from the conference can be found at

<http://au.int/en/dp/sa/content/2th-session-african-union-conference-ministers-charge-social-development-khartoum-sudan> This included a concept note in English, French, Arabic and Portuguese.

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