



WHAT'S NEW

- Several outstanding examples of visionary work were received by the NGO Section / DESA following its invitation to NGOs in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC to take part in the **Questionnaire on Success stories in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**. The success stories will be published on the NGO Section website and the more relevant ones will be posted in UN-NGO-IRENE Update.
- At the request of leading Indian NGOs from Calcutta (“**Friends’ Society**”), Mumbai (“**Mumbai Educational Trust**”: MET), and New Delhi (“**All India Women’s Education Fund Association**”: AIWEFA), a **UNDESA advisory mission** was undertaken in October 2003, by the UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator, Ms. Najet Karaborni to conduct capacity building workshops, provide substantive support to NGO preparatory work for the ECOSOC High Level Segment 2004, and assist in designing partnership projects between the United Nations, NGOs, government and donors.
- Following the visit of five women from **Yakutia International Women’s Auto-Expedition** in March 2003 to the NGO Section / DESA as part of their advocacy trip on ecological, economic and social problems of the Arctic and Northern regions, Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section, participated last September in the **Ninth Meeting of the Partners in Circumpolar Education** organized by the Ministry of Education of Sakha Republic, Yakutia on “**Problems and Perspectives of Schooling of Indigenous people**”. The Forum Declaration stated that governments, civil society and the NGOs of Circumpolar North should conduct active education policy to improve the lives of the indigenous people of the North.
- Upon his return from the United Nations 58th Session of the General Assembly, the President of the Republic of Madagascar, Marc Ravalomanana, gave a press conference on the latest developments in the United Nations as Madagascar has been elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to lead the **United Nations Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development** to implement an African rural development programme. The need for effective coordination among UN institutions was stressed for further advancement of the programme.
- The **56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference** of last September gathered representatives from 2,000 Non-Governmental Organizations, of which some forty percent came from developing countries, which is a doubling from previous years. Thirty-one Midday NGO Workshops and seven plenary sessions featured over hundred-sixty distinguished speakers including over twenty ones from UN Departments, Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies. The plenary sessions were broadcast live on UN TV. (www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/)
- A new training material developed by our UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator, Ms. Karaborni, on Professional Ethics in the Public Service in Africa (in French): “**L’éthique Professionnelle dans le Service Public en Afrique: Guide Pratique**” is now available at the UN-NGO-IRENE Website at <http://www.unpan.org/guide.asp> or www.unpan.org/NGO.asp

COMING SOON

- Responding to the Ministerial Declaration and recommendations of the 2003 ECOSOC High Level Segment, a project document on TRUTH “*Total Rural Upliftment Through Holistic Care to strengthen United Nations Partnership with Civil Society Organizations and Donors to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*” was designed and formulated by **Mumbai Educational Trust (MET)** with the substantive support of the UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator. This three-year partnership project covers all the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and involves 30’000 tribal beneficiaries. Its four main components are as follows:
 1. **Water management and Poverty eradication**
 2. **Education, Literacy and Women empowerment**
 3. **Health and Nutritional development**
 4. **Water, Soil, Floral and Energy conservation for Eco-sustainable development**

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE *To Follow*

To reduce the sex workers’ risk of contracting HIV /AIDS in the largest red light zone of Calcutta (India), Sonagachhi, a leading NGO “**The Institute of International Social Development (IISD)**” developed a groundbreaking training programme teaching the ancient knowledge from India’s world famous love treatise the ‘Kamasutra’. Following a baseline survey indicating the need of a syllabus taking into account the psychological aspect to evade occurrence of high-risk activities, the programme focuses on promoting safe-sex practices and training sex workers on how to make their client happy without sexual union. The project, which was conceived by an eminent HIV/AIDS specialist, Dr. Sachhidananda Sarkar, seeks to overpass the common understanding of lovemaking in order to promote the science and art of companionship with innovative solutions and techniques on how to deal with sex clients who are not willing to use condom.

For more information please contact Ms Rajyashri Chaudhuri, Secretary General of IISD at shomik2@aol.com and visit http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/3133947.stm

UPCOMING EVENTS 2003 *Not to Miss !*

- **World Student Summit 2003**, supported by the United Nations Association of Singapore, from 15 to 19 December 2003. For more details, please visit the website of **World Federation of UN Associations (WFUNA)** at <http://www.wfuna.org/>
- First phase of the **World Summit on the Information Society**, hosted by the Government of Switzerland, in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003. Second phase of the Summit in Tunis, Tunisia from 16 to 18 December 2005. For more information, see <http://www.itu.int/wsisis/>
- **Web Portal on Women, Peace and Security** to Commemorate Third Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security launched by **UNIFEM** on 29 October 2003: www.unifem.org/pressreleases.php?f_page_pid=6&f_pritem_pid=122

USEFUL LINKS

- **Lawyers Without Borders** (www.lwob.org) are currently conducting a global survey to establish how the organization can best serve the NGO community. Please take this opportunity to contribute to the survey and taking part by filling in the online questionnaire at the following links: Should you be a lawyer:
<http://FreeOnlineSurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?id=38006>
Should you work with an NGO or Non-Profit:
<http://FreeOnlineSurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?id=38553>
Orla Cronin, a Netaid Volunteer, UN Volunteer Programme, for Lawyers without Borders, shared this information with us.
- **Spatial Data Infrastructure Africa (SDI-Africa)** is a free e-newsletter for those interested in GIS, remote sensing and data management issues in Africa. For free subscription, contact klance@usgs.gov. NGOs involved in municipal/city Spatial Data Infrastructure efforts in Africa, please send your details to the same address. Back issues of the newsletter are at the GSDI and GISD websites at www.gsdi.org and www.opengis.org/gisd/sdi_news.thm.
- The **Arab Human Development Report 2003** was launched on 20 October 2003 in Amman, Jordan. For information and link to the report, see the website of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at <http://www.undp.org/>

NGOs' CONTRIBUTION

To maintain a dynamic and useful UN-NGO-IRENE Update, we encourage you to submit your comments, remarks and success-stories to share.. to un-ngo-irene@un.org Thank you

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For any further information please contact Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section at mezoui@un.org and Ms. Najet Karaborni, UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator at karaborni@un.org