



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.

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CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

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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

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 by Monday 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

FROM THE DESK OF CIVICUS' SECRETARY GENERAL



Dear friends and colleagues,

As the G20 meetings commence, we are prompted to question the difference that this new expanded group will make compared to earlier efforts made by the world's richest nations.

Questions for the G-20

A particularly wise teacher once paraphrased Claude Levi-Strauss when he told my Economics class that figuring out answers was less important than asking the right questions. I can't help but remember his advice as we contemplate the G-20 meetings next week in London - the stated agendas and policy positions of each participating nation along with civil society's response to the assembly.

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath

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Oxfam and Save The Children to blog from G20 summit

By Mathew Little, Third Sector Online

A coalition of non-governmental organisations, including Oxfam and Save the Children, has arranged for 50 bloggers from around the world to report live from the G20 summit in London next week. The bloggers include [Kumi Naidoo](#), head of Global Call to Action Against Poverty, Chinese economics broadcaster Rui Chenggang, Nigerian blogger Sokari Ekine, and tax havens expert Richard Murphy. They were chosen by direct invitation and "nominations from the blogosphere", the coalition said. *For details, [click here](#).*

Next issue focussing on G20 meetings

Given the overwhelming response from members who contributed to the recent issues of e-CIVICUS (with a regional focus on South Asia), it would be wonderful if you could continue such contributions. We'd like to include some of your perspectives on the G20 meetings in the next issue. It's only when we, the voices of civil society, ask some good questions that we can expect better answers from

the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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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, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at www.civicus.org.

those who must act differently! Contributions may be sent to editor@civicus.org.

Letters to the Editor

e-CIVICUS will now publish selected correspondence from its readers - and visitors to the CIVICUS website - in a new section called 'Letters to the Editor'. Please keep such letters short (preferred length of 50 to 200 words) and mention 'Letters to the Editor' in your message or heading. These may be sent to editor@civicus.org

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

Is it realistic to expect G20 leaders to reform a system from which they derive an unfair advantage?

- a. No. These leaders want to maintain the status quo, regardless of dissenting voices.
- b. Yes, they have the power - and they can effect change.

To answer the question, [click here](#).

Previous question: CIVICUS' postponement of the CIVICUS World Assembly 2009 is understandable due to the financial crisis' impact on civil society organisations...

- a. Yes. It would have been hard for many participants to make it to the event this year
- b. No. The show must go on
- c. Wish it had been possible, but understand the problem

Results: a. - 40.8%, b. - 34.7%, c. - 24.5%

JOIN e-CIVICUS - BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR

e-CIVICUS keeps tens of thousands of people and organisations informed of the many developments taking place in civil society around the world. This e-publication seeks to encourage and amplify the voices of those struggling for a more just world. As a subscriber, you know the value e-CIVICUS can bring to your work.

Why don't you suggest to your friends to register for a free subscription? They can send an email to subscriptions@civicus.org or fill out the subscription form [here](#). Alternatively, please forward their email addresses to us and we'll contact them on your behalf. Please send your contributions by Monday every week to editor@civicus.org. All contributions must be focused on civil society issues or have a civil society angle.

CIVIL SOCIETY NEWS



Building new knowledge on employee volunteering

By Kenn Allen and Monica Galiano

Almost exactly one year ago, we were asked to make a presentation at the World Volunteer Conference in Panama City on trends shaping the future of employee volunteering. While we received excellent feedback on it, we had no way of

CIVICUS channel on YouTube:
'Time 2 Act' Go to YouTube, [click here](#).



CIVICUS launches its 1
for 1 membership
campaign

Are you one of the
missing 85?

One CIVICUS member for every UN
member state, that's the goal of
CIVICUS' 1 for 1 Membership
campaign, [click here](#).

knowing that we had missed the most significant trend of all – the deterioration of the global economy. *For details, [click here](#).*

Break the silence, stop the forced evictions and restore the right to housing in Nigeria!

Statement of the International Alliance of Inhabitants

We, inhabitants' associations, international networks, voluntary groups, NGOs, public agencies, citizens of the world, express our indignation at and denounce the massive forced evictions of more than one million of people carried out from June 2008 and still in progress in Port Harcourt by the Government of Rivers State (Nigeria). *For details, [click here](#).*

After Accra: Delivering on the Agenda for Action

By Jeffrey Gutman

In September 2008, the Third High Level Forum (HLF) on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana, drew together some 1,700 people: developing country ministers of finance and planning, heads of multilateral and bilateral development agencies, parliamentarians, representatives of global funds and the private sector, representatives of a broad cross-section of civil society organisations, operations-level staff, journalists. These were people with vastly different backgrounds and points of view, representing institutions with distinct mandates, histories, and agendas. But they were united by a single concern: How to improve the delivery and use of development assistance so that it can make the greatest difference in the lives of poor people around the world. *For details, [click here](#).*

TUCA organises continental day of action against the crisis

Source: International Trade Union Confederation

On 27 March, coinciding with the first anniversary of the founding of the Trade Union Organisation for the Americas (TUCA), the ITUC regional organisation for the Americas, trade union organisations across the Americas are mobilising to express their position on the global economic crisis. *For details, [click here](#).*

GET INVOLVED!

Volunteering 2.0: Fill out the survey today!

Source: TakingITGlobal

Virtual Volunteering is a type of volunteer work that is carried out on-line through the use of ICTs. If you are currently a Virtual Volunteer, or have volunteered on-line in the past, fill out the survey today! You will contribute to an academic study that looks at the factors that inspire youth to volunteer on-line and what can be done to improve their overall experience as on-line agents of change! *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

UN panel says world should ditch dollar

By Jeremy Gaunt - Truthout

A U.N. panel will next week recommend that the world ditch the dollar as its reserve currency in favor of a shared basket of currencies, a member of the panel said on Wednesday, adding to pressure on the dollar. Currency specialist Avinash Persaud, a member of the panel of experts, told a Reuters Funds Summit in Luxembourg that the proposal was to create something like the old ECU, or European currency unit, that was a hard-traded, weighted basket. *For details, [click here](#).*

UN panel calls for council to replace G20

By Harvey Morris at the United Nations

The Group of 20 should be replaced by a new Global Economic Council, an advisory panel of senior international economists has said. Under the panel's proposals, the council, which would be a United Nations body, would become the main forum for setting the agenda for worldwide economic and financial policy. The proposal, made by an 18-member UN commission headed by Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel-prizewinning economist, will be raised at next week's expanded G20 summit in London, at which heads of state will debate a global response to the world financial crisis. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

CLIMATE JUSTICE

This is the world's first global election, between earth and global warming

Source: Earth Hour

On 28 March you can VOTE EARTH by switching off your lights for one hour. Or you can vote global warming by leaving your lights on. The results of the election are being presented at the Global Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen 2009. We want one billion votes for Earth, to tell world leaders that we have to take action against global warming. *For details, [click here](#).*

Great pyramids of Giza to switch off for Earth Hour

Source: Source: Earth Hour

At 8.30pm on March 28, the lights will go out on the Sphinx and Great Pyramids of Giza, as modern day Egyptians join Earth Hour's global call for action on climate change. Around five thousand years after their completion, Egypt's Great Pyramids will stand as a key symbol of what can be achieved through collective action when around 2,400 cities and towns in 82 countries turn off their lights for Earth Hour. *For details, [click here](#).*

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PROFILES



The Beautiful Foundation

DONOR: The Beautiful Foundation

The Beautiful Foundation was established in the midst of a growing interest in philanthropy in Korea. It was inaugurated in August 2000, one year after the initial proposal by Mr. Park Won Soon, who was then Secretary General of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy. The Foundation is a public fund, run by participation and assistance from a broad range of supporters. *For details, [click here](#).*



MEMBER: The Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO)

The Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO) is the first generic membership body for civil society organizations in Nigeria that facilitates effective advocacy on issues of poverty and other developmental issues. Established in 1992, NNNGO represents over 800 organizations ranging from small groups working at the local level, to larger networks working at the national level. *For details, [click here](#).*

PARTNER: The Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD)

The Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD) is a leading Azerbaijani economic think tank was set up to promote research and analysis into domestic economic and social issues for the purpose to positively influence the public policy decision-making processes in Azerbaijan in 2004. Its vision is of socio-economic development that reaches all levels of society and becomes sustainable, rational thinking in public decisions and active public participation. They believe that active citizen

participation and transparent system are necessary elements to foster and accompany the civil society development. They believe that promoting the socio-economic rights through awareness programs is important for active public participation and that developing the sense of ownership is essential both for private and community development. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more profiles...](#)

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

Transparency Report II: Have Hong Kong garment companies improved their reporting on labour standards

Source: Oxfam Hong Kong

This report is the second attempt to rate how 26 Hong Kong garment companies are reporting on their labour standards in the supply chain. It shows that some leading companies have demonstrated progress on reporting, though there is still room for improvement and many companies still score very poorly by international standards. As part of Oxfam Hong Kong's continuous dialogue with the corporate sector, we believe that more disclosure about labour standards is one way to benefit poor people in developing countries, primarily low-paid workers. With better labour standards comes less poverty in the workforce. *For details, [click here](#).*

Moving out of poverty: Success from the bottom-up

Source: The World Bank

Poverty studies typically focus on people who live below the poverty line. Few studies have examined how people are able to not only move out of but also stay out of poverty. The global Moving out of Poverty study, carried out in 15 countries, is one of the few large-scale comparative research attempts to analyze mobility out of poverty rather than poverty alone. *For details, [click here](#).*

Final report from the 2008 Women PeaceMakers conference "Crafting Human Security in an Insecure World"

Source: UN-INSTRAW, Joan B. Kroc Institute

Women experience conflict as surely as do men, but are seldom fully represented during the peacebuilding process. As mothers, heads of households, community leaders and survivors of wartime violence, women help sustain the foundation upon which peace can be built. *For details, [click here](#).*

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

G20 Summit

United Nations headquarters in London, 2 April 2009

In a sign of shifting power relations in international politics, the G20 group of rich nations will meet in London on 2 April 2009 as a follow-up to their November 2008 meeting in Washington DC. Their discussions will revolve around the current economic crisis and what to do about it. *For details, [click here](#).*

Elections and paper promises: What do political parties say about the problem of violence against women?

2 April 2009 University of the Witwatersrand

South Africa's statistics for rape remain some of the highest in the world. Figures for the number of

women killed by their intimate male partners are also amongst the world's highest. With the country's fourth democratic election imminent, how are political parties proposing to deal with violence against women? To debate these issues, the Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre, Women'sNet and the Department of Political Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand are hosting a forum on 2 April 2009. *For details, [click here](#).*

International Conference on Impact Evaluation

29 March-2 April, Cairo

The African Evaluation Association (AfrEA), the Network of Networks on Impact Evaluation (NONIE) and the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie) are jointly organising the International Conference on Impact Evaluation, in Cairo from 29 March-2 April. The Conference will be international but will also provide an opportunity for Africans to come together to examine the frameworks, methods and tools that guide impact evaluation practice. *For details, [click here](#).*

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CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

Kusuma Young Researcher Awards 2009

Application Deadline: 15 June 2009

Kusuma Foundation aims to improve the situation of under privileged children in India through partnerships with NGO and institutions. As part of Kusuma's efforts to encourage research in the areas of children and education, a national young researcher competition has been announced. Papers are invited from interested candidates under the areas of education and children. *For details, [click here](#).*

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APPOINTMENTS

This week, new civil society job openings have been added to the CIVICUS website. Please [click here](#).

Should you wish to publish a **New Vacancy**, please click on [Add job](#). Please add an expiry date for applications.

JOBS OF THE WEEK

The world's largest anti poverty alliance, the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), is seeking to recruit three full-time positions at its Global Secretariat.

GCAP Campaign Director

For details, [click here](#).

GCAP Mobilisation Coordinator

For details, [click here](#).

GCAP Global Secretariat Assistant

For details, [click here](#).

These unique and challenging roles require dynamism and the flexibility to work within a diverse global anti-poverty alliance. The successful candidates can be located anywhere that enables them to work in multiple time zones using Skype, e mail and telephone to stay in touch.

See www.whiteband.org/about-gcap/jobs for full job descriptions. Interested candidates should send their CV and a covering note describing their suitability for the position to: rajiv@whiteband.org

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e-CIVICUS is a free weekly online publication keeping tens of thousands of people, organisations and programmes informed of the many developments and factors that affect civil society and their impact on creating a more just world.

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