e-CIVICUS

e-CIVICUS World Assembly Reflection

World Alliance for Citizen Participation

A Free Weekly Electronic Newsletter Promoting Civic Existence, Expression & Engagement

Please send contributions, comments and questions to editor@civicus.org.

10 October 2008

ISSUE No. 410

PUBLISHER
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Ingrid Srinath

MANAGING EDITOR
Eric Muragana

EDITORS
Margaret Fish
Katsuji Imata

OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTORS
Carmen Malena
Carol Baloyi
Ciara O'Sullivan
Elizabeth Robson
Diana Arodi
Fazlyn Toeffie
Michael Watson
Keisha Taylor
Tanzilya Salimdjanova
Tamuka H Muzondo
Vicente García-Delgado, Esq

ABOUT e-CIVICUS
The CIVICUS weekly electronic publication is keeping tens of thousands of people informed of the developments taking place in civil society, the factors that are affecting them and the impact they are having on creating an informed and knowledgeable civil society.

e-CIVICUS WELCOMES CONTRIBUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS
e-CIVICUS offers a useful channel through which you and your organisation can share your news, publicise your events and articulate the issues you face. Please send us your contributions no later

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL

Send your comments and contributions to editor@civicus.org.



Civil society at the heart of global democracy hypocrisy

By Ingrid Srinath, CIVICUS Secretary General

Dear friends and colleagues,

"More than at any time in history mankind faces a crossroads. One path leads to despair and utter hopelessness, the other to total extinction. Let us pray that we have the wisdom to choose correctly." That facetious remark of Woody Allen's has been stripped of all irony by recent events. Despite frantic efforts by governments, financial institutions and central banks, the virus precipitated by the sneeze on Wall Street appears not to be responding to any of the drastic remedies prescribed, and is, as yet, spreading uncontrollably across the globe. Before the developments of the past month hit us, the outlook on aid and trade were already grim. Poverty alleviation efforts and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular, were already being threatened by the food and energy crises. We were still, however, permitted some optimism on the climate justice front as public opinion and political will appeared finally to gain some momentum. The new financial pandemic threatens to wreak utter devastation across all these fronts. To read more on this week's column, click here.



Is democracy failing us or are we failing democracy?

By Carmen Malena, Director, CIVICUS Participatory Governance Programme

Now, perhaps more than ever before in the history of humanity, how we "govern" ourselves - how we make and implement collective decisions and manage our common resources - has never been so critically important. The current global food crisis, the world-wide financial crisis and the disastrous reality of planetary climate change are all powerful and painful reminders of how the decisions and actions of the few impact on many of us. We live at a time when the decisions we make - as communities and as nations - have direct, lasting and possibly irreparable effects, not only on the lives and livelihoods of all members of our global human family, but on the very survival of our species. Over time, we've collectively come to learn (yes, the hard way) that the best (or to paraphrase Churchill the "least bad") way to govern ourselves is through democracy - the rule of the people. At present, 140 countries (compared to just 60 in 1985) are considered "democracies" and more people than ever before live under democratic rule. However, despite this global wave of democratisation, governments around the world are in crisis. What's gone wrong? Has democracy failed us or have we failed democracy? For more information, click here.

CIVICUS Poll Question

than Tuesday for publication in the coming week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must focus on civil society issues or have a civil society angle. To read the contribution guidelines, click here.

REPRODUCTION OF e-CIVICUS
Readers are welcome to reproduce, in part or in full, all sections of this newsletter, however please request permission to do so first. When reproducing or retransmitting content, please credit sources and authors. The content of this newsletter can be translated into another language and reproduced in other publications, as long as due acknowledgment is made to CIVICUS.

e-CIVICUS DISCLAIMER
Although CIVICUS makes all reasonable efforts to obtain prima-facie reliable content for e-CIVICUS, CIVICUS cannot guarantee the accuracy of the reports, views or opinions of third-party content providers, nor does CIVICUS necessarily endorse the views reflected therein. Opinions expressed by contributors to e-CIVICUS are solely those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of CIVICUS, its Board of Directors, managers or staff, or any CIVICUS members or partners. We request that readers exercise caution and alert us immediately if they suspect any fraudulent or incorrect material has been included in our publication. Please do send your comments and suggestions to editor@civicus.org.

CONTACT US
P.O. Box 933
Southdale, 2135
South Africa
Tel: +27 11 833 5959 Fax:+27 11 833 7997

1112 16th Street NW,
Suite 540
Washington D.C.
20036 USA
Tel: +202 331-8518
Fax: +202 331-8774

Websites:
www.civicus.org
www.civicusassembly.org

To subscribe or unsubscribe: email subscriptions@civicus.org

TELL A FRIEND
Do you have a friend who works for a more just world?
Would you like to share this

This week's question:

In your view, what is the greatest obstacle to citizen participation?

a. Entrenched political systems that are non-participatory.
b. Lack of citizen information/education/organisation.
c. Lack of citizen interest.

To answer the question, click here.

Previous question:

Do you think that the current financial crisis:

a. Will trigger long-overdue political commitments on development
b. Will be the irreparable blow to the world's poor
c. Is something civil society does not have a stake in?

Results: a. - 24.2%, b. - 69.7%, c. - 6.1%

TELL A FRIEND ABOUT e-CIVICUS
e-CIVICUS keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. As a subscriber you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work. So why keep it to yourself?

Do you have a friend who works for a more just world? Would you like to share this newsletter with them? Why don't you suggest they register for a free subscription?

They can send us an e-mail to subscriptions@civicus.org or fill out the subscription form here. Alternatively, please forward their e-mail addresses to us and we'll contact them on your behalf. Please send us your contributions no later than Monday every week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

---

e-CIVICUS DIALOGUES



Perspectives: Are We Making Poverty History? Halfway to 2015
Source: MDGs Topic Guide (OneWorld UK)
Every year since world leaders signed the Millennium Declaration committing to meet eight world-changing goals by 2015, mass rallies have been held around the globe to remind governments of their commitments - on hunger, education, health care, gender equality, the environment, and more. Seven and a half years on, we stand midway from Declaration to deadline. Perspectives look at how far we've come, and where we go from here. For more information, click here.

Climate action could escape financial crisis
By Ramesh Jaura, Inter Press Service (IPS)
Enter the global financial crisis: Exit action on climate change? That lingering apprehension is not shared by Pamela Cox, the World Bank's Vice-President for Latin America and the Caribbean. "I'm an optimist," she said, adding that the global financial turmoil will not push climate change action into a corner. Money on the table will be used to invest in clean technologies for the countries in need, she said. Fox was at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona to launch a preview of a World

newsletter with them?
Please forward their e-mail address to subscriptions@civicus.org

We value your comments, suggestions and contributions. Speak to us at editor@civicus.org

Support CIVICUS
To make an on-line donation, click here.

Join CIVICUS
Join or renew your CIVICUS Membership on-line now, click here.

Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin
The CIVICUS e-newsletter Civil Society Watch Monthly Bulletin is an action-oriented newsletter distributed to over 7,400 people around the world, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at www.civicus.org.

CIVICUS blog

What do you think? Have your say on the CIVICUS Blog! CIVICUS seeks to amplify the voices and opinions of ordinary people and give expression to the enormous creative energy within civil society. Our recently launched blog gives you the opportunity to use your voice and engage with the rest of civil society. Have your say by visiting http://civicus.civiblog.org

Bank report on climate change in Latin America. Leading industrialised countries pledged more than 6 billion dollars five weeks back to the two climate investment funds (CIFs) the board of executive directors of the World Bank endorsed in July. For more information, click here.

Credit crisis threatens disastrous squeeze on aid

By Laura MacInnis and Source: Reuters

Paying hundreds of billions of dollars to rescue the world's financial industry looks set to squeeze humanitarian aid and crimp international efforts to fight disease, feed hungry children, and shelter refugees. Charitable giving and foreign aid flows are likely to dry up as the global economy sours, with rising unemployment and inflation pinching already-tight household budgets, and as big corporate bailouts push governments to the fiscal brink. Celine Charveriat, Oxfam's Deputy Advocacy and Campaign Director, warned of "disastrous consequences" for poor countries if the bank crisis and related belt-tightening prompt donors to cut aid from a current $104 billion a year, as many expect. "Donors must not make overseas aid the first victim of the economic crisis," Charveriat said. For more information, click here.

Is a Food Bank answer to the Crisis?

Source: Thalif Deen, Inter PressService (IPS) UN Bureau

Bangladesh, one of the world's 49 Least Developed Countries (LDCs), described as the poorest of the poor, is calling for the creation of a global food bank. "We have suggested that a Food Bank could allow countries facing a short-term shortfall in production to borrow food grains on preferential terms," said Bangladeshi Prime Minister Fakhruddin Ahmed, who was in New York last week to address the UN General Assembly. Once they overcome the shortfall, these countries could return the quantum to the Food Bank, he added. At a summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) last August, the leaders of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka reiterated their own proposal for a regional food bank. For more information, click here.

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS



Trade Unions mobilised to transform the world economy, 7 October - World Day for Decent Work

Source: International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

On 7 October, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), a trade union movement in more than 100 countries organised a World Day for Decent Work, mobilising and demanding change in the world economy, as the financial crisis threatens the livelihoods of millions upon millions of people worldwide. “Working people have had enough of policies which have delivered vast wealth to a tiny few who have profited from lax or non-existent regulation of financial markets, while those who actually produce the goods and services of the real economy have seen their wages stagnate or fall. The ITUC’s Founding Congress in 2006 launched the call for this World Day of Action, to demand a fundamental transformation of globalisation, ending the policies of free market neo-liberalism which have brought us to the very edge of a catastrophic global recession. The time for that change is now”, said ITUC General Secretary Guy Ryder. For more information, click here.

Media Freedom needs action as well as dialogue in Uzbekistan

Source: International Crisis Group

As the European Union (EU) prepares to reconsider its sanctions against Uzbekistan in the middle of this month, last week's "media freedom" seminar in Tashkent should not be considered as evidence of any improvement in the country's 17-year policy of suppressing freedom of speech. The event on 2-3 October, entitled "Liberalisation of Mass Media - An Important Component of the Democratisation of the Society", was co-sponsored by the EU and the Uzbek Government. Foreign and independent Uzbek journalists were not allowed to cover the seminar, while journalists from the state-controlled electronic and print media were present in the meeting room. For more information, click here.

2008 Ibrahim Index linked Women's Rights to Good Governance in Africa
Source: British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) news online
In an interview marking the publication of the 2008 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance, Mary Robinson, a former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and member of the Mo Ibrahim prize committee, said there had been improvements in rights and participation across the continent. "More sub-Saharan African countries than ever are holding democratic elections, and I am hopeful that this will help form the platform for continued progress across the continent," she said. In 31 of the 48 countries, governance had improved, and 39 had improved participation in elections that were deemed free and fair. The index is funded by Mo Ibrahim, an entrepreneur and philanthropist who has also set up a $5m annual prize for retired African leaders. For more information, click here.

Civil society to play role for eliminating terrorism in Pakistan
Source: Associated Press of Pakistan
Federal Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, Haji Ghulam Ahmed Bilour, on Tuesday urged an Islamic religious leader (Ulema) and civil society to come forward and play their role for eliminating terrorism from the country. Speaking at the launching ceremony of Naqsh-e-Sani, a poetry collection of Athar Qayum Raja, the Director of the Press Information Department said that Islam is a religion of peace, love and tranquility. For more information, click here.

Russia: Two-year anniversary of the death of Anna Politkovskaya (1958-2006)
Source: Human Rights Watch
October 7 marks the two-year anniversary of the death of Anna Politkovskaia, a courageous Russian journalist who fearlessly challenged her government's policies when she believed them unjust, and exposed the grave human rights situation in Chechnya through her reporting. On 7 October 2006, she became a victim herself when she was murdered, many believe, in retribution for her work. According to Novaia Gazeta newspaper, for which she wrote at the time of her death, she was working on an article about torture in Chechnya due to be published in the paper in its 9 October 2006 issue. Her death on 7 October was likely linked to this report. Two years on, the perpetrators of her murder have yet to be brought to justice. Human Rights Watch mourns the loss of her voice and determination to report from one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists. For more information, click here.

Financial crisis will not deter on anti-poverty fight says UN Secretary General
United Nations news
While addressing the global crisis in financial markets, Ban Ki-moon insisted that the UN will not be deflected from seeking help for the world's poorest. "Banks may be failing," said Ban. "But the world's bottom billion can bank on us." Referring to two high-level meetings at the UN last month on the campaign against global poverty, Ban added, "the global financial crisis may have overshadowed our work, but it did not dominate it. Despite the market turmoil, we raised 16 billion. The generosity of these commitments is most encouraging, given the economic climate." For more information, click here.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS & GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

Anti-poverty advocates attempt to mobilise 1% of the world's people to tell world leaders to end poverty now!
Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)
From October 17th to 19th, in an unprecedented mobilisation, more than one percent of the world's population is expected to "Stand Up and Take Action" to demand that their leaders end poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Civil society participating in "Stand Up and Take Action" will send a clear message to world leaders that just weeks after they recommitted to taking action to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, millions of citizens are monitoring their actions and will hold them to account for meeting their commitments. "This October

17-19, world leaders will hear directly from their people that we will no longer stand by while 50,000 people die of preventable causes each day," said Salil Shetty, Director of the Millennium Campaign. For more information, click here.



Band-aids for financial crisis will fail unless structural causes of poverty addressed, warns GCAP

Source: Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP)

"Back in January we already warned that the poorest communities and women in particular will be hit first and worst by an economic slowdown. Since then, the cost of food has escalated and the several cash injections made were just band-aids compared to what is being spent on stabilising the US banks now. We need longer lasting solutions that work for all people and not just an elite handful, like the current bailout proposals," said Kumi Naidoo, Co- Chair of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) and CIVICUS Honorary President. For more information, click here.

Launch of MDG Insights

MDG Insights is a new joint knowledge product of MDGNet and the UNDG/ MDG Policy Network. A concise format allows readers to gain insights on the progress towards each Millennium Development Goal. It is intended to inform Network members of latest research and interesting programme implementations from the field. For the first issue on the environment, focusing on "investment in ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods", click here.

Food, energy crisis to force failure of Millennium Development Goals

Source: Associated Press of Pakistan

The current food and energy crisis will make meeting the Millennium Development Goals even harder to reach, if not unattainable, according to civil society representatives at the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting in the Caribbean Island of Saint Lucia. The global community recently met in New York to discuss progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are targets and standards in global poverty, health and sustainability. Speaking ahead of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting opening ceremony, Commonwealth civil society said that while the countries were generally doing well towards progress, the rising food and energy crisis threatens to undo that. For more information, click here.

GET INVOLVED!

Stand Up and Take Action on October 17-19 to end poverty and inequality

Stand Up is a global mobilisation to end poverty and inequality and for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Last year, 43.7 million people joined Stand Up worldwide, setting a new world record. This year, the campaign is asking people to Stand Up and Take Action on October 17-19, to ensure governments worldwide hear demands to end poverty and inequality. Help us make this year's Stand Up the biggest mobilisation against poverty ever. Civil society organisations and individuals around the world are encouraged to organise their own event. The theme for this year's International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - "Working together out of poverty" - highlights the need for a truly global anti-poverty alliance, one in which both developed and developing countries participate actively. To take part in the campaign register now, click here.

Every Human Has Rights: join the campaign

Source: Every Human Has Rights

2008 is 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is time for a global conversation about human rights and the values that unite us as one human family. But it can also be a time when each of us chooses to take human rights into our daily lives, by joining a powerful people network. Article 1 of the Declaration states that "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights'", yet 60 years later, these rights face their greatest threat, with

extreme poverty confining billions to lives of despair. It is time that society made human dignity and freedom a reality for everyone. Society has the resources to end poverty in lifetime. Sign up to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, click here.

Make Poverty History campaign
Source: Make Poverty History
Make Poverty History in Canada is part of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) alliance. The campaign was launched in Canada in 2005 with the support of a wide cross-section of public interest and faith groups, trade unions, students, academics, literary, artistic and sports leaders. National campaigns are now active in over 100 countries. Make Poverty History has mobilised Canadians like never before on issues related to poverty at home and abroad. Canadians will be going to the polls on 14 October. To support the Make Poverty History goals, all election candidates will be sent a request to publicly support the Make Poverty History goals. For more information, click here.

Support the Millennium Promise
End extreme poverty worldwide by 2025
The Millennium Promise is to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - eight globally endorsed objectives that address the many aspects of extreme poverty - in Africa by 2015. To that end, Millennium Promise works with impoverished communities, national and local governments, and partner organisations to implement high-impact programs aimed at transforming lives on the continent and engaging donor nations, corporations, and the general public in the effort. The Millennium Villages, now operating in 80 villages across 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, takes a comprehensive approach to addressing extreme poverty. By combining the best scientific and local knowledge, Millennium Villages address all the major problems simultaneously -- hunger, disease, inadequate education, lack of safe drinking water, and absence of essential infrastructure. For more information, click here.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Get ready for the Global Launch of AA1000AS (2008)
Source: AccountAbility, www.accountability21.net
AccountAbility's much anticipated AA1000 Assurance Standard (2008) will be launched globally on 24 October in London. The new AA1000AS (2008) marks a step forward in the development of sustainability assurance. As these issues become increasingly important for businesses and their stakeholders, a value-adding assurance process is crucial for both internal management and external stakeholders. The AA1000AS (2008) has been revised through an extensive multi-stakeholder process, involving over 4,500 individuals from 90 difference countries, via the innovative use of a wiki platform including civil society. For more information, click here.

CIVIL SOCIETY ACTIVISM AND GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS

Religious Leaders of Different Faiths "Say NO to Violence against Women"
Source: Religions for Peace and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
Senior religious leaders of different faiths from Religions for Peace, the world's largest and most representative multi-religious coalition, today pledged to help stop violence against women. They recognise this commitment as a moral imperative rooted in their respective religious traditions. The religious leaders from Africa, Asia, and North America - representing such diverse faiths as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam - stood together to address one of the most pervasive human rights violations in the world today, violence against women. The religious leaders expressed support for the goals of the "Say NO to Violence Against Women Campaign" being

advanced by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). This campaign is aligned with the UN Secretary-General's multi-year, system-wide global campaign "Unite to end violence against women". For more information, click here.

PROFILES

DONOR: The ERSTE Foundation

Correction: Last week in e-CIVICUS 409 a wrong logo of the Skoll Foundation was published in a profile of Compagnia di San Paolo.

The ERSTE Foundation is active in the Central and South Eastern European region, in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. Since commencing its work in 2005, it has been developing projects independently and in collaboration with partners within the three programme areas of Social Affairs, Culture and Europe. The ERSTE Foundation seeks to contribute to creating and shaping social change and social integration in cooperation with local initiatives. The Foundation wants to play an active role in linking actors and locations of contemporary culture and to researching and understanding recent cultural history; giving people opportunities to meet and increase their knowledge about each other. The Foundation's objectives are: developing ideas and concepts for social participation; analysing and shaping social change processes; promoting and communicating contemporary culture; researching and understanding recent cultural history; enabling dialogue and mobility in Europe; and documenting and passing on European enlargement knowledge. For more information, click here.

MEMBER: Observatorio del Tercer Sector

The Observatorio del Tercer Sector is an independent and nonprofit research center specialised in the third sector. Its aim is to deepen and increase the knowledge on the sector and to work for improvement of nonprofit organisational management. The Observatorio conducts research in three fields. First, it undertakes to understand the structure of the third sector and the working reality of non-profit organisations. Second, it considers how organisations work, since non-profit organisations have their own specific requirements due to their goals, values and method of organising. Finally, The Observatoria, working together with various third sector organisations, carries out research in fields of interest to the third sector including: youth, cooperation for development, ethical banking, the environment, society, culture and others. For more information, click here.

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

Can the rich save the world?

Alliance magazine book interview with Matthew Bishop and Michael Green

Are the super-rich the new super-heroes of the world stage, as Matthew Bishop and Michael Green claim in "Philanthrocapitalism: How the rich can save the world?" Are there limits to what philanthrocapitalists can achieve? Is the philanthrocapitalist approach likely to tip the power balance even more in favour of funders? Isn't it undemocratic for the super-rich to have so much unaccountable power? Caroline Hartnell, Alliance magazine editor talked to Matthew Bishop and Michael Green about their new book. For more information on the interview, click here.

Pacific Plan Annual Progress Report

Source: Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat

Over 2008 there has been ongoing progress in implementing the Pacific Plan across all four of its pillars such as increased trade and economic integration, information and communications technology, energy and in particular, in response to the Forum Leaders' 2007 Vava' u Decisions. This progress has varied with some initiatives having advanced further than others. The momentum

provided through the 2007 prioritisation process has greatly focused the implementation of Pacific Plan initiatives by presenting clear direction and targets for members, regional agencies and development partners. For more information on the Progress Report, click here.

Book Recommendations: The Small Arms Trade: A Beginner's Guide
By CDI Senior Analyst Rachel Stohl, Matthew Schroeder and Dan Smith (One World Publishers)
The proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons is one of the most pressing security threats of the 21st century. Loaded with fascinating anecdotes and disturbing statistics, this guide provides a gripping overview of the global impact that these cheap and easily obtainable weapons have had, the extent of their proliferation, the threat they pose in the wrong hands, and strategies for reining in this deadly scourge. Covering everything from gun-toting militias to child soldiers to terrorists armed with shoulder-fired missiles, this is required reading for anyone who wishes to fully understand one of today's key threats to international peace. For more information, click here.

World leaders launch a plan for saving 10 million mothers and newborns by 2015
Source: Global Campaign for the Health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
Today, a group of world leaders committed to actions aimed at saving 10 million mothers and newborns in the poorest countries by 2015. Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg of Norway launched the first year Progress Report on the Global Campaign for Health. The Report demonstrates that increased investments in health - a doubling of health aid since 2000 - are having results. More than 2 million people are now receiving AIDS treatment, the rapid scale-up of effective malaria programmes is leading to dramatic reductions in child mortality, and measles deaths have fallen by 68% since 1999. But the Report also calls for urgent, effective international action to accelerate progress towards the UN goals of reducing maternal and child deaths by 2015. For more information, click here.

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

Doha Global Civil Society Forum
27-28 November 2008, Doha, Qatar
The registration form for the Doha Global Civil Society Forum and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus (29 November - 2 December 2008 , Doha , Qatar) is now online. Non-governmental organisations in consultative status with ECOSOC as well as those that were granted ad hoc accreditation to the International Conference on Financing on Development (ICFfD) or its follow-up process are eligible to apply for these two events. Organisations without previous accreditation that applied for ad hoc accreditation to the Doha Review Conference before the deadline of 31 August 2008 are welcome to register, but confirmation will only be issued if the General Assembly approves the accreditation request. Completed registration forms must be received by 17 October 2008 . Confirmation of participation will be issued by 27 October. For more information, and to apply, click here.

Global Forum For Media Development
7-10 December 2008, Athens, Greece
The Organising Committee of the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD) has the honor to announce the Athens World Conference, which will take place in Divani Caravel Hotel. The GFMD constitutes a network of some 500 non-governmental media assistance organizations operating in about 100 countries all across the world, which support the development of independent media at the community, national, regional and global level and aims to bring together linkages and sustainable impact to the work of the media development sector as a whole. The GFMD Athens World Conference will bring together directors of media development organisations, leaders of international institutions, donors and key representatives from national governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations. For more information, click here and for registration form, click here.

7th Global Conference on Human Development
17-21 November, 2008, Takayama, Japan
The Institute of Cultural Affairs International's 7th Global Conference on Human Development will serve as a launching pad for realising the paradigm shift needed to overcome deepest human development challenges. The conference will bring together development practitioners, community leaders, policy innovators, government, the private sector, and world-class facilitators. Participants will explore most pressing human development challenges - from poverty to disease to ecological sustainability - and identify new solutions and design new approaches to resolving them. For more information, click here.

30th International Conference for Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners
15-17 October, Council of Europe
The 30th International Conference for Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners will be held under the theme "Protecting privacy in a borderless world". More than 600 participants including data protection commissioners, representatives of companies, consumers, the public sector, and defenders of human rights will gather to discuss the challenges for the protection of privacy generated by globalisation and the development of information technologies. The conference will be opened on 15 October and is jointly organised by the French Data Protection Authority (CNIL) and the Federal Commission for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (BfDI), both of which are celebrating their 30th anniversaries. For more information, click here.

3rd GuideStar International Assembly -
From Local to Global: The Importance of CSO Information
2 - 3 Dec 2008, 2 Temple Place, London, WC2R 3BD, United Kingdom
In an interdependent world the critical issues we face such as climate change, energy, infectious disease, poverty and migration to name a few – have local, national, regional and global significance. At every level, citizens through their civil society organisations (CSOs) play vital roles in researching, educating, advocating and delivering services to resolve these issues. Action by global decision-makers is needed, but our interrelatedness and the need to engage these issues "where we live" underscores the need to empower CSO initiatives at every level, the local level perhaps most importantly of all. However, solutions cannot be implemented or resources allocated effectively without broad-based knowledge about conditions, solutions and initiatives across and within borders. The 3rd GuideStar Assembly, will convene civil society leaders around the world to discuss how information can empower civil society and decision-makers at all levels to rise to these challenges confronting us today. For more information, click here.

Mobile Technology for Social Impact summit
13-15 October 2008, Johannesburg, South Africa
The Southern African NGO Network (SANGONeT) and MobileActive.org will host the MobileActive08 Summit to "Unlocking the Potential of Mobile Technology for Social Impact". At MobileActive08, participants will explore how mobile phones are used to advance development work in different parts of the world, assess the current state of knowledge in the use and effectiveness of mobile technology to advance social action, and investigate trends, needs and investment opportunities. Specific attention will be given to the role of mobile technology in health, human rights, economic development, research, advocacy, citizen journalism and democratic participation. David Barnard, Executive Director of SANGONeT said that "more than 60 speakers will share their experiences through a variety of workshops and skill-share sessions, rotating mini-talks, SIMlabs and SIMplaces." For more information, click here.

WORKSHOPS & COURSES

Regional Strategic Planning Course for NGO Executives
3-7 November 2008, Harare, Zimbabwe

NGO Consulting Africa in association with INTRAC (International NGO Training and Research Centre) will presents a 5 day Southern African development Community (SADC) course on "Strategic Planning and Creative Thinking". The course will explore the dynamics of strategic and creative thinking, understand the process of strategy formation, reflect on the issues surrounding strategic planning and practice, explore change processes in organisations, develop an understanding of the process of making strategic choices, determine the course organisation in the future. The course will also equip participants with a vision and values to work toward the mission successfully. The course is open to NGO Senior Management, NGO board Members, Business Executives, policy makers and for professional development. For more information e-mail at training@ngoconsultingafrica.org or click here.

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

Call For Entries: Media That Matters More than a film festival
Application Deadline: 9 January 2009
Media That Matters is the premier showcase for short films with big messages. Following a New York City Premiere, Awards Ceremony and industry networking events in June 2009, your film will take part in the Media That Matters international, multi-platform campaign with DVD distribution, broadcasts, streaming and hundreds of screenings across the globe! Hundreds of thousands of people including educators, activists and nonprofits will watch and use your film. For more information, click here.

APPOINTMENTS

CURRENT JOBS

Research Assistant to the CIVICUS Honorary President
Application Deadline: 17 October 2008
CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Location: Johannesburg, South Africa
For more information, click here.

Dipecho Project Manager
Application Deadline: 22 October 2008
ActionAid International
Location: Malawi
For more information, click here.

Grants Manager
Application Deadline: 22 November 2008
International Rescue Committee
Location: Chad
For more information, click here.

CONTACT e-CIVICUS
e-CIVICUS is a free weekly online publication keeping tens of thousands of people, organisations and programmes informed of the many developments that are taking place in civil society organisations around the world, the many factors that are affecting the impact of civil society on creating a more just world.

We value your comments and suggestions. Please send these to the Editorial Team at editor@civicus.org.

Unsubscribe: To unsubscribe from e-CIVICUS, get a password reminder, or change your subscription options by entering your subscription email address: Click here.