

Development Update

March the 4th 2009

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1 CID news

(a) NGOs mercilessly crush NZAID

The weather gods/goddesses smiled upon us on Sunday as a group of NGO types lay our bodies on the line in the name of showing the government what we are made of. And what a game! The NGOs reign supreme (finally!) in a stunning match resulting in a 4-2 win. (Or was it 3-1? Or 5-0? Our official score keeping seems to be a bit lacking... anyone to volunteer for next year?)

Our team was quite impressive and our cheering squad even more so, with representatives from CID, DRC, Save the Children, Pacific Cooperation Foundation, Caritas, Fred Hollows (We're claiming you Vena!), and a healthy representation from VSA... and maybe a few people from those obscure NGOs down South. Minimal injuries resulted from the game which is always a bonus (hope your face is OK Tom!), and I wasn't even required to sacrifice myself for the cause. So thanks team!

We'd also like to thank NZAID for the game... in particular Mike Bird who guarded the NZAID goal making it a major challenge to get our shots through the goal (and Tom Lee for organising the whole thing!).

We look forward to the game next year when we can bring the series to a draw. Bring on the 4th annual match!

– Nikki Whyte

(b) CID/PMC forum

Registrations for the 2009 CID/PMC Forum – 23-26 March, AUT Auckland closed on Wednesday 25th February to allow us to confirm final numbers for accommodation and catering. Speakers and panels are all confirmed, and we are looking forward to a useful, informative and thought provoking forum.

The first BYO lunch discussion on 'Sustainability & Development' is on 27th February, 12.30 – 1.30 at CGA. Discussion ideas are on www.cid.org.nz in the Training folder. We are planning to have 3 or 4 more this year, and if you would like to suggest any topics, please email aileen@cid.org.nz.

(c) **KOHA/HAF learning circle**

Lee Sentes will be hosting two short meetings to share ideas and strategies related to sourcing matched funds within the KOHA and HAF funding schemes.

The short learning circles are a chance for you to discuss your strategy with others who may be in similar circumstances. Come along, share your thoughts and pick up some useful insights!

- **Wellington:** March the 17th, 9:30 – 12:30, CID Offices (James Smith Building, Manners Street)
- **Auckland:** March the 18th, 9:30 – 12:30, Tear Fund (**new address:** 34 C Stoddard Road)

Please RSVP back to Lee Sentes lee@cid.org.nz, to express your interest. State in the email which day you will be attending.

(d) **Learning for Social Change workshop**

What have you learnt through your work for social change?
How has this learning informed your practice?

An interactive presentation designed for all those with an interest in social change. Jen Margaret introduces the Sussex Institute of Development Studies' Facilitating Learning in Action for Social Change initiative. FLASC aims to increase the effectiveness of social change work through exploring ways to support learning within and across different social change contexts. This workshop will introduce you to FLASC resources created by and for development practitioners.

Presenter: Jen Margaret. Jen is a member of the international core group for Facilitating Learning and Action for Social Change. Jen has worked in adult education, community development and social justice organisations in New Zealand, England and South Africa and is active in the Tangata Tiriti movement for tino rangatiratanga.

March 16th, 12-1pm
Centre for Global Action, Level 2, James Smith Building, 55 Cuba Street, Wellington.
Please RSVP to alice@dev-zone.org

(d) **CID press release on proposed NZAID reorganisation**

NGOs ask what problem Murray McCully is trying to fix

Proposals to change the policy and status of the government aid agency appear to have no clear purpose says Council for International Development executive director David Culverhouse.

“Embarking on a needless reorganisation, with no evidence that this will increase aid effectiveness or deliver better value for money, hardly squares with the present government’s cost cutting agenda.”

Foreign Minister Murray McCully is reported as saying NZAID’s focus is too broad and that it needs to concentrate more on the Pacific.

“Given New Zealand’s limited aid capacity, a clear policy focus is essential. Changing the status of NZAID from a semi-autonomous agency which focuses solely on delivering effective aid, to being a part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shifts the focus from the long-term needs of people in developing countries to whatever suits the political agenda of the government of the day,” Mr Culverhouse says.

Fifty-three percent of New Zealand’s Official Development Assistance is already spent within the Pacific region and this amount has been steadily increasing. In recent years NZAID has reduced the number of countries it works in, to better focus New Zealand’s aid effort.

“The basis of economic development is a well-educated, well-nourished, healthy population. Getting rid of poverty is by far the most effective way to build a country’s capacity to stand on its own feet.

“Independent reviews by the OECD Development Assistance Committee and by former National Party MP and academic Marilyn Waring have judged NZAID to be a highly effective and world leading agency. We risk losing these gains if development becomes subject to the policy whims of every new government. Why fix it if it isn’t broken?

“New Zealanders footing the bill for our development assistance expect to see it helping the poor, not being used as a political football,” says Mr Culverhouse.

2 CID member news

(a) International Women’s Day celebrations

Shakti Community Council Inc & Project Women Against Violence discussion

Date: March the 7th, 2009

Time: 10am-3pm

Venue: Ferndale House, 830 New North Road,
Mount Albert, Auckland

Topic: ‘Status of migrant and refugee women in New Zealand’ – Discussions towards the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

For details / RSVP contact: Philomena Lobo sawc@shakti.org.nz, Parul Jaspal ethwomen@ihug.co.nz, Priyanca scc@shakti.org.nz.

Ph: 09 636 8514 / 09 634 9654

UNIFEM breakfast

From 7am to 8.30am, please be seated by 6.50am
Monday 9th of March

Ellerslie Convention Centre, Ellerslie Racecourse, Greenlane, (just off Greenlane Road East, very close to the motorway, parking is free)
Tickets \$35 for adults (\$320 per table of 10), \$28 for college students

With speaker Dr Yvonne Underhill-Sem, Director, Centre for Development Studies, University of Auckland. Yvonne is a feminist development geographer of Cook Island and New Zealand heritage who combines her academic interests with her commitment to advancing gender equality throughout the Pacific. She will discuss contemporary women's movements in Oceania highlighting some important shifts seen at the recent Association of Women's Rights in Development (AWID) conference held in Cape Town in November 2008 and will be joined by other women who took part in the AWID conference.

Organised by UNIFEM, for more information, reservations and tickets, contact email mjew@orcon.net.nz Please RSVP by Wednesday 4th of March if you are planning on attending.

The Wellington Ethnic Women's Network and the Office of Ethnic affairs

Sunday 8th of March 2009
11.30 am – 3.30 pm
Te Papa, Icon Room
55 Cable Street Wellington

International Women's Day will provide an opportunity for participants:

- to celebrate the achievements of ethnic women in New Zealand, and
- to share and discuss ways in which ethnic women in New Zealand can support and care for each other and their communities in times of change.

A diverse range of influential women, including the Minister for Women's Affairs and Ethnic Affairs, Hon. Pansy Wong, will address guests.

A workshop for delegates from regional ethnic women's networks from around the country will be held at the same venue between 9.30 - 11.30 am to discuss the proposed establishment of a National Ethnic Women's Network and future capacity building needs for and by ethnic women in 2009.

A light lunch and entertainment will be offered to encourage informal networking among the guests, presenters and service providers.

All women welcome. Come and join us!

Please RSVP by Wednesday 25 February 2009 to: kerry.simmons@dia.govt.nz or 04 4940553

CGA Afternoon tea

International Women's Day

6th of March

Afternoon tea – 3.30pm

Centre for Global Action, Level 2, James Smith's Building, Corner Cuba and Manners Street, Wellington.

Everyone is invited to celebrate International Women's Day. Please bring a plate.

(b) DevZone call for contributions

Dev-Zone is calling for contributions of articles and opinion pieces for the June 2009 issue of Just Change, which is looking at 'What is Poverty?' We are interested in critical articles that discuss what poverty is and what it means to different people, the current measurement debates and the solutions, particularly with reference to development and the majority world.

Although our next issue will be focused on 'What is Poverty?' we may also have space for short pieces on other current debates in development, please send us your ideas.

To view our submission guidelines, go to:

<http://www.dev-zone.org/justchange/ContributetoJustChange>

Deadline for abstract submissions: Friday 13th of March 2009

Article deadline (upon acceptance of abstract): Friday 3rd of April 2009

We encourage you to provide photographs, images and diagrams, but please ensure you have or obtain copyright. Article word limit is normally 750 words. We welcome ideas for shorter or longer submissions. Please email the editors if this interests you.

Dev-Zone is offering universities, wananga, education and training establishments, and NGOs the chance to advertise programmes and events of interest to our readership

Any other questions or for a free subscription to Just Change, email the editors at

justchange@devzone.org

(c) Oxfam quiz night

Come one, come all, to the Ultimate Quiz Night! Quirky Quizzes! Rapid-Pictionary! Speed Sculpting! Prizes!

Featuring live music from Theresa Bergman and others. Free hors d'oeuvres and cheap booze!

Friday 13th of March, 6.30pm, CGA meeting rooms, Level 2, James Smith's Building, corner Cuba and Manners Streets, Wellington.

\$10 for a single ticket or \$40 for a team of five. All proceeds go to Oxfam's aid and development work, email will@globaled.org.nz for more info!

(d) Maintain overseas aid budget, says New Zealand aid agency

In tough economic times, the New Zealand government must keep up its commitment to the world's poorest, says New Zealand overseas aid agency Christian World Service (CWS).

Finance Minister Bill English this week warned of a tough budget round on May 28, saying all government departments would be asked to find savings.

CWS has written to Mr English and to Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully saying any cuts from the overseas aid budget would be devastating to people in poor countries. New Zealand's overseas spending is critical for many of its Pacific neighbours and other communities throughout the world.

"We're obviously very concerned at the state of the economy and share the government's concern about tight times. We appreciate it will be a tough budget on May 28 but aid recipients on \$1 a day are not in position to share that pain," says CWS national director Pauline McKay.

The people who didn't create the financial mess shouldn't be the ones to lose their lives because of it, she says.

"The temptation might be to cut the aid budget and we are in unprecedented times but relatively speaking, New Zealanders are still very well off."

Ms McKay said cutting the aid budget would be short-term thinking. The long-term effects of growing poverty especially in the Pacific would mean much higher costs in healthcare and greater obligations on family in New Zealand to send money home to the Pacific.

The New Zealand government has committed to spending 0.7 per cent of its gross national income on overseas aid but spends less than half. New Zealand is ranked 17 out of the 22 major OECD countries that give aid to developing countries.

CWS is active in the Pacific, supporting aid and development projects in Tonga, Timor Leste, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Kanaky and Bougainville.

(e) Cheap auditor wanted

Kay Jones from the NZ Council of Trade Unions would like to hear any recommendations you have for quality, affordable auditors. Many of the organisations Kay deals with are small NGOs with limited cash, and also relatively simple auditing requirements.

If you have someone you use and would like to nominate, please contact Kay directly at kayj@nzctu.org.nz.

3 Employment

- (a) **Dev-Zone** has an extensive database of international development-related jobs.

Go to <http://www.dev-zone.org/jobs/> for information.

- (b) **Goodworks** also lists jobs in the development and NGO sector.

Go to: <http://www.goodworks.co.nz/home.asp>

Job ads on Goodworks are \$45 + GST.

- (c) **Vacancies at NZAID**

If you are interested in joining the team at NZAID, visit www.nzaid.govt.nz/vacancies for further information.

- (d) **Consultant seeks work**

I am currently seeking short-term contract/advisory work, ideally within the Aid and Development sector. Since 1999 I have worked with Save the Children UK in various roles and have extensive experience in financial and management accounting, grants management, financial analysis and reporting, and systems development and training and capacity building.

I have a wide range of skills and experience, including working overseas, as a senior management team member and in merger and emergency response situations in Kosovo , Pakistan and Indonesia .

If you, or any of your member organisations have a need for someone like myself on a short-term basis I would be happy to discuss further.

Kirsten Reid k.reid@xtra.co.nz

- (e) **VSA vacancies**

Preschool Coordinators, Vanuatu

Support teachers and communities to develop quality early childhood education programmes for the local children.

Programme Development Adviser, Cambodia

Help the Rural Economic Development Association develop its child-care and support programme in Svay Rieng.

Hospitality Tourism Adviser, Vanuatu

Work with Torgil Rural Training Centre to develop a hospitality and tourism course.

Strategic Management Adviser, Cambodia

Assist the Rural Economic Development Association's capacity to support the livelihoods of People Living with HIV/Aids in Svay Rieng.

Library Systems Adviser, Cambodia

Assist the National Library of Cambodia to utilise its collections through offering and promoting a greater range of services.

Nursery and Farm Adviser, East New Britain, PNG

Strengthen the skills of farm, nursery, and management staff at the National Agricultural Research Institute.

Management Adviser, Bougainville

Work with management staff at Bougainville Earthworks to develop its business operations.

Education Programmes and Teacher Development Adviser, South Africa

Develop the capacity of staff to manage the educational programmes offered at Mdumbi Education Centre and other Mankosi Education Projects.

Primary School Teachers for Tokelau

Help provide quality educational opportunities for the children and young people of Tokelau.

VSA volunteers must be New Zealand citizens or have New Zealand permanent residency status and preferably have lived in New Zealand for at least two years.

Travel is organised and funded by VSA. Volunteer specialists receive a living allowance and initial, midterm (for two year assignments) and resettlement grants. Free accommodation and insurance are provided. Volunteer Service Abroad/Te Tūao Tāwāhi is an international development agency based in New Zealand. VSA sends skilled people from NZ to work with partner organisations and communities in developing countries. The VSA volunteer specialists, from a wide range of occupational backgrounds, work in partnership with local communities to help them achieve their own solutions. VSA is a non-religious, non-government, not for profit organisation that has been operating in NZ since 1962.

Please see www.vsa.org.nz for other vacancies.

Closing date for applications: 6th of March 2009

For an application form and assignment description, please visit: www.vsa.org.nz

Email: volunteer@vsa.org.nz or phone: (04) 472 5759

4 News and Events from Organisations outside CID

(a) News from NZAID

\$100,000 for Solomons flood relief

Foreign Minister Murray McCully has announced that New Zealand will make an initial contribution of \$100,000 to help people affected by flooding in Solomon Islands.

“New Zealand's assistance will be channelled through the government’s aid agency, NZAID, to groups in the Solomons who are managing the disaster response and helping affected communities with shelter, food, and water.

“The funding will also help the Guadalcanal provincial government establish its disaster centre, and charter ships to help with the relief effort where road access has been cut.

“Having recently visited the Solomons, I am acutely aware of how devastating the floods will be for a people who already face daily hardships. On behalf of the government and all New Zealanders, I extend my condolences to the Solomon Islands government and its people,” Mr McCully said.

<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/100000+solomons+flood+relief>

NewZAID

The next issue of NZAID will be out at the end of February. Make sure you don't miss out on this monthly update by subscribing here <http://www.eneews.nzaid.govt.nz/subscription>

NZAID Magazine – Currents

Currents is NZAID’s bi-monthly magazine. Currents is available electronically <http://web.nzaid.intranet/library/publications/currents.html>

Or you can subscribe and receive a copy via post. To subscribe please send your postal details to Nadine.Koszler@nzaid.govt.nz

(b) Peace Movement Aotearoa news and info

PMA is the national networking peace organisation. Information on a range of events around the country can be found on <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/date.htm>

(c) Need a meeting room?

The Centre for Global Action, in the James Smith’s Building, Cuba Street, has meeting rooms available for hire in the heart of downtown Wellington. Rooms can be expanded to provide spaces of 40m², 80m² or 120m² with a basic adjoining kitchen.

For more information please contact Amanda at Amanda@haf.org.nz or phone (04) 496-9619.

(d) Meeting with KickStart International CEO

Martin Fisher co-founded KickStart International in Kenya in 1991 to promote sustainable economic growth and employment creation by developing and promoting technologies that can be used to establish and run profitable small-scale enterprises – with an overall mission focused on helping millions out of poverty.

To date more than 74,000 new micro-enterprises have been started in East Africa using KickStart equipment. Farmers using KickStart’s manual irrigation pumps on average see a ten-fold increase in farm net income. More than 7000 homes have been built or substantially improved by KickStart entrepreneurs.

Tuesday 17th of March
5pm to 7pm
Lecture Theatre 3
Rutherford House
Pipitea Campus
Victoria University of Wellington

Please RSVP to Sophia Lum Phone (04) 453 5714 or yms-events@vuw.ac.nz
Organised by the Victoria Management School.

(e) Pathways to Resilient Communities Event – Wellington

A group of committed individuals have put together an event with the aim of assessing the Wellington region’s resiliency preparedness. The event will be held in the Te Papa, Oceania Room, on 7th of March 2009 and will be no charge for attendees although koha or sponsorship is welcome to help cover costs.

The agenda can be found at the Pathways to Resilient Communities Event website:
<http://www.resilientpathways.org.nz>

We are asking for your participation as an individual, or representing your community group. I encourage you to register for this valuable event by visiting the website or send an email to the coordinator christina.bellis3@gmail.com. Include your name, and the organization you represent (if any). If you would like to be a sponsor for the event, or find out details of the sponsorship opportunities, or would like to display materials, please contact the event [coordinator](#).

(f) Sri Lankan NGO EMACE addressing IDP needs in north east

EMACE area coordinators are placed in the affected regions to support IDPs. Urgent Needs: food supplements and cooking utensils, medicines, clothing, tents, mosquito nets, plastic mats, water basins, Jerry cans, torches and lamps, soap and hygiene products. Long Term Needs: permanent housing, livelihood development, skills training”

Contact EMACE, www.emacesrilanka.com or e-mail emace@slt.lk

(g) Community housing chilli fundraiser

New Zealand's first ever chilli cook off!!
Wednesday March 4th in Civic Square, Wellington.
11:45am – 1:45pm

Leave your lunch at home and join us in the Civic Square for chilli con carne and free salsa dancing with CubanFusion.

One scoop of chilli for \$1, five or six scoops of chilli = full belly!

All proceeds go towards the community housing sector.

(h) National Peace Workshops

The national gathering for people interested in peace, social justice, and human rights. This year's theme is 'Promoting peace through active non-violent resistance', and the main focus is workshops and participatory discussion with contributors who have experience of community and individual non-violent resistance, and/or non-violent direct action in Aotearoa and overseas – including Waihopai Ploughshares, Alternatives to Violence Project in Jordan, the West Papua land of peace campaign, and more!

The 2009 NPW will be at the Quaker Settlement in Whanganui; Friday, 27th of March to Sunday, 29th of March, more information, including the registration form, is at <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/npw09.htm> – the deadline for registration is Wednesday, 18th of March.

(i) Get Reel Films; March film night, Hamilton

Karen Education Surviving

(29 mins, 2003): This film examines the struggle of people from the Karen state communities to provide schooling for their children despite ongoing and intensified army opposition.

Which Way Home

(55 mins, 2007): The film looks at Karen refugee expectations of resettlement in Australia and follows them to see what the realities are for the Karen community there.

Friday, March 6th, 7pm at the Waikato Migrant Resource Centre. Boundary Road, Kirikiriroa/Hamilton.

Get Reel Movies are film screenings about human rights, social justice or environmental issues that take place on the first Friday of each month. Food and discussion follow all our films. Entry is free, gold coin donations appreciated. Call 853 2192 to reserve your place!

For more information email getreelmovies@xtra.co.nz

(j) **Transition Towns events – Kapiti, Hutt Valley and Dunedin**

Transition Towns Kapiti invites you to an informative Documentary – Garbage Warrior: The Earthships Architect.

The epic story of radical Earthship eco architect Michael Reynolds, and his fight to build off-the-grid self-sufficient communities. What do beer cans, car tires and water bottles have in common? Not much unless you're renegade architect Reynolds, in which case they are tools of choice for producing thermal mass and energy-independent housing. For 30 years New Mexico-based Reynolds and his green disciples have devoted their time to advancing the art of "Earthship Bioteecture" by building self-sufficient, off-the-grid communities where design and function converge in eco-harmony. However, these experimental structures that defy state standards create conflict between Reynolds and the authorities, who are backed by big business. Frustrated by antiquated legislation, Reynolds lobbies for the right to create a sustainable living test site. While politicians hum and ha, Mother Nature strikes, leaving communities devastated by tsunamis and hurricanes. Reynolds and his crew seize the opportunity to lend their pioneering skills to those who need it most. Shot over three years and in four countries, Garbage Warrior is a timely portrait of a determined visionary, a hero of the 21st century.

For more info about the Documentary visit <http://www.garbagewarrior.com/>

Tuesday 17th March 2009, 7.30pm
Kapiti Uniting Church, 27 Raumati Road, Raumati

Dunedin has community-based DVD showings of The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil for residents in the communities of Pine Hill, Dalmore, Mt Mera, Normanby, NEV and Opoho

Monday 16th of March – Normanby Tavern
Tuesday 17th of March – Opoho Presbyterian Church
Wednesday 18th of March – NEV Baptist Church, North Road
Thursday 19th of March – Pine Hill (venue TBC – phone Maureen on (03) 473 9967)

All showings begin at 7pm and will be followed by a short discussion on community solutions to challenges of declining oil. For more information contact Maureen on 4739967 or mhoward@slingshot.co.nz

Also: 'The Great Edible Garden Tour'. Sunday 22nd of March, 1- 4.30 pm. featuring three various-sized vegetable gardens, chooks and fruit tree pruning demonstration. Unwaged \$5 and waged \$10. Places limited. Phone Adrienne on (03) 473 0995 to book a place.

Natalie Hofman and other **Transition Hutt** speakers. Transition Town initiatives are bringing people together out of a desire to explore how we – and our communities – can respond to the twin challenges of climate change and peak oil. We know we don't have all the answers but we believe we have the innovation to create those solutions. Each transition group networks with their local community on a coordinated range of projects designed to transition from high energy to low energy lifestyles in a positive and creative manner. Our aim is to re-localise our communities, making them vibrant, resilient and truly sustainable.

Tuesday 10th of March, 7.30pm, Waiwhetu Uniting Church, corner Grenville and Trafalgar Streets, Lower Hutt. Organised by the Waiwhetu-Lower Hutt Peace group, contact tel (04) 566 1955.

Information about transition towns is at <http://www.transitiontowns.org.nz>

(k) UN human rights report

New Zealand's draft report to the UN Human Rights Council examines New Zealand's human rights record, and will be considered under the Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism on the 7th of May in Geneva. The draft report is available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade website (www.mfat.govt.nz). Submissions can be made by completing an online submission form, or downloading a form to complete separately and return by email or post. The deadline for submissions will be 5pm, 17th of March 2009.

For more information contact Paul Rothville Paul.Rothville@mfat.govt.nz

Please note that New Zealand's draft national report has been structured to meet UN guidelines for the preparation of information under the Universal Periodic Review. There is therefore limited scope to change or amend section headings of this draft report. If you are making comments it would be appreciated therefore if you could keep these concise as the report is subject to a 20 page limit.

(l) Human Rights Foundation AGM

Human Rights Foundation Annual General Meeting: includes a presentation 'Creating the foundation for stronger New Zealand human rights through education', with Ced Simpson briefing colleagues on the exciting work being done by a small network of lead schools as part of a collaborative initiative instigated by Amnesty International, the Human Rights Commission and others to strengthen human rights-based education in New Zealand.

Wednesday March the 4th. Drinks and nibbles from 5:30pm, meeting starts at 6pm, St Columba Centre, 40 Vermont St, Ponsonby.

For more information about the AGM, contact email margo.hrf@ihug.co.nz and for more information about the Human Rights Foundation go to <http://www.humanrights.co.nz>

(m) Global Week of Actions for Water Justice

March 14th to 22nd, 2009

The People's Water Forum is calling for a Global Week of Actions for Water Justice. The week of action serves as a common platform for movements, peoples' organizations, activists and citizens, elected representatives and governments committed to water justice for all communities to access safe, affordable water for drinking, fishing, recreational, and cultural uses in an equitable, effective, democratic way. Actions will support all the activities being planned by groups in Turkey to challenge the 5th World Water Forum.

The group invites movements, organizations and citizens around the world to undertake actions in their own countries that reflect their own struggles, character, and possibilities. This can either be a seminar or forum about your struggles, rally or symbolic action, a concert or press conference, etc. All actions related to the common goal of water justice are welcome from more modest actions to larger mobilizations.

To share information about your plans by go to www.peopleswaterforum.org, then press "add an event", and write the details of your action. You can also send a short paragraph outlining your planned activities and engagements (including date and place), contact details, including country and organisation. information can be sent to mbmanahan@focusweb.org or claucampero@yahoo.com (for Spanish).

This week includes special dates: March the 14th: The International Day of Action for Rivers (<http://www.internationalrivers.org/en/day-of-action>) and March the 22nd: World Water Day

(n) **Weekend organic workshops – Dunedin**

Know Your Soil – Spoil Your Soil

Get to know your soil's physical, chemical and biological characteristics and needs, and the key organic management methods to help optimise your soil's health and your garden's productivity. These workshops are hands-on learning - you are encouraged to ask questions and practice methods as you go! These workshops will take place in Dunedin over two afternoons:

Part I – Saturday, March the 7th, 1-5pm.

Part II – Sunday, March the 8th, 1-5pm.

Part I – Know Your Soil – bring along a soil sample from your garden and learn about its structure, pH, biological activity and more...understand the who's who of your soil and why those problems with challenging soils occur.

Part II – Spoil Your Soil – treat your soil to all those organic goodies it has been longing for! Learn about – and apply – organic soil conditioners, fertilisers, and management practices to bring about balance and abundance in your garden – learn how to remedy those difficult soils.

Remember a Healthy Soil = Healthy Plants = Healthy People

Cost \$30.00 for one workshop, or \$50.00 for both. Location and further details on registration.

Please register with Michelle Ritchie by phone 03 454 4444 or email michelle@organicbydesign.co.nz or www.organicbydesign.co.nz

(o) Homelessness conference

The NZ Coalition to End Homelessness invites you to the National Forum at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Christchurch, 28th of March 2009. The theme is Homelessness: Prevention / Early Intervention – Whose Choice?

In Australia and some parts of New Zealand over the past decade there has been an increasingly successful push for the development and implementation of policies and programs designed to stop people, particularly young people from becoming homeless. These are variously described as “early intervention and prevention” policies and programmes.

See <http://www.humanrights.net.nz/events/NZCEHConference>

(p) Disabilities workshops – Bangladesh

A Leg To Stand On, USA (www.altso.org) is hosting a two-day workshop in Bangalore on May 23rd and 24th, 2009, to highlight and stimulate innovative ways to help children and adults with limb disabilities.

The focus will be on using local and easily available materials, and quick and effective ways of manufacturing mobility devices for disabled kids and youth.

Contact: Meera Rao ALTSO(US) Exec.Director me-ra@comcast.net or Rob Buchanan MEND NZ Director mend@xtra.co.nz

(q) Palestine events

Auckland

Rally for Justice and Peace in Palestine, come and support justice and peace based on an end to 40 years of Israeli Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip (including East Jerusalem), the right of return for Palestinian refugees, sharing Jerusalem, vacating all settlement colonies in Israeli occupied Palestine, and stopping Israel's annexation /apartheid wall in occupied Palestine.

Saturday, 7th of March. Starts 2pm, QEII Square, Customs Street and Queen Street intersection, outside Downtown Shopping Centre. Organised by the Palestine Human Rights Campaign.

For more information contact email wakim.fam@xtra.co.nz

Christchurch

Justice For Palestine presents Viva Palestina! Learn more about the situation in Palestine and

Gaza – workshops, speakers, films, Palestinian performers and a shared Halal dinner, bring a plate of halal or vegetarian food to share if you wish!

Speakers include:

- Lois Griffiths, member of Justice for Palestine, Peace Action Aotearoa New Zealand, and Depleted Uranium Education Team, will speak about why we should support the UN calls for an investigation into war crimes. Lois, who comes originally from the US, will also discuss the political power of the 'Israel lobby'.
- Mary Hamilton, researcher and writer of a Christian World Service booklet explaining the background to the situation in Palestine/Israel, will discuss Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees, and practical ways we can help the people of Palestine.
- Ali Nissenbaum, a Jewish anti-Zionist who was in Israel and the West Bank during the recent war in Gaza; she will be speaking about Israeli and joint Israeli-Palestinian resistance to the occupation.
- Omar El-Hadad, one of the imams at the mosque, and has been involved in political activities in Egypt against the American air bombing in Iraq in 1998, which resulted in him getting fired by the university. He will speak about the history of the area, and how everything in that place was peaceful for about 14 centuries, except for the crusades and now the Arab- Israeli wars.

Saturday 7th of March. Speakers are from 2 to 5pm, dinner will be from 5pm to 7pm, with film screenings from 7pm to 9pm, at the WEA, 59 Gloucester Street, entry by gold coin donation.

For more information, including the timetable of speakers, contact email palestinesolidarity@katipo.net.nz

(r) **Tibet events**

This year marks 50 years of Chinese oppression since the Tibetan Uprising on 10th March 1959 and the Dalai Lama's exile from Tibet. Following from the turmoil of the last 10th March 2008, the Chinese government is increasing its repressive measures prior to this important anniversary.

Tibet Solidarity Network has gathered together to create an open air photographic exhibition, Hope in Exile, which will be held at the newly opened Kruezburg Café (Corner of Cuba and Webb Street) from Saturday March 7th to 14th.

The exhibition will feature selected photographs taken by both Tibetan and Western photographers in Tibet and India and will explore the varying realities of what it means to be a Tibetan living, at home and in exile, today.

Prints (A3 and Block mounted) will be available to purchase at the exhibition.

Further information can be found on our website www.tibetsolidarity.net.nz

Wellington 'Friends of Tibet' will also have a stall at the Newtown fair on 8th March to highlight issues in Tibet at this time.

10th of March – 50th anniversary of Tibet Uprising Day

- 7.30am – 9am Rally outside Chinese Embassy on Glenmore Street – bring flags etc
- 12 noon – Join us at Midland Park on Lambton Quay to distribute information flyers.
- 5.30pm – Gather with us at the Cenotaph on the corner of Bowen and Lambton Quay (near Parliament) to commemorate the long struggle and suffering of the Tibetan people. Bring flags.

5 Editorial

Joy to the world – The New York Times reports that recessions are good for you! According to a 2003 [paper](#), “Healthy Living in Hard Times,” Christopher J. Ruhm, an economist at the University of North Carolina found that the death rate falls as unemployment rises. In the States, a one percent increase in the unemployment rate decreases the death rate by 0.5 percent.

“In the United States and other affluent countries, physical health seems to improve, on average, during a downturn. Sure, it’s stressful to miss a paycheck, but eliminating the stresses of a job may have some beneficial effects. Perhaps more important, people may take fewer car trips, thus lowering the risk of accidents, and spend less on alcohol and tobacco. They also have more time for exercise and sleep, and tend to choose home cooking over fast food.”

Somebody tell John Key. We could have scrapped the jobs summit for a Relax and Take Life as it Comes Summit. I’d have been first to register, and to demonstrate my commitment by not turning up and going fishing instead. But why do we struggle to maintain a prosperous economy in the first place if it doesn’t make people healthier and happier?

Speaking of the long-term unemployed, the [FairTrade newsletter](#) mentions that the UK branch has welcomed the Queen’s decision to sell Fairtrade food on Royal Sandringham Estate. There’s no mention of HRH indulging in fairly traded products herself, but her cafe has begun offering visitors Fairtrade biscuits and cakes. A Fairtrade spokesperson says:

“Even in these difficult times people should buy Fairtrade produce because however difficult life is for us, it’s not comparable to the difficulties faced in the Third World.”

Nor comparable to the difficult times faced by the residents of Royal Sandringham Estate as the recession bites – have you tried getting good servants these days?

6 Calendars

(a) CID training programme

To view the 2009 training calendar as a PDF go to <http://www.cid.org.nz/training/index.html> and click the link.

7 Contacts

Development Update is a fortnightly update on government and NGO activities related to international development in NZ and abroad. If you have any information that you would like to add to future updates, please forward it to sam@cid.org.nz. Something in plain text in MS Word format is easiest for us (we hate PDFs and JPEGs are even worse), but feel free to send anything.

The views expressed in the information provided are not necessarily those of CID. While we try to ensure the information is correct, we are not responsible for any errors, mistakes, or alterations. Notices are supplied for information only. Posting notice of any event, meeting, conference or other event does not constitute endorsement of the event by CID. Development Update is funded solely from CID member contributions and other independent funding.

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