



GLOBAL COOPERATION May 2006

**In this edition
Global Social Policy
ICSW leaders meet in Kampala
New ICSW Members
Conferences**

Global Social Policy Digest (GSP 6.2)

The Global Policy Digest forms part of every issue of the journal Global Social Policy. ICSW members receive Global Social Policy every quarter. The full Digest appears at both <http://www.icsw.org/publications.htm> and www.gasp.org

In this latest issue the first section (Page 3) on redistribution gives coverage to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA). The second section (Page 5) moves on to discuss migration issues. The third section (Page 7) focuses on rights including the formation of the Human Rights Council and the various plays that have occurred in its formation and composition. Global Social Governance (Page 8) is the theme of the fourth section. Here you can read of the structural changes in the UN. Also there is a brief report on the ILO consideration of the report on the Social Dimensions of Globalization. The ILO sees a role for itself in advancing the 'decent work' agenda. (Page 9). Still in the same section (Page 10) coverage is given to some critical articles on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Finally in the fourth section on global governance, for those interested in the World Economic Forum, mention is made of the WEF Global Governance Initiative (Page 10). This includes an annual report on the international achievements in meeting the challenges of peace and security, poverty and hunger, education, health, the environment and human rights.

The fifth section (Page 11) takes us into International Actors and Social Policy. Health is the first subject with coverage of HIV/AIDS. Mention is then made of the build up to the May World Health Assembly where Kenya and Brazil have managed to have essential health research included on the agenda. The MDG debate continues (Page 11) with the issue of strengthening health systems becoming increasingly important as a prerequisite to meeting MDGs. The WHO is preparing a strategy for strengthening health systems as part of their work towards health-related MDGs.

The World Health Report 2006 (Page 12) focuses on human resources under the title Working Together for Health. The report contains an expert assessment of the current crisis in the global health workforce and proposals to tackle it over the next ten years. The OECD is looking at the same issue and has released a report on supply of physician services in OECD countries.

The World Bank is in trouble again with an article in The Lancet attacking the Bank for its ineffective interventions into Malaria.

And to finish us off on a gloomy note The Global Corruption Report 2006 (Page 13) centres on health and health systems. It suggests that the level of corruption is vast in health care in both rich and poor countries.

Leading the next section on social protection there is a report of a new book that continues the World Bank push for privatised pensions. The Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank (Page 14) is less sanguine in its report about the Bank's success in pension reform.

The ILO has been busy in its Social Security Department with some new thinking on social protection. (Page 14) The suggestion is that the ILO will develop "a vision of national social security systems that countries at different levels of development can afford". On a hopeful note, the OECD suggests that in terms of pensions there is a fading of the fixation with fiscal sustainability issues and a resurgence of interest in the social aspects of pensions and a questioning of where the private pension push fitted in. (Page 14).

The section on social protection ends on a regional note with reference to the African Union advocating social pensions and cash transfers as an effective means of tackling poverty. (Page 15)

Moving on to education (Page 15) there are reports from UNESCO, the World Bank and ILO on Education of Girls and Women.

If you are interested in water there was a lot of activity around world water day on 22nd March. Numerous statements and reports surfaced at that time. (Page 17)

If you have read this far, then you are now into trade and social policy. Here (Page 18) you can find references to TRIPS, intellectual property and the Doha Development Round negotiations. In the field of trade in services the ILO has prepared a report focusing on trade in human labour titled Merchants of labour. The World Bank has published a book on Poverty and the WTO. (Page 19).

This ends the global section. We now move on to Southern Voices and Actors. (Page 19) The first subject is the establishment of Solidarity for Asian People's Advocacy (SAPA). The idea of SAPA was first proposed by regional civil society organizations at the 2005 ASEAN Civil Society Conference. The participants agreed on the need for a mechanism to enhance the effectiveness of civil society engagement with regional inter-governmental processes.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) launched a new report - The State of the Environment in Asia and the Pacific 2005. (Page 20) Pacific Island Government leaders have called for greater support to the sub-region's development efforts and regional cooperation in the Pacific. (Page 20) At the 2006 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Consultative Conference on 26 April the leaders identified a number of priority projects such as trade and liberalisation and development, infrastructure building for regional integration, sustainable food security, social and human development, HIV/AIDS, and peace and security maintenance. (Page 21).

The African Union in May 2006 discussed the continent's top three killers namely the HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. (Page 21)

In the first mention of media in this summary the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) issued a report on the state of media freedom and freedom of expression in southern Africa 2005. (Page 21)

Civil society representatives from the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries concluded at a meeting in April, "In fact, the overwhelming emphasis on liberalisation in the economic partnership agreements (EPA) negotiations proves that these negotiations are about expanding Europe's access to ACP markets, rather than about ACP countries' development." (Page 22)

The theme for the September 2006 Commonwealth Finance Ministers Meeting (CFMM) meeting in Sri Lanka is Agenda for Growth and Livelihoods. (Page 22). ICSW is represented at that meeting.

The GSP Digest is produced by the Globalism and Social Policy Programme (GASPP) in collaboration with the International Council for Social Welfare (ICSW). It has been compiled by Bob Deacon and Meri Koivusalo and Alexandra Kaasch and Mike Chai (funded by the ICSW from SIDA Sweden and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland resources). All the web sites referenced were accessible in May 2006. This edition of the Digest covers the period mid January 2006 to mid May 2006.

ICSW leaders meet in Kampala

Africa is the focus for a number of major activities in 2007. First will be the World Social Forum in Kenya in January.

http://www.forumsocialmundial.org.br/noticias_01.php?cd_news=1548&cd_language=2

Later in November 2007 the Commonwealth People's Forum will be held in Kampala on the occasion of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/>

ICSW African and global leaders met in May to plan the ICSW activities for Africa. This included ICSW's participation in the Commonwealth People's Forum and the World Social Forum.

While in Kampala ICSW leaders met with ICSW members. These included the Uganda NGO Forum and the Development Network of Indigenous Voluntary Associations. We were also able to meet with a new member the National Association of Women Organisations in Uganda. (See below). Of particular interest in our meetings was the meeting with Assistant Commissioner Welfare/Police Mrs Merinah Bashaija Konyonyo and her colleagues. The Uganda police have 15,000 staff and not surprisingly they have their range of social issues. The welfare section in the police force provides support to police personnel and their families. Part of the work involves close links with the NGO community and referral for services such as family planning, gender management, literacy, nutrition and personal hygiene.

New ICSW Members

Mission Armenia

ICSW welcomes Mission Armenia as a Category A member after being a very active Category C member for many years. Mission Armenia is well known in Armenia for its work with older people, disabled people, refugees and disadvantaged children. It plays a significant role in national poverty alleviation and has a direct impact on the development

of social welfare programmes in the Republic of Armenia. Mission Armenia has been the major initiator and promoter of community based social and health care in Armenia. It is only since the collapse of the Soviet Union that non government organisations have become a major contributor to the care of vulnerable people. Mission Armenia came into being in 1993.

Mission Armenia is taking a leading role in the region. Hripsime Kirakosyan, the President of Mission Armenia has been the driving force in establishing the Regional Cooperation Network of Non - Governmental Organizations of the Member States of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

National Association of Women Organisations in Uganda (NAWOU)

The President Solveig Askjem and the incoming Regional President for the Eastern and Southern Africa, Judith Kaulem recently had the pleasure of meeting the officers of NAWOU. The meeting occurred while ICSW officials met in Kampala to plan activities in Africa. NAWOU has an illustrious leadership with Lady Justice Margaret C Oguli Oumo as President and Mrs Merinah Konyonyo as Vice President. Mrs Konyonyo is Assistant Commissioner Welfare at Ugandan Police Headquarters.

NAWOU has a charter to coordinate women NGOs, groups and clubs. It seeks to bring about the economic and social mobilization of women. It monitors and seeks to influence Government gender policies.

Georgian Association of Social Workers (GASW)

Someone said to me that the former USSR did not need social workers as those countries did not have social problems. Thus the profession of social work is very new. The GASW was only formed in 2004. ICSW is delighted to welcome them into membership. GASW has four goals. Lobbying for the development and implementation of legal and policy infrastructures to advance sound social policies; provide professional expertise to local social service providers; develop a strong educational base and set professional standards for Georgian Social Work.

32nd International Conference on Social Welfare 16th to 20th July 2006. Brasilia, Brazil.

Theme: Social Inclusion: facing poverty and social inequality.

Check the website which is in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

For up to date information and registration go to <http://www.cbciss.icsw32.org/>

5th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health

(December 10-14, 2006, HK Convention and Exhibition Centre)

Deadline for Early Bird Registration is May 31, 2006. www.swh2006.com

Editor of Global Cooperation: Denys Correll
Website: www.icsw.org Email icsw@icsw.org
International Council on Social Welfare
C/O NIZW International Centre
P.O. Box 19152 3501 DD Utrecht
The Netherlands