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In this issue

- [News in brief](#)
- [Get Involved](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Opportunities](#)
- [Appointments](#)

Poll question

This week's question: How do you like the new look of e-CIVICUS?

- a. Really cool!
- b. It's an improvement!
- c. Try a bit harder!
- d. Funny!

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

Previous question: Readers' recommendations for e-CIVICUS:

- a. It should be shorter
- b. It can improve its look
- c. Its content needs to be more focussed
- d. It need not be a weekly
- e. It's fine the way it is!

Results: a. - 17.9%, b. - 21.4%, c. - 25%, d - 7.1%, e - 28.6%

Get involved

Lead The Action online Partnership Connecting Changemakers for Social Action
Source: Lead The Action

Information Communication Technology has not only bridged the gap in reaching out to the wider audience but it has also brought cohesiveness in understanding social issues, with greater visibility. Lead the action with its web enabled interface host an array of issues- social, political, economic, gender-based and environmental in which you as an individual can join hands to bring about the much needed change and become leaders in mobilizing others to take action. For details, [click here](#).

2020 Climate Leadership Campaign
Source: State of the World Forum

The urgency of global warming mandates that each and every one of us become climate leaders. For the first time in our lives, indeed for the first time in history, all of us must take responsibility for our climate, whether at the

From the Desk of the Secretary General

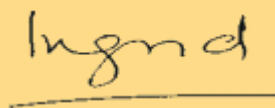


Why Aung San Suu Kyi matters

'I think of my sister Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi every day. Her picture hangs on the wall of my office, reminding me that, thousands of miles away in Asia, a nation is oppressed. Every day I ask myself: have I done everything I can try to end the atrocities being committed in Burma? And I pray that world leaders will ask themselves the same question. For if they did, the answer would be "no", and perhaps their conscience will finally force them to act.' These are the words with which Archbishop Desmond Tutu begins his moving tribute to Aung San Suu Kyi which was published in The Guardian on 30 July - more than 5000 days since her detention began.

To read more, [click here](#).

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,



News in brief

CIVICUS announces the Nelson Mandela – Graça Machel Innovation Award Winners for 2009

CIVICUS is pleased to announce the winners of its latest round of Innovation Awards. These awards are in the form of seed funding of up to US\$5,000 granted to outstanding project proposals for initiatives born out of the CIVICUS World Assembly. Last year's Assembly was the last of the series held in Glasgow, Scotland and organisations who attended were invited to submit proposals. The judges decided to make four awards: 1. "Citizen Action for Justice and Local Ombudsman Offices". 2. "Citizen Action of Organised Women in the Province of Tarma, Peru". 3. "Enhancing the Security of NGOs under Threat". 4. "Towards an African Volunteer Union". For more details on these awards, [click here](#).

Natalia murder: Call for independent investigation

By: Charles Kabonero, Communications Intern, CIVICUS

The fact that, the Russian civil society is restricted is not news to anyone. The challenging environment that Russian civil society operates in has been reported many on significantly over the course of the last decade. And any hope for change is still put in doubt by the continued attacks on human rights defenders and activists and little effort by the Russian government to investigate the vicious attacks. To read more, [click here](#).

Advocacy for genuine participation key in UN, Civil Society engagement

By: Shamina de Gonzaga - Co-founder of What Moves You?

With growing realisation that solving global issues today requires broad participation and voices of citizenry, the engagement between the United Nations and civil society is becoming richer and more complex. CIVICUS in recent years has been invited to various UN forums to speak a voice of civil society. In this context, CIVICUS has asked Shamina de Gonzaga to produce a preliminary set of recommendations. She contributes her reflection in writing the paper. To read more, [click here](#).

What's new from Alliance?

Source: Alliance

To mark the special June edition of Alliance, based around the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall, we are pleased to announce that additional copies of the magazine can be bought with up to two thirds off! For all those interested in the state of philanthropy, democracy and civil society, this anniversary year is an important milestone that offers the chance to reflect, which is

individual, community, company, institution, state, or national level. We are all responsible for global warming. We must all share in the leadership required to solve it, for nothing less than the fate of human civilization is at stake. The crisis is that stark, the choice is that clear, the leadership required is that urgent. For details, [click here](#).

We Welcome Contributions

e-CIVICUS is 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. To read the contribution guidelines, [click here](#).

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Letters to the Editor

Building skills for participatory governance in the Middle-East

By: Kassem El-Saddik

A regional workshop on Participatory Governance held in collaboration between CARE Egypt and CIVICUS took place from 6-9 July 2009 in Cairo. The workshop brought together representatives from both the Public and third sector from the region. Egypt, Jordan and Palestine showcase their attempts to mainstream "participatory governance" in their projects. Outstanding were the examples shared from the Egyptians colleagues. The Palestinians' projects showed that, still under harsh occupation, NGOs and public institutions are doing their best to give people a voice in planning and executing development projects. The Jordanians and well as the representatives from Yemen and Lebanon were actively engaged. To read more, [click here](#).

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<http://www.youtube.com/user/civicusworldalliance>

Events

Invitation: Video Conferences organized on Governance Reform of the IMF 5 - 10 August 2009

As part of a Civil Society Consultation, New Rules for Global Finance is facilitating video conference discussions on Governance Reform of the International Monetary Fund. Please RSVP if you are able to participate in any of the discussions below that take place in a World Bank/IMF Video Conference Facility. RSVP to: imf_governance@new-rules.org. For more

exactly what the June issue of Alliance does, 20 years on from such a vital turning point in history. With global contributors investigating the wider impact of those two decades of change and taking a look into the future it is a valuable and relevant resource. To take advantage of this offer, please contact David Drewery on david@alliancemagazine.org.

Magsaysay Award for Indian social worker, Myanmar activist, Filipino environmentalist Source: Sindh Today

An Indian social worker, a Myanmar activist and a Filipino environmentalist were among the six recipients of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awards, Asia's equivalent to the Nobel Prize, organisers announced Monday. Indian Deep Joshi, 62, was hailed for his "vision and leadership in bringing professionalism to the non-government-organisation movement in India". For details, [click here](#).

Desmond Tutu: my tribute to Burma's opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi Source: Guardian UK

I think of my sister Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi every day. Her picture hangs on the wall of my office, reminding me that, thousands of miles away in Asia, a nation is oppressed. Every day I ask myself: have I done everything I can try to end the atrocities being committed in Burma? And I pray that world leaders will ask themselves the same question. For if they did, the answer would be "no", and perhaps their conscience will finally force them to act. For details, [click here](#).

Urgent appeal - Sentencing of Dilmurod Saidov Source: The Observatory

The Observatory has been informed by reliable sources about the sentencing of Mr. Dilmurod Saidov, a journalist and member of the independent human rights organisation Ezgulik who collected and published information to defend farmers whose lands were lusted by local authorities representatives and denounced cases of abuse of power and corruption, thereby bringing up evidence of the involvement of various regional officials. For details, [click here](#).

Persecution of Indigenous Leaders Continues in Peru Source: Intercontinental Cry

The UN Special Rapporteur has called for an immediate review of legal charges against several indigenous leaders in Peru, who the government is attempting to blame for last month's violent attacks in Bagua. The Police are currently preparing to arrest one of those leaders, Santiago Manuin Valera. Manuin, who is currently recovering in a Chiclayo hospital, was shot 8 times as he approached Peruvian special police forces in an attempt to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the violence. For details, [click here](#).

Resources

NGOConnect Africa Launches Source: NGOConnect Africa

NGOConnect Africa provides a social workspace for NGOs and acts as a facilitator and promoter of the use of technology amongst NGOs in their daily operations. The platform is also aimed at Service Providers, Academia, Researchers, Government Organisations, Donors, Funders and Volunteers - anyone that wants to engage and assist NGOs. For details, [click here](#).

A database of civil society self-regulatory initiatives Source: One World Trust

Civil society organisations are facing increasing pressure to demonstrate their accountability, legitimacy and effectiveness. In response, a growing number are coming together at national, regional and international level, to define common standards and promote good practice through codes of conduct, certification schemes, reporting frameworks, directories and awards. This project provides the first comprehensive inventory of such civil society self-regulatory initiatives worldwide. For details, [click here](#).

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](#).



Opportunities

details, [click here](#).

Helen Joseph memorial lecture
12 August 2009, University of Johannesburg Council Chambers

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg, Prof Ihron Rensburg and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Prof Rory Ryan, hereby invite you to attend the annual Helen Joseph memorial lecture. The speaker will be Dr. Kumi Naidoo, honorary president of CIVICUS and the topic: Rethinking civil society, democracy and development: A global perspective. To RSVP email Audrey Burrows, aburrows@uj.ac.za

The Impact of War on Women and Children
5 - 9 September 2009, Mexico City

Participants from around the world will gather from 9 to 11 September, 2009, to discuss how they can contribute to reducing arms while advancing peace. The current global economic and food crises have necessitated a realignment of the world's financial resources. This can only be enhanced by effect comprehensive disarmament. The registration deadline has been extended to 21 August 2009. For details, [click here](#).

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.

Every Human Has Rights (EHHR) Campaign Officer

Application Deadline: 14 August 2009

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Location: Johannesburg, South Africa

For details, [click here](#).

Communications Officer

Application Deadline: 10 August 2009

European Network on Debt and Development (Eurodad)

Location: Brussels, Belgium

For details, [click here](#).

Fund for Gender Equality

Source: UNIFEM

The Fund for Gender Equality is a partnership between developing countries and donors to accelerate progress toward the goal of gender equality and women's empowerment. It will support government and civil society organizations in developing countries to fast-track actions in support of gender equality through a new multilateral initiative to fight discrimination, reduce poverty, and advance the Beijing Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). It builds on agreed conclusions of the 52nd UN Commission on the Status of Women (March 2008), focusing on Financing for Gender Equality. For details, [click here](#).

Call for participation in the mid-term evaluation of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

Deadline: 30 September 2009

In order to obtain a balanced and well documented evaluation of the progress made in the implementation of the Second Decade. Member States, UN agencies and other intergovernmental organizations along with indigenous peoples' organizations and other nongovernmental organizations are invited to submit information on the implementation of the Second Decade. It is kindly requested that the appropriate questionnaire is used when submitting information. For details, [click here](#).

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CONTACT US

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Devendra Tak
Ingrid Srinath

P.O. Box 933
Southdale, 2135
South Africa

1112 16th Street NW,
Suite 540
Washington D.C.
20036 USA

EDITORS
Jessica Hume
Daniel Gray

Tel: +27 11 833 5959
Fax: +27 11 833 7997

Tel: +202 331-8518
Fax: +202 331-8774

www.civicus.org