



World Alliance for Citizen Participation

e-CIVICUS

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

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

08 May 2009

ISSUE No. 437

PUBLISHER

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Devendra Tak
Ingrid Srinath

EDITORS

Nastasya Tay
Daniel Gray

OCCASIONAL CONTRIBUTORS

Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane
Carol Baloyi
Ciara O'Sullivan
Judith Seda
Henri Valot
Mandeep S. Tiwana
Tania Gobena
Vicente García-Delgado

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,

Civil society and the G-192: Putting our words into action

Civil society is as diverse as the societies whose voices we seek to amplify. It is, therefore, impossible to sum up civil society's response to the London G20 meetings in a few neatly packaged sound bites. Nonetheless, some broad themes were apparent. The meltdown of global financial systems and the rolling economic crisis have utterly shattered the claim that unfettered markets are our best or only route to global prosperity and growth, let alone equity or justice. These crises now threaten jobs and lives in countries that played no part in the genesis of the crises and lack the capacity to cope with their impact.

[Read more...](#)

With gratitude, faith and solidarity,

Ingrid Srinath



CIVICUS is turning 16 years old at the end of May 2009!

Therefore, we would like to hear from all our members, partners and interested stakeholders about your experiences of CIVICUS over the past 16 years. We invite you to share with us your personal / organisational experiences with CIVICUS, and/or provide suggestions for us to better serve you in the next 16 years, and beyond. And don't forget: Your opinions and input might be published in an upcoming issue of e-CIVICUS, or on our website (www.civicus.org). Please write to

editor@civicus.org with your reflections, memories, contributions, suggestions or opinions. We look forward to hearing from you!

CIVICUS Poll Question

This week's question:

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

REPRODUCTION OF e-CIVICUS

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.

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 watch videos and CIVICUS initiatives on Zimbabwe, [click here](#).

To subscribe or unsubscribe: email subscriptions@civicus.org

TELL A FRIEND

Would you like to share this newsletter with a friend? Please forward their e-mail address to subscriptions@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, featuring insightful interviews, updates on threats to civil society, and analyses of current situations. Read more at www.civicus.org.

As CIVICUS turns 16 this May, do you feel that CIVICUS has achieved more than its years?

- a. Yes, of course, it has made its presence felt strongly
- b. Kind of – it indeed has a few achievements
- c. It has the potential to do much more

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

Previous question: The launch of the French edition of e-CIVICUS later this month would be

- a. Super
- b. Useful
- c. I don't understand French

Results: a. - 60.6%, b. - 21.2%, c. - 18.2%

 [Become a CIVICUS Facebook fan](#) and get updates on our activities right in your news feed!

 [Join the CIVICUS Facebook group](#) and engage with other CIVICUS supporters!

 Watch our videos on <http://www.youtube.com/user/civicusworldalliance>

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.

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

Letter to social movements, non-governmental networks and intellectuals

By François Houtart, President of the Tricontinental Center (*Louvain-la-Neuve*, Belgium)

This is an appeal. Facing the systemic and global crisis, the G20 has presented a series of measures, without consulting the majority of the countries of the world. The G20 has also failed to address the root causes of the whole crisis, expressed in its parts as crises of food, energy, climate and society. The implementation of such measures has been given to international organisations that are among the major architects of the present day crisis. The situation is becoming worse, and all countries are concerned. *For details, [click here](#).*

Statement by Association of Caribbean Media Workers on World Press Freedom Day 2009

By Wesley Gibbings, President, Association of Caribbean Media Workers (ACM)

This year's observances meet our region in a state of crisis in several critical areas of public life.

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](#).

Growing violence and crime, economic instability, environmental threats and a decline in social and political cohesion have left the Caribbean open to questions regarding its continued viability as a region of relative peace and stability. The search for solutions to the growing threats has led to important interventions at the level of integrating regional resources, negotiating and securing geo-political compacts, and actions at national levels to address issues of social injustice and economic imbalances. These have not been easy tasks to engage and our media have played a role in fostering greater public understanding of the nature of the challenges being confronted. *For details, [click here](#).*

Kampala Declaration of Human Rights Defenders

By Kampala Declaration of Human Rights Defenders

85 human rights defenders from 45 African States, and 33 partners from across the world, gathered at the All-Africa Human Rights Defenders Conference held in Kampala, Uganda from 20 to 23 April 2009. The conference was hosted by the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (EHAHRD-Net), in close collaboration with all other sub regional networks. They gathered to condemn the significant number of HRDs who have been killed in their efforts to promote and protect universal human rights since the All Africa Human Rights Defenders Conference of November 1998 held in Johannesburg. They also acknowledged the milestones achieved by human rights defenders (HRDs) and other stakeholders to assist and protect human rights defenders, since the Johannesburg Conference. *For details, [click here](#).*



Huge May Day turnouts highlight gravity of economic crisis

Source: International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Millions of people took part in May Day rallies and demonstrations around the world, as workers protested at the deepening impact of the global economic crisis on jobs and incomes. More than 1 million participated in rallies jointly organised by the ITUC's member organisations and non-affiliated national centres in France, while large crowds assembled in union-organised events across the globe, with some of the largest numbers reported in Germany and Russia. In Turkey, where the government finally agreed to make May Day a national holiday, thousands of workers took part in a rally in Istanbul's Taksim Square despite the government initially refusing to allow them to assemble in the Square, where dozens of people died during an attack by unidentified killers on May Day in 1977. *For details, [click here](#).*



G8 civil society reps meet in Rome

Source: Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (ANSA)

Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno on Monday said he would try to organise a meeting between leaders from the Group of Eight countries and representatives of civil society at this summer's G8 summit. Speaking at a two-day international conference in Rome, the Civil G8 Dialogue, Alemanno stressed the importance of ensuring civil society had a voice in the proceedings. The Civil G8 Dialogue, now a traditional feature of the run-up to G8 summits, brings together delegates from international civil society and non-governmental organisations to draft a list of issues to raise with G8 leaders. *For details, [click here](#).*

The Elders call for more aid to help stabilise Zimbabwe

Source: The Elders

The Elders have written to development ministers in 18 donor countries and the European Commission*, urging them to respond more swiftly, generously and creatively to Zimbabwe's needs by providing 'humanitarian-plus' assistance. Since the formation of a government of national unity in Zimbabwe in February, schools and health services have reopened and there have been signs of economic progress, but most people are still living in conditions of serious deprivation. The Elders are also concerned about the lack of political and judicial reform in Zimbabwe which suggests that there is considerable determination in some quarters to resist lasting political change. However, The Elders believe that in this context, the risks of inaction by donors outweigh the challenges of delivering increased aid. *For details, [click here](#).*

GET INVOLVED!

The CIVICUS Civil Society Index Blog is now online!

Keep abreast of recent activities within the CSI team and program. Visit <http://civilsocietyindex.wordpress.com> and share the link with your colleagues, networks and stakeholders. This new blog will provide CSI partners as well as interested parties all over the world a more informal and interactive way of giving and getting updates during this implementation phase, and will serve as a hub of information for you to disseminate, access and interact with throughout the project. *For details, [click here](#).*

Zero evictions for Palestinians, NOW! Appeal to International solidarity action

Source: International Alliance of Inhabitants

Inhabitants' associations, international networks, voluntary groups, NGOs, public agencies, citizens of the world, express their indignation at and denounce Israel's continual policies of eviction and demolition carried out against the Palestinian people, both Palestinians '48 (citizens of Israel) and Palestinians '67 (in the Occupied Palestinian Territories). These demolitions and evictions clearly violate international law. *To subscribe to the appeal, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS UPDATE

US applies for UNHRC membership

Source: VOA News

The United States has announced that it will seek a seat this year on the United Nations Human Rights Council. The decision to run reflects the US commitment to helping the Human Rights Council play its intended role as a balanced, credible, and effective forum for the advancement of human rights. Elections to the Human Rights Council are scheduled for 12 May in the UN General Assembly in New York. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the US decision to join the UN Human Rights Council saying, "Full U.S. engagement on human rights issues is an important step toward realising the goal of an inclusive and vibrant intergovernmental process to protect rights around the globe." *For details, [click here](#).*

EU: use trade pact to improve rights in Turkmenistan

Source: Human Rights Watch

The European Union should press the Turkmen government to improve its abysmal human rights record before agreeing to enhanced relations with the country. The imperative for resolute EU action has become all the more urgent in the wake of a European Parliament resolution adopted on 22 April, granting approval for concluding an interim trade agreement "as a potential lever to strengthen the reform process in Turkmenistan." *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more...](#)

PROFILES



DONOR: Western Union Foundation

The Western Union Foundation was created to help individuals, families and communities worldwide. The Foundation supports charitable giving programs, education and human services programs and humanitarian projects and relief efforts. The organisation has granted at least \$45 million to 1,500 organisations in 70 countries, supported 500 non-traditional students with scholarships, partnered with 150 Western Union Agents in charitable

programs, and supported over 50 disaster relief operations. The Foundation embodies Western Union's core values of integrity, partnership, opportunity, passion and teamwork. As a leader in financial services, the Western Union Company commits to facilitating global economic opportunity. With Western Union's Our World, Our Family program, the organisation supports education and inclusive finance, supporting global citizens on their journey to a better life. *For details, [click here](#).*

MEMBER: The Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM)

Founded in November 1999 in Tirana, Albania, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) is an independent, non-governmental organisation working to strengthen the civil society sector in Albania, to assist the consolidation of good governance and inclusive policy making processes through expertise, innovative policy research, analysis and assessment-based policy options. Their vision is an Albania with stronger, more viable democratic institutions and with increased public awareness and citizen participation. IDM puts its efforts into fostering confidence between political and civic actors for building democratic and prosperous society inclined towards Euro-Atlantic integration. IDM's choice of activities to achieve its strategic objectives is an effort to go beyond simple one time delivery projects. They form part of a continuing struggle to strengthen shared values and efficient interactions across the broad spectrum of political and non-political actors in Albania. The Institute has continuously contributed to the advancement of achievements in the following fields: consolidation of civil society and promotion of inclusive policy-making processes; security studies and security sector governance; regional cooperation, EU and NATO integration processes; and decentralisation, local governance and community participation. The contribution and advice of the Institute has been continuously influencing policy making processes in security sector reforms, decentralisation process, NATO and EU integration etc. *For details, [click here](#).*

[Read more profiles...](#)

BOOKS, REPORTS & RESOURCES

CRiSTAL: Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods

Source: CRiSTAL

The Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL) is designed to help project planners and managers integrate climate change adaptation into community-level projects. The impacts of a changing climate—less predictable rainfall, more frequent droughts, rising sea levels, new pest and disease outbreaks, disappearing sea ice—are increasingly being felt by people living around the world. These changes have real implications for farmers, fishers, foresters and others who rely upon natural resources for their living. Community-level development projects can play a critical role in helping people adapt to the impacts of climate change through activities that, inter alia, restore ecosystems, strengthen local capacities for risk management and diversify livelihoods. But it can be difficult to exploit this potential without some concrete understanding of how projects influence climate-related vulnerability and adaptive capacity. CRiSTAL helps project planners and managers do this. *For details, [click here](#).*

April issue of the International Journal of Civil Society Law

Source: Patrick McCormally, International Journal of Civil Society Law

The April issue includes two articles in a special section focusing on regional human rights mechanisms as well as an article on laws affecting civil society and civil society organisations in China. *For details, [click here](#).*

Ensuring development in face of the financial crisis

Source: Social Watch

The world is in turmoil. Multiple crises, above all the global financial and economic crisis, are pushing millions of people in developing countries, especially women and children, into poverty. The financial crisis is a systemic crisis, which originated in the advanced developed economies. It emerged in the

context of the global crises, i.e. the crises of food, climate and social development. Loose monetary policy and inadequate regulation in combination with insufficient supervision and transparency created financial instability. The efficient use of financial means is essential for the achievement of the international development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Financial stability is meant to be a global public good and the good functioning of the financial system is a precondition for development. *For details, [click here](#).*

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

'Democracy in Our Place' - BRIDGE CEDP Pacific Trial workshop

25-29 May, 2009 Port Vila, Vanuatu

The Civic Education Development Project (CEDP) developed from the concept of establishing a civics and governance component within the umbrella of BRIDGE. BRIDGE stands for Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections, and currently focuses on the 'Elections' part of its name. The CEDP aims to expand the current BRIDGE elections (E) curriculum to include the democracy and governance (D and G) component. The Pacific trial workshop is a first trial of the professional development module 'Democracy in Our Place' that has been developed by the CEDP project team (based at the Australian Electoral Commission and funded by AusAID) and writers from around the region. The module is designed for adult sector stakeholders in the Asia Pacific working in areas of governance and democracy, and aims to give participants the opportunity to explore the concepts of democracy and good governance, as well as their own knowledge, skills and attitudes about these concepts. The Pacific trial workshop is being run with the assistance of UNIFEM Vanuatu, and so will also have an emphasis on gender, and the audience for this workshop will mostly consist of those working in governance and gender issues in Vanuatu. *For details, [click here](#).*

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

Workshop series for NGOs "Opportunities in Challenging Times"

22 - 23 May 2009, YMCA International (18, YMCA Road, Mumbai Central)

Do you think organisations like yours would be affected by the economic downturn, and other significant changes in the income tax provisions, FCRA and funding trends? Do you need to know of the opportunities and challenges not just to cope with it but also to play a more influencing role? CSO Partners is presenting "Opportunities in Challenging Times – A Workshop for NGOs" a series of workshops in six cities across India. Ten leading expert organisations and leaders from various sectors will be involved in presenting the series. *For details, [click here](#).*

CALL FOR PAPERS, SUBMISSIONS, SURVEYS & NOMINATIONS

2009 Amsterdam Conference on Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change

Deadline: 15 May 2009

The Earth System Governance Project seeks to analyse the interrelated and increasingly integrated system of formal and informal rules, rule-making systems, and actor-networks at all levels of human society (from local to global) that are set up to steer societies towards preventing, mitigating, and adapting to global and local environmental change and earth system transformation. The notion of earth system governance describes an emerging social phenomenon - expressed in hundreds of international regimes, bureaucracies, national agencies, activists groups and expert networks - that engages numerous actors, institutions and networks at local and global levels. At the same time, earth system governance is a demanding and vital subject of research in the social sciences, which will be reflected in lively discussions at the 2009 Amsterdam Conference. *For details, [click here](#).*

Grant competition for climate adaptation

Deadline: 18 May 2009

The 2009 Development Marketplace (DM) grant competition is seeking innovative solutions to addressing Climate Adaptation in three sub-themes. The call for proposals is open through 18 May, 2009. Winning projects will receive a grant for up to USD 200,000 for implementation over two years. For details, [click here](#).

[Read more...](#)

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

OPAL Support Coordinator

Application Deadline: 22 May 2009

Oxfam: IFIS International division Oxford

Location: Oxford, England

For details, [click here](#).

Participatory Governance Programme Manager

Application Deadline: 29 May 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Civil Society Index Programme Officer

Application Deadline: 15 May 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Civil Society Watch Programme Officer

Application Deadline: 15 May 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Civil Society Watch Programme Manager

Application Deadline: 15 May 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [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 and factors that affect civil society and their impact 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](#).