



UN-NGO-IRENE UPDATE

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WHAT'S NEW

◆ **Mission in Mauritania 23 August- 2 September 2004.**

At the request of UNDP/Mauritania and GPAB/DPADM of DESA, Ms Najet Karaborni UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator undertook a mission in Nouakchott, Mauritania to assist UNDP in the organization and to conduct a training session to implement the component 3 of the National Programme of Good Governance (PNBG). This training aims at strengthening the capacity of Civil Society Organizations and NGOs in design and formulation of technical cooperation projects in partnership between NGOs, governments, UNDP, DESA and the UN system in general, and the donor community.

It was a concrete and efficient follow-up to implement the ECOSOC High-Level Segment (HLS) Ministerial Declaration of July 2004 for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and to link the UN technical cooperation (TC) activities to the normative and intergovernmental ones. Besides the briefing of the NGO community in Mauritania about the outcome of the ECOSOC HLS and the enhanced contribution made by the Mauritanian NGOs and NGOs from French speaking African LDCs to the ECOSOC Meeting, and the NGO capacity building in TC projects, one of the main outcomes of this training session was an integrated pilot programme for poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Dar Naim. This programme was designed by leading local NGOs from the UN-NGO-IRENE/Mauritania with the support of DESA representative, UNDP, the Commissariat for Human Rights, Fight against Poverty and Integration, and the Coordination of the PNBG with the collaboration of the local authorities in the city of Dar Naim. Also NGOs were assisted to fill out applications for consultative status with ECOSOC and 30 applications were submitted to the NGO Section of DESA. Ms Cécile Molinier, Resident Representative of UNDP/Mauritania and champion in this field is leading and kindly ensuring the follow-up with the NGO Section and DPADM/DESA of all this innovative and dynamic process to enhance civil society role in good participatory governance at all levels (international, regional, national and local).

◆ **Mission in Spain 12-15 September 2004**

The Foundation for Social Promotion of Culture (FPSC), NGO in general consultative status with ECOSOC in collaboration with Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and READI, a UN-NGO-IRENE partner, organized a workshop titled Co-existence in the Euromediterranean Space 2004 on “Migrations, Microfinance and Education and the Role of Euro-Arab Woman”. Ms. Karaborni,

represented the NGO Section in this meeting and made a power-point presentation on ‘Solidarity Networks and Elimination of Barriers: The Role of Civil Society’.

◆ **DPI – NGO Conference 8 to 10 September 2004.**

The Fifty-seventh Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) entitled Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): Civil Society Takes Action, took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 8 to 10 September.

Organized by the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) in partnership with the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, the Conference is the premier NGO event held at the United Nations each year. The Conference resulted in an excellent interactive opportunity for the creation of fresh ideas, renewed energy, and new alliances among participating NGOs. Together they highlighted the most serious obstacles for the United Nations, governments and civil society alike to achieving the Goals, including the lack of political will, inadequate financial resources and corruption. It was recognized that civil society plays crucial role in providing missing, but necessary resources for the achievement of the MDGs.

The objectives and views expressed during this Conference will feed the discussion and proposals of the NGO forum to be held during the High-Level Segment of ECOSOC next July in Geneva. So, NGOs will be able to examine today’s global threats and provide an analysis of future challenges to international peace and security, discuss the contributions of collective action, asses existing approaches, instruments and mechanisms, and recommend necessary changes, to be taken into consideration for the Ministerial Declaration. This is an excellent opportunity for NGOs to maintain and strengthen their role and partnership with the United Nations as well as with each other.

◆ **Symposiums and Conferences**

“**Healing the World: The Ethical Dimension of Globalization and Interdependence in the Age of Terror**” – Third annual Symposium commemorating the anniversary of September 11 was held on 10 September 2004 at the Trusteeship Council Chamber of the United Nations Headquarters, New York. This event was jointly sponsored by the NGO Section/DESA and Nour Foundation, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC.

“**Conflict Prevention- Youth Voices from Northeast Asia**” – a discussion panel was held on 10 September, 2004 in the ECOSOC Chamber of the United Nations Headquarters, New York. The event was jointly sponsored by the NGO Section/DESA, Peace Boat (NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC) and Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (UN NGO Working Group).

COMING SOON

- ◆ Advisory Mission in Pakistan (2-12 October 2004) – to provide substantive support and assist “All Pakistan Women Association (APWA)”, NGO is consultative status with ECOSOC in preparatory work for an international conference on “Women and MDGs” to be held to contribute to the implementation of July 2004 ECOSOC recommendations in this field. It will also help launch the UN-NGO-IRENE/Pakistan
- ◆ Preparatory work to hold Capacity Building Meetings to Launch UN-NGO-

IRENE/Jamaica and the UN-NGO-IRENE for the Caribbean region as well

- ◆ The Women Peace Makers Program at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) will organize a program for leaders who want to document, share, and build upon their unique peacemaking stories in San Diego, California (25 September - 19 November 2004). Selected peacemakers will receive roundtrip airfare, housing, and a small stipend to cover expenses for the eight-week residence
- ◆ International Conference on Drugs and Young People “Providing an enabling environment for young people to make choices” will be held in Melaka, Malaysia (27-30 September 2004).

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE *To Follow*

The International Shinto Foundation was established to enhance understanding of Shinto and introduce its qualities as one of the most liberal and broad-minded religions on this planet. Currently the Foundation is employing its best efforts and resources to help promote better methods of increasing rice production in countries that lack modern methods for improving rice production. It successfully sponsored a workshop on Economic, Social and Cultural Importance of the World’s Rice-Consuming Population during the DPI/NGO Conference. Moderated by Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section, DESA it commemorated the International Year of Rice, discussing the position rice holds in food security, livelihood and in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. By sponsoring and participating in this event the Foundation is also working to join hands with like-minded NGOs associated with the UN Millennium Development Goals and strengthen the alliance between civil society and the goals and principles of ECOSOC.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2004 *Not to Miss!*

- ◆ 30 September-2 October 2004: “Solutions for a Shrinking Planet,” a three-day international conference organized by Engineers for a Sustainable World, in Stanford, California, USA
- ◆ 1-4 October 2004: Rural-Urban Inter-Regional Conference – Nairobi, Kenya
- ◆ 4-6 October 2004: First Asia Pacific Women, Girls & HIV/AIDS Best Practices Conference – Islamabad, Pakistan
- ◆ 6-8 October 2004: GIS in the Rockies – Denver, Colorado, USA
- ◆ 13-16 October 2004: “International Sustainability Days Conference,” a global forum on climate change, land use, aquatic ecosystems and other topics – California, USA
- ◆ 16 October 2004: World Food Day 2004: “Agricultural Biodiversity for Food Security” – Global
- ◆ 8-26 November 2004: Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: 33rd Session - Geneva
- ◆ 10-14 January 2005: Barbados +10: International Meeting to Review the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Islands Developing States - Mauritius
- ◆ 5-18 January 2005: Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations: Regular Session – New York

USEFUL LINKS:

- ◆ **The Women Peace Makers Program**—<http://peace.sandiego.edu>
- ◆ **International Committee of Youth Organizations**-- icyo@icyo-indi.org
- ◆ **WFUNA**: www.unachina.org, **email**: secretariat@unachina.org
- ◆ **DPI/NGO Conference press release**:
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2004/ngo548.doc.htm>
- ◆ **International Shinto Foundation**: <http://www.shinto.org/eng/top-e.html>
- ◆ **“Solutions for a Shrinking Planet”**: <http://esw.stanford.edu/conf04>
- ◆ **“International Sustainability Days Conference”**:
<http://environment.stanford.edu/conference>
- ◆ **UN Wire** at : <http://www.smartbrief.com/latestIssue.jsp?i=16523&l=1820464>

NGOs’ CONTRIBUTION *Submit your contribution*

- ◆ **The Brazilian Institute of the Third Sector** (Instituto Brasileiro do Terceiro Setor – IBTS) recently launched the publication “NGOs- Where to Get Financial Resources.” This is a comprehensive list of 80 national sources and 123 international sources of financing to close the gap that exists in Brazil between organizational social projects sources of financing. More details at: <http://www.institutoterceirosetor.org.br>
- ◆ **The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI)** has informed us of their winter 2004 and 2005 conference schedule. Their conferences are all geared towards the responsible use and development of geographic information and spatial technologies for the benefit of society. Travel grants are offered to interested participants from developing countries. For more information please visit: <http://www.gsdi.org/upcnf.asp>
To subscribe, send a message to: <http://www.gsdi.org/newslist/gsdisubscribe.asp>

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