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In this issue

- News in brief
- Get Involved
- Resources
- Events
- Opportunities
- Book Reviews
- Appointments

Poll question

This week's question: What do you think will be most important to Obama and other leaders at COP 15?

- Signing a real deal
 - Expenses of climate regulations
 - Kyoto protocol
 - Future impact of not signing a real deal
 - Having talks about talks
- To answer the question, [click here](#)

Previous question: What kind of a 'real deal' do you expect at the COP 15 in Copenhagen?

- Politically -binding deal
- Legally -binding deal
- A funding agreement
- CO2 reduction agreement
- No deal!

Results: a. - 12.5%, b. - 6.3%, c. - 12.5%, d. - 31.3%, e. - 37.5%

Get involved

Volunteer for Operation Beaver
Source: *Frontiers Foundation*

Operation Beaver works in partnership with communities and volunteers to improve housing conditions and education. Most of the education projects involve volunteers working in schools in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon, assisting the students in many different ways. Housing construction and renovation take place across Canada. For details, [click here](#).

Volunteering for our planet

Volunteering for our Planet is tracking voluntary efforts to adapt, innovate and mitigate environmental issues. They need to know how much time you have volunteered since 5 June, World Environment Day, and how much more time you will volunteer by 5 December, International Volunteer Day. Help them send a message to the delegates of the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen that people around the world are taking concrete action to fight climate change. For details [click here](#).

From the Desk of the Secretary General

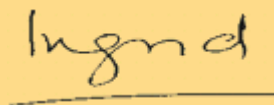
Cambodia: 30th anniversary of partnership between NGOs and the Cambodian people

As we celebrate both, International Day of Solidarity with Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War and International Day of Volunteers this week, it was fitting that I found myself in Cambodia participating in the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of partnership between NGOs and the Cambodian people in rebuilding their nation post the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime.

Cambodia bills itself the Kingdom of Wonder. Gazing at the historical splendour of Angkor Wat it's hard to disagree. The artefacts of torture and genocide at Tuol Sleng, the infamous school turned into an interrogation and torture centre, from which thousands were shepherded to their massacre in the killing fields, is less uplifting. Each face pictured on its walls, each story recounted, a grim reminder of the genocide that, quite literally, decimated a nation. The failure to deliver justice is highlighted by the trial of the first person to stand trial for these crimes against humanity, Kaing Guek Eav, better known as Duch, who presided over Tuol Sleng, which is underway during my visit to this heartbreakingly beautiful and outwardly serene country.

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

With faith, gratitude and solidarity,



Please note: We will not be publishing e-CIVICUS on 25 December 2009 or 01 January 2010.

Special issue on Human Rights Day (10 December)

International Human Rights Day (10 Dec) will mark the 61st Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year, the day will focus on non-discrimination. To mark this day and support the fight for non-discrimination and human rights for all, e-CIVICUS will produce a special issue on 10 December. Please provide your articles and commentary on whatever moves you about the theme of human rights to [editor\(at\)civicus.org](mailto:editor(at)civicus.org) by 8 December 2009.

"The Kyoto Protocol is not yoghurt, it does not have an expiry date," says a senior negotiator.

News in brief

[This week's issue is a Special Issue on International Volunteers Day 5 December 2009](#)

In search of a hero: look no further than a volunteer

By Devendra Tak, Communications & Media Manager, CIVICUS

In southern Bangladesh, during November 2007, Cyclone Sidr tore through whole villages destroying human and animal life in what was to be the world's biggest natural disaster of the year. Even before the cyclone's arrival about 30,000 Bangladesh Red Crescent volunteers had set about warning hundreds of thousands of people living in the cyclone's path and shepherded many of them to shelters. Amidst the tragic destruction and despair, stories of bravery and humanity began to emerge. To read more, [click here](#).

Marking IYV+10: Global call to action

Source: *UN Volunteers*

The year 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) 2001. Opportunity exists for activities throughout 2011 that will showcase the diversity, breadth and depth of volunteering worldwide and offer the chance to raise the profile of volunteering and mobilize many more volunteers. On International Volunteer Day, 05 December, 2009, a Global Call for Action is hereby extended to all stakeholders to engage in activities that mark the tenth anniversary of International Year of Volunteers. For details, [click here](#).

Volunteer story: ZOTE Projects, South Africa

By Mark Russell, Volunteer

Since I graduated university in 2008 I have been working in Ireland. I wanted to take a holiday which was meaningful and worthwhile, so I decided to go volunteering. After much thought, I knew I wanted to

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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Events

Developing volunteer management workshop in Mumbai 10 - 11 December 2009, Mumbai, India

iVolunteer Institute of Volunteer Management (IIVM) is proud to announce its Volunteer Management Workshop 2009 in Mumbai would be conducted by iVolunteer's best Volunteer Management Facilitators and Trainers. iVolunteer (www.ivolunteer.in) a non-profit working in India to promote volunteering, set up iVolunteer Institute of Volunteer Management (IIVM) to enhance volunteer management and training capacities of the non-profit organisations. For details, [click here](#).

International Aids Conference 2010 18-23 July, 2010, Vienna, Austria

On behalf of the International AIDS Society (IAS) and our Austrian and international partners, it is our pleasure to invite you to participate in the XVIII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2010), to be held in Vienna, Austria, from 18 to 23 July 2010. For details, [click here](#).

Youth Against Poverty: Dignity march to parliament 5 December, 2009, New Delhi, India

National Confederation of Dalit Organisations (NACDOR) invites all to join the Dignity March on 5 December, 10 AM, from Ramlila Maidan to the Parliament. Led by the Dalits, the socially excluded people from all over India come together on 5 December every year in Delhi to submit a charter of demands highlighting their plights, issues and concerns to the Parliament and the Prime Minister of the country. For details, [click here](#).

Book Reviews

Climate change and gender justice

Source: *Oxfam*

Climate change is often framed as a problem that needs mainly technical and economic solutions. Climate Change and Gender Justice considers how gender issues are entwined with people's vulnerability to the effects of climate change, and how gender identities and roles may affect women's and men's perceptions of the changes. The vivid case studies in this book show how women and men in developing countries are experiencing climate change and describe their efforts to adapt their ways of making a living to ensure survival, often against extraordinary odds. Contributors also examine how gender-equality concerns should be integrated into international negotiations and agreements on climate change mitigation and adaptation to ensure that new policies do not disadvantage poor women, but rather deliver them some benefits. For details, [click here](#).

For more book reviews, [click here](#)

Letters to the Editor

I trust that Civicus will receive and use articles that address the gendered nature of voluntary work and also the matter of 'non-remunerated' work and that for which a 'stipend' is

experience the 'Rainbow Nation'! I found the Zote Projects. I had done some travelling before, around Europe, but this was different, this was a new continent for me, so I needed advice here and there. ZOTE answered any questions I had about my project. To read more, [click here](#).

Volunteer and help break a world record on 5 December, International Volunteer Day!

Source: *Volunteer Development Agency*

Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland are looking for volunteers to join with Girls Aloud star Nadine Coyle to help break the Guinness World Record for the most trees planted on one site, in one hour, at Gransha Park, L'Derry on 5 December at 11am. The event is part of the BBC's Breathing Places Tree O'Clock Campaign. The team have a target of 23,000 trees being planted by 100 people in one hour, to beat the current record of 18,124 trees planted. Volunteers in L'Derry will compete against teams in Essex and Hertfordshire. For details, [click here](#).

Volunteering: The impact on civil society

By *Tajudeen Adebayo, Volunteer*

Volunteering is the practice of people working on behalf of others without being motivated by financial or material gain. Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. Some people also volunteer to gain skills without requiring an employer's financial investment. Volunteering takes many forms and is performed by a wide range of people. Many volunteers are specifically trained in the areas they work in, such as medicine, education, or emergency rescue. Some others volunteer in various area, such as in response to a natural disaster. For details, [click here](#).

Global challenges require innovative partnerships

Source: *IPS News*

The High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation kicked-off here Tuesday, with U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Asha Rose Migiro calling for practical solutions and reinforced South-South and North-South partnerships to address the demands of our "deeply interconnected world." For details, [click here](#).

IPS Africa launches "Children on the Frontline" on World Aids Day

Source: *Inter Press Service*

Inter Press Service (IPS) Africa, with partnership support from UNICEF, today launched a new thematic project to raise the voice and visibility of children and adolescents in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. The IPS Africa editorial project will include regular uploads of print and radio stories, slideshows and resources for journalists and media covering the pandemic. "Children remain the hidden face of AIDS and IPS Africa aims to provide a platform for them to tell their stories," said IPS Africa Regional Director Paula Fray. For details, [click here](#).

Burundi: Reverse ban on civil society group

Source: *Human Rights Watch*

Burundian authorities should immediately retract an ordinance outlawing the Forum for the Strengthening of Civil Society (FORSC), an umbrella organisation representing 146 Burundian civil society associations, said Amnesty International, the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, and Human Rights Watch in a joint statement issued today. The government should also end threats and harassment against civil society activists, the groups said. For details, [click here](#).

Confused climate sceptics

Source: *COP15 Copenhagen*

A leading British climate change economist warned Tuesday that those who doubt the science of global warming are confused — and said their scepticism should not derail efforts to strike a climate deal in Denmark. For details, [click here](#).

Climate change: What price will future generations pay?

Source: *tckctck*

When world leaders sit round the table in Copenhagen next month to try and tackle what has become possibly the greatest moral crisis of my generation, a unique responsibility rests on their shoulders as they try to decide what kind of world future generations will inherit. For details, [click here](#).

The world wants a real deal global day of action on 12 December

Source: *tckctck*

The World Wants a Real Deal global day of action on 12 Dec is the third of three major mass mobilisations in the Tck Tck Tck campaign over the past three months: the resounding Global Wake Up Call led by partner, Avaaz on 21 Sept, and the groundbreaking International Day of Climate Action on 24 Oct by partner, 350.org. Building on the global crescendo, this dynamic, growing and united movement will come together in an unprecedented global day of action on 12 December with a strong and simple message to world leaders: the world wants a real deal—one that is fair, ambitious and binding. For details, [click here](#).

Expanding global cooperation on climate justice

Source: *Bank Information Center*

Former president of Ireland Mary Robinson and Senior Fellow at the Miller Institute Alice Miller have written a new article about the social impacts of climate change. They argue that if the World Bank is going to be the default institution for climate financing, it can vastly improve its practices to live up to this role. For details, [click here](#).

India: Towards an AIDS-free society, but at what price?

Source: *IPS News*

As the global community observes World AIDS Day, India is caught in a rancorous debate about a government scheme which mandates that all pregnant women in the country be tested for HIV so that its 1.2 billion people can have "an AIDS-free generation". For details, [click here](#).

UN experience with small farmer organisations and indigenous peoples

Source: *UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)*

Strengthening the United Nations' engagement with people's movements – notably members' organisations of farmers, fishers, rural women, slum dwellers as well as indigenous peoples – is crucial, urgent and feasible, according to a new study released by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS). The result of a two year participatory research project, Strengthening Dialogue: Experience with Small Farmer Organisations and Indigenous Peoples analyses the opportunities and

received, particularly in the context where volunteers use their own money and/or personal resources in the course of their work. This is not an issue when the volunteer is a well-heeled middle to upper class individual 'doing good' but definitely an issue when the volunteer is an unemployed person burdened with a legacy of enforced economic poverty which also prevails in the community in which s/he is working. Not to say these are the only contentious issues however.

May you be well.

Regards,
Annemarie

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

challenges which people's movements face in making their voices heard in intergovernmental forums. It outlines a set of basic principles for a successful and mutually beneficial relationship between the UN and social movements, which are thought to be valid at all levels (local, national and global). Background information is also available on four existing interface mechanisms that the UN system has established to dialogue with people's movements: the Farmers' Forum of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Civil Society Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) of Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN (FAO), the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and the major group system of the Commission on Sustainable Development). The publication will soon be available in Spanish and French. For details, [click here](#).

CIVICUS Member profile

Openaid

Openaid is a recently registered NGO committed to social and economic development through good governance. They promote transparency in the context of international development cooperation to foster democratic discourse, government accountability and ultimately effective aid suited to the needs of local societies. Openaid creates networks to lobby for comprehensive, detailed, accessible and usable information on development cooperation. Openaid facilitates the use of transparent project-information to allow for citizens' participation in planning, monitoring and evaluation of projects and to foster democratic discourse, government accountability and better aid. Their main projects are (i) Aid Transparency campaign among German community based groups and aid-related non-governmental organisations, (ii) On-line project-watch platform to monitor individual aid projects and to allow for interaction among stakeholders, (iii) On-line tool for participatory evaluation of projects, (iv) Connecting people working on transparency in Germany and internationally, establishment of virtual project-teams and organisation of real life workshops. Their advocacy work is based on the creative use of web 2.0 technology to make information useful and to facilitate communication among stakeholders. We work mainly in virtual, decentralised and cross-disciplinary teams. For more information please contact Claudia Schwegmann at [info\(at\)openaid.de](mailto:info(at)openaid.de).

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.

Research and Monitoring Manager (Application Deadline: 11 December 2009)

Publish What You Fund
Location: London, England
For details, [click here](#).

Human Rights Trainer (Application Deadline: 10 December 2009)

European Roma Rights Center (ERRC)
Location: Budapest, Hungary
For details, [click here](#).

Regional Training and Development Manager (Application Deadline: 11 January 2009)

International Network of Street Papers (INSP)
Location: International
For details, [click here](#).

Research Fellows

Institute of Development Studies
Location: Brighton, UK
For details, [click here](#).

DevNetJobs: International Development Jobs Network

<http://www.devnetjobs.org>
DevNetJobs.org lists jobs and consulting opportunities arising within NGOs and CSOs globally free of charge. The objective is to enable these organisations to attract qualified human resources for their projects and activities. Over 9000 NGOs currently benefit from its services at no cost. To post jobs within your non-profit organisation, simply email them to jobs@devnetjobs.org

Resources

Guidance for organisations sending volunteers overseas

Source: Volunteer Development Agency

The Volunteer Development Agency has produced a new resource for organisation's whose work involves sending volunteers overseas, as part of our celebrations for the United Nations International Volunteers Day on 5 December. Denise Hayward, Assistant Director, Policy and Information said, "The Sending Volunteers Overseas publication is a good practice checklist for organisations that are considering sending, or already send volunteers abroad. It covers what organisations should be thinking about to ensure an effective, enjoyable and safe trip for their volunteers, from planning volunteering involvement, recruitment and selection of volunteers and the information, training and support that should be implemented for volunteers pre-departure, whilst abroad and on their return." For details, [click here](#).

International taxes on financial transactions

Source: CIDSE

Given the current political dynamics and the momentum around the introduction of financial transaction taxation (FTT), the Resources for Development Working Group has released a paper on the Financial Transaction Tax. It is an update of the CIDSE position and reflects recent developments and outlines a number of arguments to promote an international financial transaction tax. For details, [click here](#).

iVolunteer

People volunteer for a variety of reasons. Some are motivated by philanthropic values; some seek social justice while others see service as a way to enable the lesser privileged in a society. Many of us volunteer because we want to give something back to the society that has given us so much. Most times, we strongly believe in or care about certain issues or causes. Whatever the reason, volunteering transforms you and the world around you. For details, [click here](#).

Opportunities

Volunteer opportunity

Source: Source: United Way of Bengaluru

United Way of Bengaluru is a part of United Way Worldwide. They are a not-for-profit organisation registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act. They are a secular, apolitical and independent body founded to create a measurable and sustainable impact in the lives of under privileged communities. They leverage the United Way worldwide network to provide quality support to transnational, national and local companies, not-for-profit organisations, individuals, volunteers and others interested in bringing sustainable change in the lives of the people in our community needing support. They are seeking NGO partners to implement their Corporate Volunteering program in Bengaluru, India. They are looking for volunteering opportunities for their corporate clients under Education, Health and Environment. Interested NGO partners kindly contact them on, [info\(at\)uwbbengaluru.org](mailto:info(at)uwbbengaluru.org).

Call for applications, UN voluntary fund on contemporary forms of slavery

Deadline: 31 March 2010

Established by the United Nations General Assembly, the UN Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery has "the purpose to provide, through established channels of assistance, humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals who are victims of contemporary forms of slavery." Every year, it extends grant support to NGOs to implement projects that address "the most severe forms of human rights violations occurring in the context of slavery, as well as the most identifiable contemporary forms of slavery – chattel slavery, debt bondage, human trafficking, serfdom, child labour and servitude, forced labour, and/or forced marriage." As per its grant cycle, the next call for proposals to fund projects for the year 2011 has been issued. For details, [click here](#).

Call for cases: Research project on citizen participation and nonviolent civic action to fight corruption

Source: Peace and Collaborative Development Network

Do you know about cases in which citizens have taken part in organised civic action campaigns to fight corruption? Shaazka Beyerle is conducting a 12-month research project to document, analyze, and distil general lessons learned and good practices from civic action campaigns and movements to fight corruption. For details, [click here](#).

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