



WHAT'S NEW

◆ **Humanitarian Mission to Cambodia 18 November – 4 December**

Organized by the Nour Foundation, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, in cooperation with the Virtue Foundation, an NGO recommended for consultative status in January 2005; a medical humanitarian mission is planned to go to Phnom Penh, Cambodia to perform much needed Oculoplastic, Orbital and Reconstructive surgery for a population that has long been impacted by political turmoil and isolation from the global community. The medical team will be accompanied by a professional film crew that will closely document the team's daily activities in the region and produce a unique documentary for Western audiences featuring the history of the land and its people through a series of in-depth interviews with locals, merchants, and government officials

◆ **Fall Symposium: A Path Toward Peace and Prosperity - Global Democratic Development 13 November**

At the request of Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities (ATHGO) International, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief NGO Section of DESA, participated in a symposium in Los Angeles focused on global democratic development. This highly successful seminar explored and the influence that future threats have on democratic development and highlighted youth participation and involvement in democratic development. It has been recommended that the outcomes of this ATHGO seminar are used as an example for youth organizations, involvement, and initiatives.

◆ **Expert Group Meeting on Conflict Prevention, Peace-building and Development 15 November**

A DESA Task Force was established to develop a strategic framework to effectively that will allow it to deal with issues of conflict prevention, peace-building and development within its own work and play a greater role in integrating socio-economic issues in conflict prevention and peace-building in cooperation and collaboration with other actors. This Task Force held a successful Expert Group meeting in New York to contribute to the on-going work within DESA through review of the advantages of DESA, examination of existing UN frameworks and recommendation of a framework for DESA.

COMING SOON

- ◆ Advisory Mission to Azerbaijan (19 – 30 November) – A national workshop,

conducted by Ms Najet Karaborni, Senior Interregional Advisor and UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator/UNDESA, will be held to launch UN-NGO-IRENE at a national level in Azerbaijan and at a regional level for the Caspian Region and to meet with UNDP office to discuss potential cooperation between UNDESA, UNDP, government and NGOs, in Baku, Azerbaijan.

- ◆ Youth Mission to Azerbaijan (1-4 December) – to participate in the founding of the General Assembly of the Islamic Conference Youth Initiative (ICYI), presenting the role of youth in the success of NGOs and the achievement of the MDGs, in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ◆ Advisory Mission to China (6-9 December) – to assist in the organization and conduct of the World Family Summit hosted by a leading NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, the World Family Organization, in Sanya, Province of Hainan, China.
- ◆ March 2005: Release of “We the Peoples” 2005 Survey, an annual survey which analyses and reports on civil society activities, achievements and views regarding the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). If your organization wishes to be a part of this survey please visit this link by **November 26**: <http://www.nsi-ins.ca/mdgsurvey/>

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION / EXAMPLE *To Follow*

The **Africa-American Institute**, an NGO in consultative status since 1995, is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic that aims to encourage greater understanding of Africa among a wide spectrum of Americans and to bring American and African policy makers together to focus on issues of mutual concern. Currently, one of their major projects is the African Technology for Education and Workforce Development (AFTECH) Initiative. This is a collaborative effort to strategically intensify and accelerate skilled workforce development in Africa in order to increase African global competitiveness and economic growth to eliminate poverty. Although plans for geographical expansion beyond the pilot phase are underway, AFTECH currently operates in 11 African countries: Benin, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2004 *Not to Miss!*

- ◆ Youth Delegation hosted by the Indian Committee of Youth Organizations (ICYO), New Delhi (17 November 2004)
- ◆ Presentation of the prestigious Golden Peacock Award for Corporate Social Responsibility for 2004 to the Times Foundation, Bennett, Coleman, and Co., Ltd, New Delhi, India (9 November, 2004).
- ◆ “Youth for Human Unity: exploration for new values through Inter-cultural and

Inter-religious Dialogue” Seminar that will explore human unity and inter-relatedness within culturally and religiously diverse societies, hosted by Auroville and supported by UNESCO, Tamil Nadu, India (21-28 February 2005). For more information contact icyo@hathway.com

- ◆ 8th International Conference on the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure (GSDI-8), hosted by Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association (GSDI), Cairo, Egypt (16-21 April 2005). If your organization is interested in attending or submitting a paper please visit: <http://www.gsdi.org/>
- ◆ 7th Africa GIS Conference: Going Beyond Talk: Geo-information working for Africa, hosted by the Local Organising Committee of AFRCA GIS 2005, Johannesburg, South Africa (29 August – 2 September 2005). If your organization is interested in attending or submitting a paper please visit: <http://www.africagis2005.org.za/html/cfp.htm>

USEFUL LINKS:

- ◆ **“We the Peoples” 2005 Survey** -- <http://www.nsi-ins.ca/mdgsurvey/>
- ◆ **Global Spatial Data Infrastructure** – <http://www.gsdi.org/>
- ◆ **Africa GIS Conference** – <http://www.africagis2005.org.za>
- ◆ **Organization of the Islamic Conference** – www.eurazia.com
- ◆ **Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities** – www.athgo.org
- ◆ **Afghanistan Information Management Service** -- <http://www.aims.org.af/>
- ◆ **Nour Foundation** - <http://www.nourfoundation.com/index.htm>
- ◆ **Virtue Foundation** - <http://www.virtuefoundation.org/>
- ◆ **The Africa-America Institute** - <http://www.aaionline.org/index.asp>

NGOs’ CONTRIBUTION *Submit your contribution*

The Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) mandate is firstly to build “information management capacity” in the government of Afghanistan, and secondly to provide “information management services” to the government and the broader humanitarian community; promoting common data and technology standards and the free flow of information. Currently, AIMS is working on a Pilot project that aims at developing a Disaster Management Information System together with building regional capacity to maintain, update and disseminate information to stakeholders and users for decision-making.

To maintain a dynamic and useful UN-NGO-IRENE Update, we encourage and welcome your contributions. Please submit your comments, remarks and information on your success stories to: karaborni@un.org. If your organization wishes to share information with the UN-NGO-IRENE community kindly add us to your mailing list. Thank you. We appreciate the kind words expressed in your responses and for contributing information to this update.

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