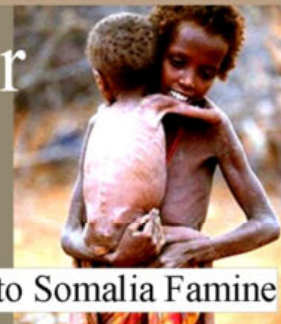


GLOBAL SOUTH

Hunger
in the
desert



An insight into Somalia Famine

Development Magazine

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Harnessing rural women's participation in ICT Growth and Globalization in Sub-Saharan Africa

Fear of a return to armed conflict in Burundi

How World Cup And Olympics in Brazil can affect development?

The not so post-conflict Guatemala

Green Jobs

and the future of environmental technology

GLOBAL SOUTH

Development Magazine

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Editor-in-Chief

Manoj Kr Bhusal
manoj.bhusal@silcreation.org

Assistant Editors

Lawin Khalil Mustafa (lawin.khalil@silcreation.org)
Ioulia Fenton (iouliafenton@gmail.com)

Regional Editors

Lingson Adam (East Africa)
Khalid Hussain (South Asia)
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Tariq abdullah Al-Khorabi (Yemen)
Jasen Mphepo (Zimbabwe)

Marketing Manager

Dinesh Poudel (dinesh.poudel@silcreation.org)

Promoters

Sudip Joshi
(Sudip.Joshi@silcreation.org)

Saila Ohranen

(saila.ohranen@silcreation.org)

Suraj Chand

(suraj.chand@silcreation.org)

Published By

Silver Lining Creation RY-Finland
Email: globalsouth@silcreation.org
info@silcreation.org
<http://www.silcreation.org>

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Cover Photo: Wind turbines have been used as an alternative source of energy for many years, however, their use has been very limited in many parts of the world.

Picture: Getty Images



GLOBAL SOUTH
Development Magazine

A Development Quarterly

A magazine where ordinary people become reporters...



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From the Editor



FIFA WORLD CUP
BRASIL





Climate change is so real; it spares no one, nothing!!!

Pictured are Hippopotamus in Katavi National Park, Rukwa Region, South Western Tanzania, whose fate is known, death; as rivers and streams dries off due to drought.

Photo: Lingson Adam/GSDM East Africa Editor

Making the most of mobiles

LONDON, September 2011 - It is not often a technology guru will say, "Forget the internet!" but Ken Banks, founder of Kiwanja.net, advocates going back to basics – using mobile phones rather than the internet, and pretty basic phones at that.

While mobile phones are ubiquitous in Africa, the internet has nothing like the same penetration and is almost non-existent in rural areas. Says Banks: "For example, in Zimbabwe, there's 2-3 percent internet penetration. If your amazing, whizzy mobile tool needs the internet, and you are looking to deploy it in Zimbabwe, you have lost 97 percent of people before you start."



Dillon Dhanecha's company, The Change Studio, was trying to distribute management tools and training through the internet, and admits it fell into exactly the trap Banks was describing. "We were developing short YouTube clips and so on, but I was in Rwanda a few weeks ago and trying to access our site from my Smartphone, and it just wasn't happening."

But there are plenty of options with even a not-very-smart phone: one of the pioneers was M-Pesa, designed as a tool for repaying microfinance loans. But Kenyans found all kinds of other uses; for instance, people afraid to carry large sums of cash while travelling would send it to themselves for collection at their destination. It was also key to the recent Kenyans for Kenya drought aid funding drive.

Tracking livestock

Another phone-based tool playing an important role in the drought-affected areas of East Africa is EpiCollect, developed by Imperial College, London, which allows the geospatial collation of data collected by mobile phone. Kenyan vets are using it for disease surveillance, monitoring outbreaks, treatments, vaccinations and animal deaths.

Even where there is no mobile-phone signal, they can record data by phone and store it until it can be transferred to a computer, producing an interactive map pinpointing where each observation has been made, with additional information about locality, even photographs, available at the click of a mouse.

Nick Short, of the NGO VetAid, has been greatly impressed by the possibilities, and the fact that ministries of agriculture and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) can now track what is happening in real time.

"When I worked in Botswana," he says, "We had an outbreak in the northwest of a disease called CBPP. It took us about two-and-a-half months to hear the disease was in the country. By the time we got there about 20,000 cows had died; we ended up killing 300,000 cattle."

Short is also hoping its use during the current drought will help leverage assistance, helping potential donors pinpoint exactly where their money

will be going. "Just watching the BBC is not good enough," he says. "This way people will actually see the animals they are benefiting."

Banks has developed an SMS-based tool, Frontline SMS, which will work with even the simplest phones. By connecting a standard mobile phone to a laptop, data can be received or transmitted wherever a basic phone signal is available, without any need for 3G or an internet connection. It is freely available to any not-for-profit organization.

"In Afghanistan it has been used to send out security alerts to field workers. It tracks drug availability in clinics across East Africa, and house demolitions in Zimbabwe. Civil society groups in Nigeria have used it to collate information from their election observers, and it is used by a company distributing agricultural pumps in Kenya and Tanzania to keep in touch with farmers. Specialized versions are being developed for health and educational sectors, for NGOs working in law and microfinance, and for community radio stations"

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Nay-sayers

But while the developers may be entranced by their tools, some dissenting voices were raised at the 1 September meeting in London. A Ghanaian lawyer, who declined to be named, said: "I find this depressing. Just monitoring is not sufficient; monitoring is just collecting data while people die."

Short disagreed: "Without these tools no one knows what is happening in remote areas, and if you don't know what is happening, you can't do anything about it... If there were an outbreak of disease, we wouldn't know about it until it was too late, and the animals were already dead."

Shewa Adeniji, director of a small NGO called Flourish International, which sponsors community clinics in Ghana, expressed wider concerns about Africa's love-affair with the mobile phone. "There are glaring benefits, but it's adding to poverty on the ground. You have people in Nigeria struggling to pay 1,000 naira for medical insurance, and yet they will buy 1,000 naira top-up for their phones. These are misplaced priorities and meanwhile the telecom companies are going to African countries to milk them of their money."

Banks accepted there had been cases of people buying phone credit rather than food or sending their children to school but pointed out that building a transmission network, especially in rural areas, costs money. "If mobile phone [companies] didn't make money, we wouldn't have the network of coverage we have. And once the network is there, people can use it... The technology can be used to do both good and bad, and you can't really control that. You can just as easily spread a hate message as a health message, but you just have to hope that people will use it in a positive way." (Source IRIN)

KENYA: Education hard hit in drought-affected north



Photo: Mike Pflanz/IRIN

The government is yet to release grants intended to cushion cash-strapped schools in the region, an official said

GARISSA/WAJIR SOUTH, September 2011 - Gains made in bringing education closer to children from pastoralist families in northern Kenya could be eroded by the ongoing drought, which has especially affected high-school attendance.

"All the 72 secondary schools in North Eastern [Province], with about 20,000 students, are facing very tough challenges," Adan Sheikh, the Northeastern Provincial Education Director, told IRIN. "Most of the parents are unable to pay fees, many have lost their livestock [yet] the high cost of food requires the schools to increase their budgets."

Sheikh said the government had yet to release grants intended to cushion the cash-strapped schools, which can no longer afford even to pay teachers.

The mobile school teaching programme, which follows nomadic children in remote grazing areas far from formal settled schools, has also been suspended.

"We hope to resume the programme after it rains, when pasture and water will be available," Sheikh said.

Cash crisis

In a region with some of the lowest education enrolment and retention rates in Kenya, high schools are struggling to keep students.

Harun Mukhtar, head teacher of Shurie High School in Masalani, Garissa, said: "We are doing our best to accommodate all students. Unfortunately, [out of] our school population of 425, more than 100 students who are unable to pay [fees] are still at home. We are likely to lose more students."

Mukhtar said his school, like others in the region, was operating on credit from banks and local traders.

However, some schools are benefiting from the food-for-fees programme whereby the Education Ministry, with aid agencies and local disaster management committees, provides food allocated according to the student population.

In return, schools use the value of the food to offset fees for those

families that have lost their livestock.

Ongoing school-feeding programmes are also helping to retain younger learners, albeit with challenges.

"Improved meals at schools have motivated parents to enrol their children," said Ibrahim Mohamed, the Wajir South Education Officer. "Over 500 new children have [enrolled] in lower primary classes and nursery [school] since April."

But there has been inconsistent school attendance due to the drought conditions, he said.

Pupil movement towards water sources has increased, affecting learning at the Abkore, Biyamdow, Dagahaley, Dimayaley and Sabuley schools.

"Most of the parents are unable to pay fees, many have lost their livestock [yet] the high cost of food requires the schools to increase their budgets"

"Our school is congested, some children have [even] come without plates and they have to share," said Marian Barre of the Sabuley Boarding Primary School management committee.

Barre said more boarding schools should be set up to enable children to learn without interruption.

A community leader, Mukhtar Sheikh Nur, said: "The situation is really bad. Many parents have lost all their livestock [and] hundreds of children are no longer able to resume learning in colleges while those who have been admitted to different colleges [risk] losing their places."

However, he said, recurrent droughts in the region and subsequent livestock deaths were encouraging more people to value education.

Nur said: "The first locals to attend school and get good jobs in the past two decades from this community [were] boys and girls from poor families who lost all their animals to drought and cattle rustling. They are role models and have encouraged many families to sell livestock and use the proceeds to pay [school] fees." (IRIN)

PAKISTAN: Suffering in silence



Photo: Zofeen Ebrahim/IRIN

MULTAN, September 2011 - Being beaten almost daily by her husband is a routine part of Saadia Bibi's life. "Ever since I was married nearly seven years ago, I have been slapped, punched or kicked virtually every day. Once or twice my husband has burnt me with cigarettes," she told IRIN in Multan, in conservative southern Punjab, displaying the distinct, circular scars on her shoulders and legs.

The "misdemeanours" Saadia has been beaten for include cooking food which is "tasteless", speaking "too loudly" on the telephone or "arguing back".

"What I hate is the fact he now also beats our daughters, aged six

“Pakistan is the world’s third most dangerous country for women after Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with 90 percent of women suffering domestic violence”

“According to the autonomous Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), 791 women became victims of “honour killings” in 2010. An “honour killing” involves a murder carried out to “save” the perceived “honour” of a family after a woman is accused of “damaging” it in any way”

and five, because he says they must learn to be obedient,” she says.

But Saadia, 27, is unable to do very much to alter the situation. “Other women I have spoken to say it is a part of their lives too. What can we do about it?” she asks.

In its 2011 report on Pakistan the UK-based rights watchdog Amnesty International stated: “Gender-based violence, including rape, forced marriages, ‘honour killings’, acid attacks and other forms of domestic violence, was committed with impunity as police were reluctant to register and investigate complaints.” Previous studies, including one in 1999 by the New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) have come up with similar findings noting that violence against women was an “epidemic”. HRW has since continued to campaign for laws to more effectively protect women.

According to a survey released in June 2011 by Thomson Reuters Foundation’s TrustLaw, (which describes itself as a global hub for free legal assistance and news and information on good governance and women’s rights), Pakistan is the world’s third most dangerous country for women after Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with 90 percent of women suffering domestic violence. Other forms of physical abuse are also common, states the report, based on assessments by gender experts.

“Honour killings”

The consequences for women can be horrendous. In April this year, according to media reports, two men entered the home of 28-year-old Asma Firdous in a village near Multan, cut off six of her fingers, slashed her lips and arms and sliced off her nose. Asma, taken to hospital by her parents, was “punished” for a dispute her husband had with relatives. Her future remains uncertain, with her husband unlikely to accept her back. According to the autonomous Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP), 791 women became victims of “honour killings” in 2010. An “honour killing” involves a murder carried out to “save” the perceived “honour” of a family after a woman is accused of “damaging” it in any way. Raped women, those who marry a man of their own choice, or those suspected of any contact with an unrelated man were among those killed. HRCP says the vast majority of domestic violence cases (not necessarily leading to murder) are never reported.

“The problem is that we are a highly patriarchal society. The status of women is low and also brutality is growing by the day,” Gulnar Tabussum, convener for the Women’s Action Forum NGO, told IRIN from Lahore. A bill aimed at preventing domestic violence lapsed during 2010 because it could not be presented in time to the upper house of parliament.

Dowry woes

As the Thomson Reuters Foundation report points out, Pakistan also has one of the world’s highest rates of murders related to dowry - the money and other gifts given to women at the time of

marriage. The tensions this causes, and the violence it can lead to, are experienced by many women.

One of them is Humaira Hamid (not her real name), 21, married a year ago. “My husband and his family kept on demanding more and more gifts from my parents - TV sets, furniture, a washing machine and other items, even though they are not rich and had already given a lot at the time of the actual marriage. Even now the pressure continues, and I am beaten each time a present does not turn up after they have asked for it,” she told IRIN. Like many other women in the same situation, she does not know what to do or where to turn to. “We are all helpless. My parents will never take me back given the stigma of divorce. It is unacceptable for a woman to live on her own even though I am educated and could support myself and so I have no choice but to try and bear my husband’s violence,” she said. “At least some of my friends are in the same situation - others never talk about it.” (IRIN)

2,200 households better off in South Sudan

Abdullah Ampilan/ September 2011

With failed rains, conflict and poor infrastructure, many communities in South Sudan struggle to get enough to eat.



Justin Madut tends his new groundnut and sorghum fields.

Justin Madut’s family was one of many badly affected by a long drought that lasted for six months. They had only one meal a day during the drought. He even sold his animals to meet the needs of his five growing children. Now, with the help of an Oxfam project, things are starting to change.

“We have been suffering from hunger due to long drought in the recent years. I am hoping that with the diversification of food sources, we can cope with the drought without being hungry,” says Justin, a 32-year-old farmer from the remote village of Malual Kuel in Gogrial East County.

Improving farming practices

Justin’s family is one of the 2,235 households in 11 villages that have benefited from Oxfam’s food security program, distributing seeds and tools. “Oxfam’s workers are assisting us not only with the seeds and tools but also giving us training to improve our farming practices,” he adds. With the seeds, Justin is now growing different crops such as sorghum, groundnuts, cassava and a variety of vegetables. He is a member of “seed multiplier” groups targeted by Oxfam to increase production of groundnuts and sorghum.

Farmers in this area have been used to the conventional farming system. They till the land using a simple and sharpened piece of metal called a “pur”, which takes a lot of time and effort before they can finish cultivating a small portion of the field.

Ox-ploughs and vegetable gardens

Justin’s wife, Abang, with sorghum just harvested from their farm. Oxfam is addressing this situation by introducing ox-ploughs to groups of farmers, and training them how to operate and maintain the new ploughs.

The project also promotes vegetable production by women. At least 30 women in ten villages are receiving training and support to grow vegetables, with each group receiving six varieties of vegetables and gardening tools.

Local farmers also raise cattle as a source of food and income. During drought there is a high mortality rate of these animals. Tribal conflicts are also common because of competition for grazing grounds and water sources. (Source Oxfam UK)



HUNGER IN THE DESERT



By Mohamud Hassan
GSDM Correspondent, Somalia
amuniessa@yahoo.com

The fate of the toddler girl, until today, is still unknown. The image of the emaciated unclothed crawling girl is still fresh in many people's minds. With her knees bended, elbows firmly placed on the ground; hands clutching the barren land and her head sunken in despair below the scorching sun the picture stunned the world. Just a few meters from the struggling girl stood a lurking vulture ready to pounce. Whether she reached her destination, a feeding center reported to be kilometers away seemed unlikely. That was in 1993 and the country was Sudan. Now almost two decades later Somalia is grappling with worst famine in 60 years. A scenario that prompted the United Nation's to term it as the world's worst humanitarian crisis; a fitting description.

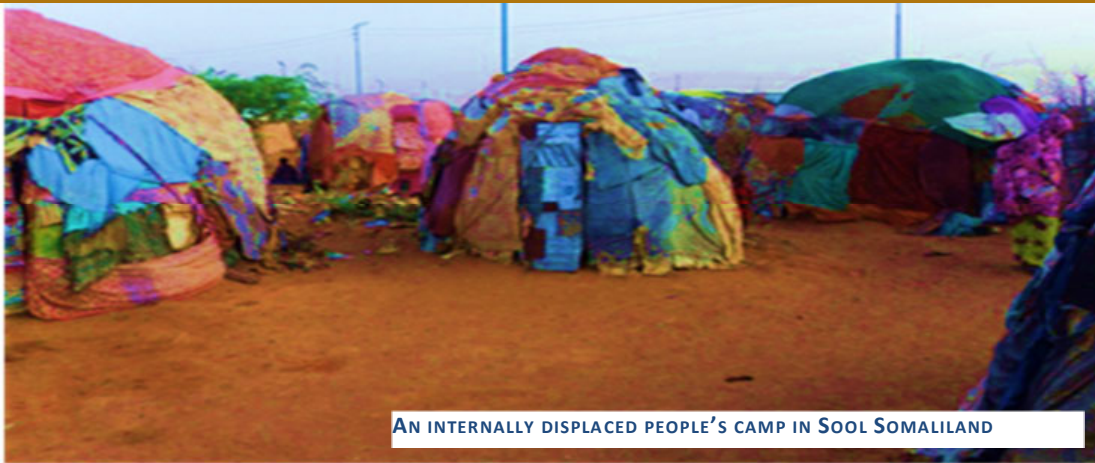
"Half a million people are reported to have fled since the beginning of the year. Six regions inside Somalia have been declared famine stricken while 12 million people across all age groups are affected in the horn of Africa region"

"tens of thousands have died, many of them are children"

"Stories of women and children who had trekked hundreds of miles for weeks, along the way burying their dead was intensely disturbing"

The signs were already bad early in the beginning of the year. The rains had failed and harvest was poor. Soon after that the pastoralists started losing their livestock in numbers and it was when the migration began. Slowly the desperate Somalis started fleeing to seek refuge in the neighboring Kenya and Ethiopia.

It is during the June and July period that the international media's coverage of the sheer extent of the unfolding calamity grabbed the world's attention. First it was a southward trickle towards Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya near the vast and porous Somalia-Kenya border. Stories



AN INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE'S CAMP IN SOOL SOMALILAND

of women and children who had trekked hundreds of miles for weeks, along the way burying their dead was intensely disturbing. Most carried nothing with them and cared for nothing. A shelter for survival was of immediate importance. What their dusty feet, tattered clothes, tired eyes, crinkled skins and thin bodies revealed was a testament of what they had been through; physically at least.

Officials at the Dadaab refugee camp and aid agency groups on the Kenyan side of the border were overwhelmed by the numbers of arrivals reporting to the camp. Dadaab, the officials claimed, was under-facilitated and under-serviced and thus they were not ready for the influx. By the end of July 2011, UNHCR reported that 70,000 Somalis had reported to the camp. This is a camp that was established in 1991 after the break of Somalia's civil war. It could only cater for about 90,000 people but today it accommodates over 360,000 with the number growing each day. In all a whooping half a million are reported to have fled since the beginning of the year, six regions inside Somalia have been declared famine stricken while 12 million people across all age groups are affected in the horn of Africa region. Inside Somalia the situation is even grimmer, it is estimated that 4 million people are in danger of starvation. According to the UN's Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU), tens of thousands have died, many of them are children.

Somalia has had its fair share of struggles in the past. Civil strife, terrorism and piracy are just some of the problems. Most part of Central and Southern Somalia are largely controlled by Islamist affiliated groups; in 2010 a ban was imposed on foreign aid agencies operating in the area. Accusation against the aid groups for alleged un-Islamic practices had led to the ban. The World

Food Program (WFP) had before other aid groups been banned for allegedly distributing relief food past before their due date. Plea from aid agencies and severity of the famine situation led to the ban being 'lifted' in the middle of this year but still aid flow to the people affected has not been smooth. The Islamist groups maintain that the extent and severity of the famine situation is an exaggeration by the West.

Getting aid reach people in these areas has been the most challenging task as coordination has to take place

in stable breakaway region of Somaliland, Kenya and Ethiopia. For aid groups this is a nightmare as the worst stricken areas are in South and Central Somalia.

“The Islamist groups maintain that the extent and severity of the famine situation is an exaggeration by the West”

“Millions of dollars of aid has already been channeled towards helping those in need but the UN warns that a further 1.4 billion dollars is needed”

Response to the calamity has been slow as the UK Secretary of States for International Development Andrew Mitchell observed on his visit to Somaliland. He said that response by many European and developed countries to the crisis in the Horn of Africa had been "derisory and dangerously inadequate." Millions of dollars of aid has already been channeled towards helping those in need but the UN warns that a further 1.4 billion dollars is needed.

This is probably the most challenging time for Somalia and maybe a chance for its people to reflect and rediscover the spirit of nationhood that defined its past moderate values and freedom. Problems like famine are not just helped by aid and donations; they are cyclic in nature and sooner or later they strike again. (Picture sources Life/Creative Commons, Abdirashid Abdi/Caritas)



Surprising win for Cristina Kirchner and Argentina's Future

The Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner's resounding victory in August's primary elections signals an almost guaranteed win in the coming presidential elections this October. Victoria Peel-Yates looks back over her first four years in office and asks what the future holds for *Kirchnerismo*.

CFK, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, demolished her competitors and silenced her critics with a whopping 50% of the vote in Argentina's first ever primary elections. Critics argued that the elections were merely an expensive poll designed to measure Kirchner's popularity, given that each party had already selected their candidates. These accusations were vehemently dismissed by her running mate and Economic Minister, Amado Boudou. Her nearest two competitors managed to gain a mere 12% of the vote each, thereby making the upcoming presidential elections almost a dead cert, since CFK will now need 45% of the vote, or 40% with a 10-point margin, to avoid a run-off.

The results of the election must have come as a surprise even to CFK herself. Her trial record in the last four tumultuous years in office have seen her locked into combat with everyone from farmers, over export taxes, to private media which she accuses of political slander, whilst they accuse her of censure. Add to this growing inflation and other fiscal instabilities, government corruption, unpopular economic policies which have seen increasing amounts of state intervention, and the nationalisation of over \$30 billion in private pension funds, and it would be no surprise to see her approval rating plummet from its dizzying heights of nearly 80% in 2007, when she first took office.

"The results of the election must have come as a surprise even to CFK herself. Her trial record in the last four tumultuous years in office have seen her locked into combat with everyone from farmers, over export taxes, to private media which she accuses of political slander, whilst they accuse her of censure"

"Her heavy-handed and interventionist policies will unlikely withstand another four-year term, and public sympathy over Nestor's death will not last forever. She should try to follow the trend of the new Latin American left and channel her inner Lula, not Chavez"

There are several factors which have contributed to the surprising election results. The death of her husband and predecessor, Nestor Kirchner, in October last year unleashed an outpouring of public sympathy on which CFK still appears to be riding high. Kirchner was himself a popular figure, credited by many with having saved the Argentinean economy following the 2001 crisis by defying the IMF and implementing a Peronist economic model. It is thought that a recent increase in consumer activity, largely fuelled by generous government handouts, may have won her a considerable amount of support by bolstering the economy. Finally, lack of a convincing opposition may have left many voters feeling that there was no other choice.

So what can we expect from a second CFK term in office? Some critics argue that she harbours plans to change the constitution to enable her to run for a third term, something which is currently illegal under Argentinian law. However, Mrs Kirchner has so far given no indication that this may be her intention. Aldo Abram, an economist in Buenos Aires who has been critical of much of her fiscal policy, expects government intervention in the economy to increase (last year the government nationalised a chunk of the central bank's reserves in order to increase the bank's funding of the public sector).

It has become increasingly clear that CFK is not afraid to silence her critics; recently some Argentinian economists who had published inflation estimates higher than those published by the government found themselves facing fines and criminal charges. And it's not just the financial sector that's worried by these bullying policies. Journalists fear a clampdown on press freedoms and censure.

During a press conference following the primaries, CFK announced that she intended to limit foreign ownership of Argentina's rural land to just 20%; perhaps a badly timed move from the point of view of the economy given that foreign companies are snapping up land worldwide. However, it may turn out to be a very sensible long-term plan since produce of fertile arable lands like those of Argentina are set to be increasingly in demand as rapidly growing economies struggle to meet their domestic food and agricultural production needs. CFK herself indicated her awareness of this, saying: "It's a very important point to demonstrate to society, to the productive sector and to the world, the ideas that the political system has about a strategic and vital resource like land".

If CFK does win another term in office, she will do well not to forget the low of 30% approval rating to which she and her party plunged in 2009. Her heavy-handed and interventionist policies will unlikely withstand another four-year term, and public sympathy over Nestor's death will not last forever. She should try to follow the trend of the new Latin American left and channel her inner Lula, not Chavez.

(Right, Cristina Fernández)



By Victoria Lucy Peel Yates
GSDM Correspondent, Argentina
victoriapeelyates@gmail.com



Harnessing rural women's participation in ICT Growth and Globalisation in Sub-Saharan Africa



By Irene Nyambura Mwangi
GSDM Correspondent, Development & Democracy in Africa

The Sub-Saharan Woman in the rural areas may not have benefited fully from efforts of non-governmental and government initiatives in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action that seeks to empower the woman and closes the existing gap in steering women towards an all-round development.

The mobile phone, Web 2, tools such as email, blogs, podcasts, social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook and online videos such as Blip.TV have brought in new ways of communicating issues of Human Rights, empowerment and development to many people in Africa. Women, especially in the rural areas, form majority of rural population, are guardians of the family and as such the hub of rural livelihoods, and assumingly ought to be a core part of strategies for creation of awareness and utilisation of such tools but this is not what is happening in most areas.

“The mobile phone has greatly contributed to women's participation in development. Mobile banking has enabled small-scale businesspersons in most rural areas to access bank procedures such as withdrawals, savings and even easier credit facilities, all from their mobile phones”

As is common with new developments, there is an equally daunting rise in new threats to women's rights and pervasion of gender violence through such new ICTs mentioned above, especially with Internet that is readily accessible through mobile phones even in areas that were previously thought to be unreachable to the information pool of the Internet. Such threats include the prevalence of pornography and a rise in human trafficking which target poor women from developing countries.

The gap between the users and beneficiaries of ICTs has widened at magnified rates and unless major and urgent interventions are sought, the effects will be detrimental to the development process in Africa. Thus, there is need to strengthen partnerships between government bodies, non-governmental organisations and the private sector at regional, national and local levels towards revisiting existing, as well as innovating new responses and initiatives that are empowering to women.

The mobile phone has greatly contributed to women's participation in development. Mobile banking has enabled small-scale businesspersons in most rural areas to access bank procedures such as withdrawals, savings and even easier credit facilities, all from their mobile phones. This has enabled a population that was previously invisible to many banks now become most sought after by micro-finance institutions. A good example is *Mpesa*- A mobile banking facility initiated by a

mobile operator in Kenya *Safaricom*, whose research was funded by the DFID. The model, was the first in use in Africa and has been replicated by other mobile phone operators in the country and in the continent. On a higher level, *Safaricom*, teamed up with a local microfinance bank, Equity Bank and developed the *Mkesho* platform that enables users to make bank account deposits and withdrawals from their Mobile phones; this has proved very practical for small-scale businesspersons in remote areas with no Bank networks. The *Mpesa* business outlets that allow

“The *Ushahidi* platform was widely used by civil societies and international bodies to monitor and curb further violence after Kenya’s disputed General Elections in December 2007”

people to send and receive money through their mobile phones have now penetrated such areas. This has also been a source of employment, distribution of wealth and economic growth in developing countries like Kenya.

In emerging democracies, especially in Africa, women have been marginalised in participating in electoral processes either due to violence involved or due to inadequate information. With mobile phone technology, the civil society in many parts of Africa has actively trained women to send SMS text alerts on electoral malpractices and violence thereby actively engaging women as peace stewards and encouraging them to monitor and actively participate in building their societies through participation in the electoral process. The *Ushahidi* (Ushahidi is Swahili word for testify) platform combines use of text messages by civilians to send out alerts on cases of electoral violence to a central hub that maps the geographical locations on the areas and specific incidences on their website to parties working on elections and post elections monitoring. The *Ushahidi* platform was widely used by civil societies and international bodies to monitor and curb further violence after Kenya’s disputed General Elections in December 2007. NGOs that worked to help rape victims during the violence used the platform to send out much needed medication and post trauma counselling to women in very remote rural areas of Kenya.

There has been an increase of awareness of gender based and domestic violence; because information on occurrence of such cases is now readily available to traditional media outfits (i.e. Radio, TV and newspapers). This is because more women are now able to report such cases via mobile phone help lines and alert texts to media houses and non-governmental organisations that work to reduce violence against women.

“Community Radio continues to be a powerful tool for educating women in rural areas on social, political and economic issues”

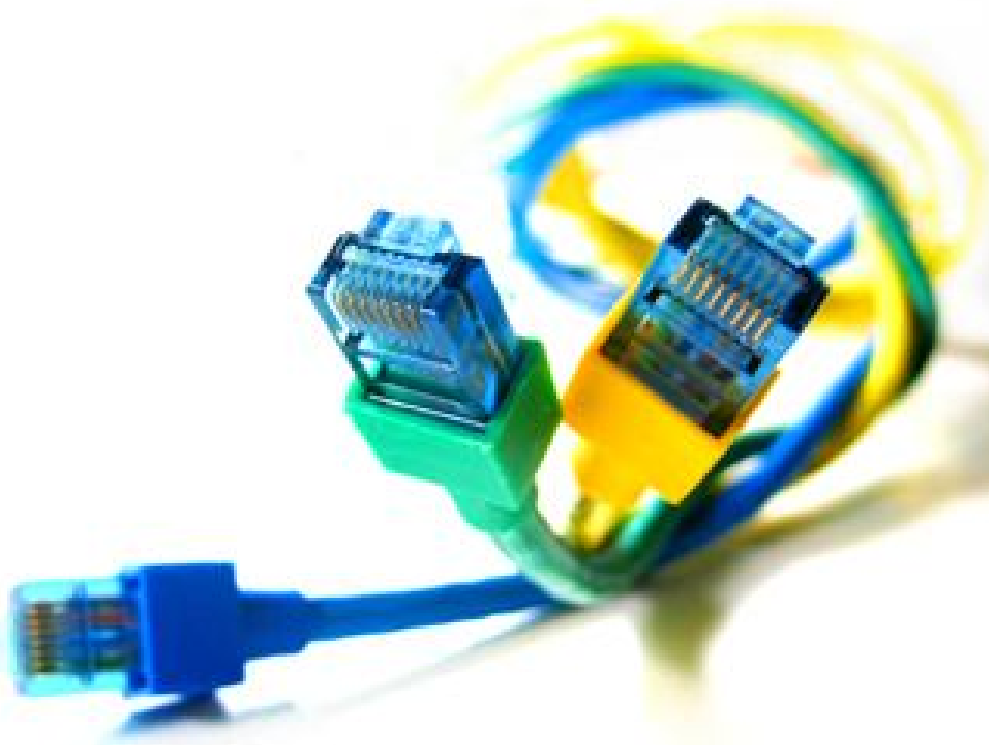
Women’s groups are also adopting to the use of the internet for social networking with similar groups all over the world. Social networks such as Facebook and Twitter are now being utilised by organisations to share information on issues, events and projects hence being considered now as an important knowledge sharing platform.

Even in areas where there is poor road infrastructure and no electricity, 3G phones have become an important asset for women’s groups. Through such phones, they can download podcasts and video clips of women’s conferences and share the information by use of generator powered DVD players and TVs; thereby allowing their remote participation in global women’s emancipation process.

Community Radio continues to be a powerful tool for educating women in rural areas on social, political and economic issues affecting their lives and that of their families. This is because community radio content is locally produced and equally relevant. By use of mobile phone feedback lines and radio theatre at the stations, it is possible to produce more relevant and engaging content for women’s emancipation.

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As there emerges a younger generation of women who are conversant with the emerging technologies, it is important to use and share their skills and talents with older women in development need to help bridge the knowledge gap for our future generation. (Photo: Midnight Rider, Irene can be reached at irenemwangi@gmail.com)



How World Cup and Olympics in Brazil can affect development?

Sport arrangements like the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics may increase the differences between rich and poor residents in Brazil. The first inequality comes from the fact that many will not be able to enter the football stadiums of Rio de Janeiro. Yet a more worrying development is the forced eviction of many of the city's poor residents to make way for the two upcoming events. Our Brazil correspondent Marita Haug explores both these issues and what they mean for development.

For Brazil, as a soccer-centered culture, many of the stadiums are national landmarks. One of the most significant ones is the Maracã, officially called Estádio Jornalista Mário Filho. At the time it was built in 1950 it was the world's largest stadium. It hosted the 1950 World Cup and is likely to host the opening and final of the same arrangement in 2014. The stadium is surrounded by hills and slums and boasts a fantastic mountaintop view. According to the New York Times (Nate Berg, May 5 2011) the lowest admission cost was \$1.80. The reasonable cost made it one of few stadiums in Rio where both poor and rich residents could witness world-class entertainment. Today, the situation is more different. A series of rules, renovation and cosmetic changes has meant that the stadium capacity has gradually decreased from 173,000 in 1950 to a mere 75,525 by the time Maracã reopens in 2013. In an interview with The New York Times, Christopher Gaffney, a visiting professor of urbanism at the Federal University in Fluminense in the state of Rio de Janeiro, said: "It's just one reform after another without anyone ever doing any kind of research as to what the people who actually use the stadium want".

This reduction has caused ticket prices to rise significantly. It is not just Maracã admission costs that have risen. The cheap seats at the Engenhão, another of Rio's stadiums now costs \$18. It is 10 times as expensive as Maracã's former standing area. As a result, at a match between two local teams earlier this year, half the stadium was empty.

The biggest change to Brazil's stadiums are the increasing space devoted to luxury boxes, modern seating and safety improvements, as the country gets ready to host the World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics. As a reaction to all these changes, Bruno Carvalho, a Rio native and an assistant professor of Brazilian studies at Princeton said "Do you give up the vitality of the Maracã as a public space, a rare type of space in Rio where you can actually get together people of different social classes? What's the price that you pay when you don't allow that to happen?" Christopher Gaffney also underlines clearly that "The culture of Brazilian football isn't just one of going to the game and having a hot dog and a beer. It's active participation in what is a fundamental element of Rio's culture." Carvalho added "What could be lost is the nature of the stadium experience as something that cuts across the class segregation of the city as a whole".

According to the New York Times, Brazilian officials argue that compared to the ticket prices for soccer matches of many leagues in Europe, the Brazilian prices remain low. They also argue that the renovations are badly needed. Rodrigo Paiva, a spokesman for the 2014 World Cup's local organizing committee wrote in an e-mail referred to in the New York Times article that "The dedicated supporter cannot be treated as a second-class citizen in the local stadiums and deserves better viewing conditions, more safety, comfort, as well as access to good catering and other services".



FIFA WORLD CUP
Brasil



By Marita Haug
GSDM Correspondent, Brazil

Many of the residents who are of the opinion that the culture and the history of Brazilian soccer is being swept away as a result of modernized stadiums and commercialization have formed a group called the National Fans' Association. They are seeking a greater voice in the future of Brazilian soccer.

Though people will have to come to terms with the fact that Maracã is not going to be what it was, the National Fans'

Association is an important reaction and gives attention to the tendency of fulfilling the desires of the wealthy while ignoring those of the poor.

Another action which has resulted in great protests from human activists is the removal of the favelas, Rio's notorious slums. The arrangements of the two upcoming world events are especially affecting the residents of the favelas in the North and the West Zone. According to New York Times (Samuel Elliott Novacich, May 11 2011) these two communities are among the ones at the bottom of the economic rung of Rio society. These areas are homes to many development projects which will now be moved. In the Olympic organizers' defense, a small amount is put aside for each affected family to help finance the move and a new home within the 7km relocation area required by the Municipal Law. However, according to Impunity Watch (Emilee Gaebler, July 25, 2011) the amount is too small to get a new house in the nearby area. A lot of Brazilians will therefore have to move far out of the city center, up to thirty miles from where they work. As a result, the coming Olympics and the World Cup seem to be trumping local legislation and people's legal rights.

This could lead to even greater differences between the rich and poor in Rio. Both in terms of cultural participation at stadiums like Maracã, but also in terms of leaving the already poor residents without access to a home, education or work. On the other hand, the Brazilian government is already aware of the problems caused by the two upcoming world events, and so are the world human organizations. This is a challenge the Brazilian government has to take seriously. The government is more than aware that the city will be a global exhibition both in 2014 and 2016, and has to make a decision on whether this is the Rio they want to showcase. (Marita can be reached at marita.haug@hotmail.com)

Fear of a return to armed conflict in Burundi

By James Belgrave

GSDM Correspondent, Burundi
(Text & Picture)

GSDM's country correspondent for Burundi, James Belgrave, reports on the increase in violence experienced over the last six months and its implications for long term stability.

Since the peace agreements of 2005 and since the former rebel FNL (Forces Nationales de Libération) forces laid down their weapons and joined the political process in 2009, relative peace has reigned over Burundi.

However, since the 2010 elections, which were characterized by sporadic political violence, the security situation has steadily deteriorated. Several recent armed attacks stand out amongst a list of worryingly violent incidents. The government has so far blamed 'armed bandits', but some point to the violence as bearing the marks of a potential conflict with the potential to destabilize a country which is already recovering from a civil war which left around 300,000 people dead and more than 500,000 displaced.

On the evening of Sunday the 18th of September, heavily armed gunmen entered a bar 16 km outside the capital city, Bujumbura, and opened fire on the crowd inside, using grenades and machine guns. In total 41 people were killed and many others injured. This is the most extreme case of peace time violence the country has witnessed since the 2005 agreements. So far no one has acknowledged responsibility, and an official FNL party spokesman denied all involvement. Some sources suspect the gunmen may have come from nearby Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

On the 23rd of June, near Rumonge in the southern province of Bururi, a bus was fired upon by armed men at around 4 am. Repeated rounds were fired at the vehicle, and according to one source, the passengers were then stripped naked and had their belongings taken from them. They were told to lie face down and were doused in petrol. The victims begged for their lives, and after some time the bus driver was put inside the bus, which was then set alight. At least eight people carried out the attack, which left two injured and one dead.

In early September, the Burundian Human rights watchdog APRODH stated publicly that it had documented at least 125 extra-judicial killings between May and August of 2011 throughout the country. Many of the victims are alleged to have been targeted due to their affiliation with the FNL opposition party.

"Some analysts are debating whether the country is on the verge of falling back into a state of conflict, or if these incidents are minor setbacks in what had been acknowledged as a steady path to long-term peace"

A 2010 United Nations report said the former FNL leader, Agathon Rwasa and a number of allies had fled into neighboring DRC following their boycott of the elections, which they claimed were rigged. Rwasa recently released a statement that pointed to the government carrying out a violent strategy targeting his supporters.

Several newspapers have stated that families of the victims these attacks are blaming the state intelligence services, the SNR (Service National de Renseignement), whilst others claim that the ruling party (CNDD-FDD) youth wing, the "Imbonerakure", are carrying out what has been called "Opération Safisha" or "Cleansing Operation", targeting FNL and Rwasa loyalists. An International Crisis Group (ICG) report published in February 2011 stated that "Burundi is not on the verge of returning to a civil war, but by focusing on the marginalization and repression of the opposition, the government is reinforcing a nascent rebellion". Since then, a breakdown of official communication between the opposition and the government has been followed by a significant increase in targeted violence and killings. More than ten years since the Burundian peace accords, a deterioration of the security situation is raising fears of a new insurrection. Some analysts are debating whether the country is on the verge of falling back into a state of conflict, or if these incidents are minor setbacks in what had been acknowledged as a steady path to long-term peace.

The view from the ground is that the increase in regularity and brutality of these killings, combined with recent fuel shortages and staggering price increases over the last year are factors which may lead to the worst. The situation seems to hinge on the government's ability to open a space for dialogue with opposition parties.

The Afghan War Goes On

Despite the American and NATO military domination in Afghanistan, it is no longer up to them to decide how and when to end the longest ongoing war in modern history

American public opinion, European reservations, Indian desires, Pakistani ambitions and the impending re-election bid of President Barack Hussain Obama notwithstanding, the war in Afghanistan is not going to end early or easily!

And if international media is to be believed, then Pakistan is the only culprit. This appears to be a global media consensus since the Hollywood style assassination of Al-Qaida leader Osama Bin Laden on May 02 in Pakistan's military town of Abbottabad in a joint CIA and US Navy commando operation. Pakistan, a key ally to America and NATO in Afghanistan, has since been accused of playing a double game harboring extremist Taliban groups because it considers them strategic military assets against India.

In her June 23, 2011 testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Afghanistan and Pakistan, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton accused Pakistan of trying to have a say in Afghan affairs. This indeed is her justification as to why the US was investing heavily to build Afghanistan's capacity to fend off regional players pushing to gain influence in the country.

Clinton's testimony reveals interesting and obvious real politics in Afghanistan that is seldom reported by the mainstream media. Apparently, and despite the American and NATO military domination in Afghanistan, it is no longer up to them to decide how and when to end the longest ongoing war in modern history. And the main reasons are not the fierce Taliban or a terrorist Al-Qaida but the long-standing antagonism between India and Pakistan.

"Pakistan does not want Afghanistan to become a satellite of India", Clinton said, "so it has in the past invested in a certain amount of instability in Afghanistan". Her reference is to the Pashtun Taliban in Northern Waziristan that has been fighting the coalition forces in Afghanistan besides bleeding the Indian economy and tying up her army in Kashmir, the region over which it has a running conflict with Pakistan since 1948. Pakistan's support to these Taliban also translates into a traditional antagonism with the Tajiks and Uzbeks in Afghanistan who have been historically hostile towards the Pashtuns living in the tribal areas bordering Pakistan.

The Tajik and Uzbek ethnic groups though have historically not been able to dominate Afghanistan, a Pashtun majority country. And since India has no borders with Afghanistan, it is not possible for her to intervene or secure her national interests

without first physically over-running a nuclear armed Pakistan. Hence the impasse in Afghanistan!

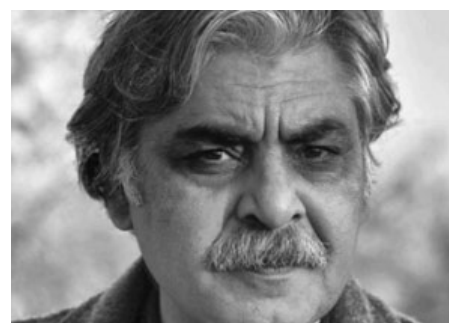
As Clinton said, the Indians aren't going to sit around and accept that. The corollary is Pakistan will not back off either. The simple fact of the war in Afghanistan remains that Pakistan was the country that was ousted from Afghanistan in 2001 and India was

ushered in. It is no secret that Pakistan had tremendous influence in Afghanistan until 2001 or that Indian role in Afghanistan was scripted by the war against terror for it had little say in that hapless country prior to that.

This is also the reason why American and NATO forces cannot plan to leave before 2014, that is, if they leave at all. The express objective of the war mission in Afghanistan was to kill or capture Osama Bin Laden, if Obama is to be believed in his latest address to the Americans. Yet, neither American nor NATO can afford to leave the country at this point in time for then Afghanistan would automatically fall back under Pakistani influence. This is not palatable to the foreign militaries pursuing their own stated and un-stated strategic objectives in Afghanistan. India is the main conduit of their business and industrial access in Afghanistan once the war there is over.

This is apparent in the recent decision by US President Barack Hussain Obama to recall only the additional 30,000 American 'surge' troops by the end of next year that he deployed two years ago. But this still leaves some 68,000 American troops for his \$10 billion-a-month war in Afghanistan which is nearly double the number from the day when President Obama took office.

Media is replete with reports how after nearly a decade, a majority of the Americans no longer believe the war in Afghanistan is worth fighting. Therefore, Obama's schedule to bring these surge troops home doesn't change the war in Afghanistan and only serves his own political ends as the process completes just two months before Americans decides whether or not to elect him for a second term!



By Khalid Hussain
Regional Editor, South Asia

The most significant recent development in Afghanistan and a real sign that the war might now move towards an eventual end, is the American acceptance of the inevitability to negotiate with the undefeated Taliban. It is understood here that the Europeans, especially Germany, has forced the Americans to accept the inevitability of a negotiated settlement as victory has been elusive.

After nearly 34 years of continued war, Afghanistan is in tatters and Pakistan has become almost a failed state. An estimated 35,000 Pakistanis have been killed in extremist violence since the country joined the war in Afghanistan in 2001. The economy of Pakistan is in ruins and governance has long gone to the dogs. Inflation, high unemployment and an overwhelming insecurity defines the social context for the 180 million citizens of Pakistan.

The Stick and the Dog

We found this manuscript in the clay caves near the ancient remains of Taxila now made famous by the fact that Osama Bin Laden's last hideout in Pakistan was close by in Abbottabad city. The book was buried in a corner a full three feet deep. Centuries had consumed most of it.

Only one tattered inside title survived the passage of burial underground helped by the strong coffin of the book's cover. All we could salvage was that lone page. What it carried was barely discernable but it was clearly a full narrative. Pictures and forms beyond our comprehension.

Our excitement mounted. Frustration forced us to look for help. People had left their impressions in time and none of us could control the urge to know what they had left behind. Out of kindness, my friend Ayaz translated it for us at our request. He is one insightful seer as he can see what cannot be seen by his peers. A drawing master at the Model High School in Multan, he can help you see all sorts of meanings in the confused details of a drawing and can even scale it up or down in a jiffy!

"Only one page salvaged from the ravages of time," he muses. We took notes. He said, "this was written by the King for his son!"

Then he translated the narrative for us. It goes:

Follow the shepherd and tell this story to your son and leave a copy for him in your own handwriting before he assumes the kingdom.

The shepherd, his person, his personality is all because of the flock: His sheep. Take them away and he is naught.

The sheep provide him all that he needs. The sheep make him what he is: the Shepherd.

He has two means with which he controls the flock: The stick and the dog.

The stick is quick in restoring order and teaching obedience when the sheep refuse to listen to his commands. The stick, however, is limited to its length and has no effect beyond its reach.

This is when the dog earns his keep. He barks and bites the flock back to his master from long distances.

The Shepherd loves his Dog -where his stick cannot reach, the dog does. It keeps the sheep in the flock when he has lost all authority and control.

The dog extends his jurisdiction. Saves him time and trouble no end!

The flock expands with a wise use of the Stick and the Dog!!

The stick is limited to its radius. The dog is not!!!

By Khalid Hussain

"It is understood here that the Europeans, especially Germany, has forced the Americans to accept the inevitability of a negotiated settlement as victory has been elusive"

"The end to the war in Afghanistan can begin only after peace between India and Pakistan"

Countless bomb blasts and unceasing clandestine activities by CIA, Indian, Iranian, Afghan, Saudi and British intelligence agencies have created a paranoid social context that citizens are helpless to correct. As an interesting aside, CIA has the largest concentration of employees in Islamabad after its headquarters in Langley, Virginia, USA.

Ordinary Pakistanis have little say in the affairs of the state here as these are decided by the Army in partnership with the United States of America, England and Saudi Arabia. This also holds true for the present civilian government in Islamabad that has been allowed in by the Army because the allies demanded 'democracy' in the country. But everyone knows it is the Army that calls the shots in Pakistan both in the Afghan war as well as in the case of continued hostile relations with India.

Since the May 02 American Navy SEAL and CIA raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan has been adamant that it had no knowledge of Osama living in Pakistan. But the world has not been willing to believe until recently. Pakistan Army's position has now been accepted by America and other international players in the Afghan war albeit reluctantly.

The proof of this assumption lies in the fact that India has agreed to resume peace talks with Pakistan despite the barbaric attack on Mumbai on October 2008 that shut the city down for many days, killed 164 people and wounded another 308 persons in over 10 coordinated shooting and bombing attacks. India accused Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence as the terrorists invaded from Pakistani seawaters.

Subsequently, India refused to hold peace talks with Pakistan unless those responsible for this act of terrorism were brought to the book. This put an end to over 12 years of concerted efforts by the two countries to resolve Kashmir and other contentious issues for a lasting peace between the two neighbors. Hence the Indian decision to resume parleys for peace reflects a changed national and international security context that might see to it that the issues between these two countries are resolved for good.

The end to the war in Afghanistan can begin only after peace between India and Pakistan.

(Khalid Hussain is Global South Development Magazine's Regional Editor for South Asia and can be reached at dvfilmpk@gmail.com)

Green Jobs

and the future of environmental technology

When the world is struggling to meet its energy needs, a significant number of alternative ideas have popped up in the recent years. Based on Renewable Energy Policy Network's renewables 2011 Global Status Report this edition of Global South Development Magazine looks at those alternative ways of producing energy and meeting our everyday needs.

Changes in renewable energy markets, investments, industries, and policies have been so rapid in recent years that perceptions of the status of renewable energy can lag years behind the reality. This report captures that reality and provides a unique overview of renewable energy worldwide as of early 2011.

Global energy consumption rebounded in 2010 after an overall downturn in 2009. Renewable energy, which experienced no downturn in 2009, continued to grow strongly in all end-use sectors – power, heat and transport – and supplied an estimated 16% of global final energy consumption. Renewable energy accounted for approximately half of the estimated 194 gigawatts (GW) of new electric capacity added globally during the year. Renewables delivered close to 20% of global electricity supply in 2010, and by early 2011 they comprised one quarter of global power capacity from all sources.

In several countries, renewables represent a rapidly growing share of total energy supply, including heat and transport. For example:

- In the United States, renewable energy accounted for about 10.9% of domestic primary energy production (compared with nuclear's 11.3%), an increase of 5.6% relative to 2009.
- China added an estimated 29 GW of grid-connected renewable capacity, for a total of 263 GW, an increase of 12% compared with 2009. Renewables accounted for about 26% of China's total installed electric capacity, 18% of generation, and more than 9% of final energy consumption in 2010.
- Germany met 11% of its total final energy consumption with renewable sources, which accounted for 16.8% of electricity consumption, 9.8% of heat production (mostly from biomass), and 5.8% of transport fuel consumption. Wind power accounted for nearly 36% of renewable generation, followed by biomass, hydropower, and solar photovoltaics (PV).
- Several countries met higher shares of their electricity demand with wind power in 2010, including Denmark (22%), Portugal (21%), Spain (15.4%), and Ireland (10.1%).

Trends reflect strong growth and investment across all market sectors. During the period from the end of 2005 through 2010, total global capacity of many renewable energy technologies – including solar PV, wind power, concentrating solar thermal power (CSP), solar water heating systems, and biofuels – grew at average rates ranging from around 15% to nearly 50% annually. Biomass and geothermal for power and heat also grew strongly. Wind power added the most new capacity, followed by hydropower and solar PV.

Across most technologies, 2010 saw further growth in equipment manufacturing, sales, and installation. Technology cost reductions in solar PV in particular meant high growth rates in manufacturing. Cost reductions in wind turbines and biofuel processing technologies also contributed to growth. At the same time, there was further industry consolidation, notably in the biomass and biofuels industries, as traditional energy companies moved more strongly into the renewable energy space, and as manufacturing firms continued to move into project development.

By early 2011, at least 119 countries had some type of policy target or renewable support policy at the national level, up from 55 countries in early 2005. There is also a large diversity of policies in place at state/provincial and local levels. Developing countries, which now represent more than half of all countries with policy targets and half of all countries with renewable support policies, are playing an increasingly important role in advancing renewable energy.

As policies spread to more and more countries, the geography of renewable energy use is also changing. For example, commercial wind power existed in just a handful of countries in the 1990s but now exists in at least 83 countries. Solar PV

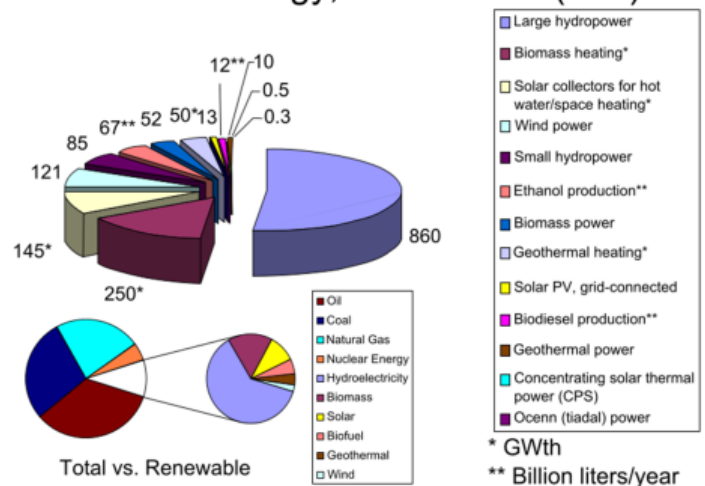
Globally, there are more than 3.5 million direct jobs in renewable energy industries, about half of them in the biofuels industry, with additional indirect jobs well beyond this figure.

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Biomass and geothermal for power and heat also grew strongly. Wind power added the most new capacity, followed by hydropower and solar PV.

Renewable energy, end of 2008 (GW)



capacity was added in more than 100 countries during 2010. Outside of Europe and the United States, developed countries like Australia, Canada, and Japan are experiencing gains and broader technology diversification, while (collectively) developing countries have more than half of global renewable power capacity.

China now leads in several indicators of market growth: in 2010, it was the top installer of wind turbines and solar thermal systems and was the top hydropower producer. India is fifth worldwide in total existing wind power capacity and is rapidly expanding many forms of rural renewables such as biogas and

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One of the forces propelling renewable energy policies and development is the potential to create new industries and generate new jobs.

solar PV. Brazil produces virtually all of the world's sugar-derived ethanol and has been adding new hydropower, biomass, and wind power plants, as well as solar heating systems.

At least 20 countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa have active renewable energy markets. Manufacturing leadership continues to shift from Europe to Asia as countries like China, India, and South Korea increase their commitments to renewable energy. The increasing geographic diversity in markets and manufacturing is boosting confidence that renewables are less vulnerable to policy or market dislocations in any specific country.

One of the forces propelling renewable energy policies and development is the potential to create new industries and

generate new jobs. Jobs from renewables number in the hundreds of thousands in several countries. Globally, there are more than 3.5 million direct jobs in renewable energy industries, about half of them in the biofuels industry, with additional indirect jobs well beyond this figure.

Also driving renewables development are state-owned multilateral and bilateral development banks, which have been pillars of investment in renewable energy during recent, troubled years for the world economy. More public money went to the renewable energy sector through development banks than through government stimulus packages during 2010.

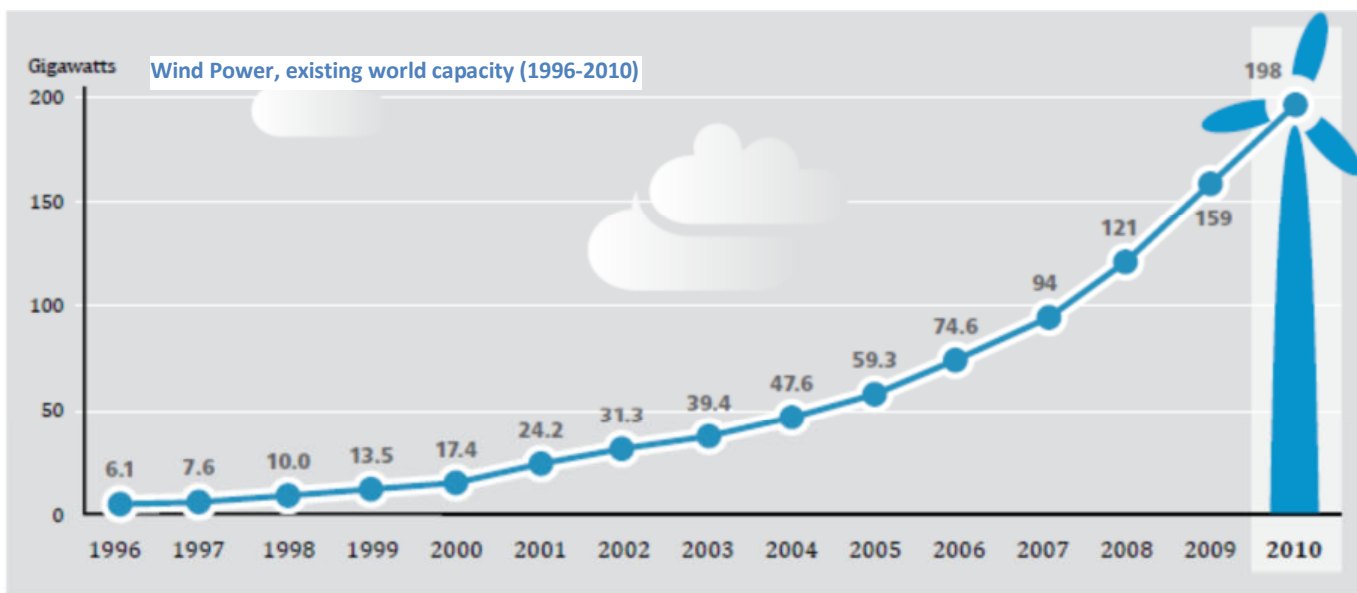
Total investment in renewable energy reached \$211 billion in 2010, up from \$160 billion in 2009, continuing the steady annual increase seen since tracking first began in 2004. Including the unreported \$15 billion (estimated) invested in solar hot water collectors; total investment exceeded \$226 billion. An additional \$40–45 billion was invested in large hydropower.

Asset finance of new utility-scale projects (wind farms, solar parks, and biofuel and solar thermal plants) accounted for almost 60% of the total and was the largest investment asset class. Investment in small-scale distributed generation projects (mainly solar PV) amounted to \$60 billion and accounted for more than 25% of total investment in renewable energy. For the first time, investment in renewable energy companies and utility scale generation and biofuel projects in developing countries surpassed that in developed economies. China attracted more than a third of global investment during 2010, making it the leader for the second year in a row.

2010 Market and Industry highlights and Ongoing Trends

WIND POWER. The market maintained its 2009 level, with 38 GW added for a total of about 198 GW. For the first time, the majority of new wind power capacity was added in developing countries and emerging markets, driven primarily by China, which accounted for half the global market. Trends include continued offshore development, the growing popularity of community-based projects and distributed, small-scale grid-connected turbines, and the development of wind projects in a wider variety of geographical locations. Average turbine sizes continued to increase in 2010, with some manufacturers launching 5 MW and larger machines, and direct-drive turbine designs captured 18% of the global market.

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS (PV). The PV industry had an extraordinary year, with global production and markets more than doubling in 2010. An estimated 17 GW of capacity was added worldwide (compared with just under 7.3 GW in 2009), bringing the global total to about 40 GW – more than seven times the capacity in place five years earlier. The EU dominated the global PV market, led by Italy and particularly Germany, which installed more PV in 2010 than the entire world did the previous year. The trend toward utility-scale PV plants continued, with the



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Biomass supplies an increasing share of electricity and heat and continues to provide the majority of heating produced with renewable sources.

Geothermal power plants operated in at least 24 countries in 2010, and geothermal energy was used directly for heat in at least 78 countries.

Global hydropower production represented about 16% of global electricity production in 2010.

At least 25 countries are involved in ocean energy development,

number of such systems exceeding 5,000 and accounting for almost 25% of total global PV capacity. Cell manufacturing continued its shift to Asia, with 10 of the top 15 manufacturers located in the region. Industry responded to price declines and rapidly changing market conditions by consolidating, scaling up, and moving into project development.

CONCENTRATING SOLAR THERMAL POWER (CSP). After years of inactivity, the CSP market has come back to life with nearly 740 MW added between 2007 and the end of 2010. More than half of this capacity was installed during 2010. Parabolic trough plants continued to dominate the market. Dramatic reductions in PV costs are challenging the growing market for CSP, at least in the United States, where several planned projects were redesigned to use utility-scale PV technologies. At the same time, project development is moving beyond the U.S. southwest and Spain to other regions and countries, particularly the MENA region.

SOLAR HOT WATER/HEATING. Solar heating capacity increased by an estimated 25 GW_{th} in 2010 to reach approximately 185 GW_{th}, excluding unglazed swimming pool heating. China continues to dominate the world market for solar hot water collectors. Europe's market shrank during 2010 due to the economic recession, despite the emergence of some new players, but it continued to rank a distant second. While virtually

all installations in China are for hot water only, there is a trend in Europe toward larger combined systems that provide both water and space heating. A number of solar industrial process heat installations came online during 2009 and 2010 in China, Europe, the United States, and elsewhere.

BIOMASS POWER AND HEAT. Biomass supplies an increasing share of electricity and heat and continues to provide the majority of heating produced with renewable sources. An estimated 62 GW of biomass power capacity was in operation by the end of 2010. Biomass heat markets are expanding steadily, particularly in Europe but also in the United States, China, India, and elsewhere.

Trends include increasing consumption of solid biomass pellets (for heat and power) and use of biomass in combined heat and power (CHP) plants and in centralized district heating systems. China leads the world in the number of household biogas plants, and gasifiers are used increasingly for heat applications in small and large enterprises in India and elsewhere. Biomethane (purified biogas) is increasingly injected into pipelines (particularly in Europe) to replace natural gas in power and CHP plants.

BIOFUELS. Liquid biofuels provided about 2.7% of global road transport fuels in 2010. The global ethanol industry recovered in response to rising oil prices, with production increasing 17% in 2010, and some previously bankrupt firms returned to the market. The United States and Brazil accounted for 88% of global ethanol production; after several years as a net importer, the United States overtook Brazil to become the world's leading ethanol exporter. The EU remained the center of biodiesel production, but due to increased competition with relatively cheap imports, growth in the region continued to slow. The diversity of players in the advanced biofuels industry continued to increase with the participation of young, rapidly growing firms, major aviation companies, and traditional oil companies.

GEOTHERMAL POWER AND HEAT. Geothermal power plants operated in at least 24 countries in 2010, and geothermal energy was used directly for heat in at least 78 countries. Although power development slowed in 2010, with global capacity reaching just over 11 GW, a significant acceleration in the rate of deployment is expected as advanced technologies allow for development in new countries. Heat output from geothermal sources increased by an average rate of almost 9% annually over the past decade, due mainly to rapid growth in the use of ground source heat pumps. Use of geothermal energy for combined heat and power is also on the rise.

HYDROPOWER. Global hydropower production represented about 16% of global electricity production in 2010. An estimated 30 GW of capacity was added during the year, with existing global capacity reaching an estimated 1,010 GW. Asia (led by China) and Latin America (led by Brazil) are the most active regions for new hydro development.

OCEAN ENERGY. At least 25 countries are involved in ocean energy development, and wave and tidal technologies saw significant progress toward commercial generation during 2010. At year's end, an estimated total of 6 MW of wave (2 MW) and tidal stream (4 MW) capacity had been installed, with most of this capacity in Europe. Continued strong growth is expected in all renewable energy sectors in the coming years, with projects at various stages of development around the world. China alone plans to install more than 30 GW of wind power capacity during 2011 and 2012, and significant additional capacity is under construction in India, the United States, United Kingdom, and other countries. At least 5.4 GW of solar PV capacity was under contract in the United States by the end of 2010. Globally, nearly 2.6 GW of additional CSP capacity was under construction by year's end, with all plants expected to be operational by 2014.

Significant geothermal power capacity (and CHP) was in project pipelines around the globe by year-end, with 46 countries forecast to have new geothermal capacity installed within the next five years. Major developments are under way for hydropower, ocean energy, and other renewable technologies as well.

A Dynamic Policy Landscape

Renewable energy support policies continued to be a driving force behind the increasing shares of renewable energy, despite some setbacks due to the lack of long term policy certainty and stability around the world in 2010.

National targets now exist in at least 98 countries. These targets represent commitments to shares of electricity production (typically 10–30%), total primary or final energy, heat supply, installed capacities of specific technologies, and shares of biofuels in road transport fuels. Many targets also exist at the state, provincial, and local levels. Although some targets were not met or were scaled back, many countries achieved or exceeded their targets set for 2010; two countries – Finland and Sweden – passed their targets for 2020. Existing targets were raised in a number of countries including Finland, Germany, Spain, and Taiwan, and entirely new targets were adopted in South Africa, Guatemala, and India, among others.

Renewable power generation policies have been implemented in 95 countries and represent the most common type of renewables support policy. The feed-in tariff (FIT) remains the most widely implemented policy, in place in at least 61 countries and 26 states/provinces worldwide. Most FIT-related activity in 2010 focused on revisions to existing policies in response to strong markets that exceeded expectations, particularly in the case of PV. New FIT policies were implemented in several developing/transition countries in 2010 and early 2011.

Renewable portfolio standard (RPS)/quota policies have been enacted at the national level in 10 countries and in at least 50 other jurisdictions, including 30 U.S. states (plus Washington, D.C.) and the Canadian province of British Columbia, which requires that 93% of new power capacity be renewable. Many additional types of policies are being implemented to support renewable power generation, including direct capital investment subsidies, grants, or rebates; tax incentives; energy production payments or credits; and public financing. Net metering, or “net billing,” policies exist in at least 14 countries, including Italy, Japan, Jordan, and Mexico, and in almost all U.S. states.

Green energy purchasing and labeling programs are growing with more than 6 million green power consumers in Europe, the United States, Australia, Japan, and Canada. Although enacted less aggressively than policies to promote renewable electricity or biofuels, many policies to support renewable heating and cooling have emerged in recent years. New policies introduced since the beginning of 2010 include the United Kingdom’s innovative Renewable Heat Incentive and a grant program in South Africa. Governments have traditionally relied on direct capital grants and tax credits to spur investment in renewable heating systems, but new policies providing public budget neutrality have been gaining favor. Solar hot water mandates for new construction projects represent a growing trend at both national and local

levels. Mandates for blending biofuels exist in 31 countries at the national level and in 29 states/provinces. Subsidies and tax exemptions are also used to promote biofuels. Finland, Ethiopia, Thailand, and Spain all revised existing biofuels policy legislation in 2010, and South Korea and Jamaica implemented new blending mandates.



City and local governments continue to become increasingly important players in promoting the local generation and use of renewable energy. Local support policies include renewable energy targets; urban planning that incorporates renewable energy; building codes that mandate or promote renewable energy; tax credits and exemptions; investment in renewable

Governments have traditionally relied on direct capital grants and tax credits to spur investment in renewable heating systems, but new policies providing public budget neutrality have been gaining favor.

In even the most remote areas, renewable energy is increasing access to basic energy services – including lighting and communications, cooking, heating and cooling, and water pumping – and generating economic growth.

Over 44 million households use biogas made in household- scale digesters for lighting and/or cooking, and more than 166 million households now rely on a new generation of more-efficient biomass cookstoves.

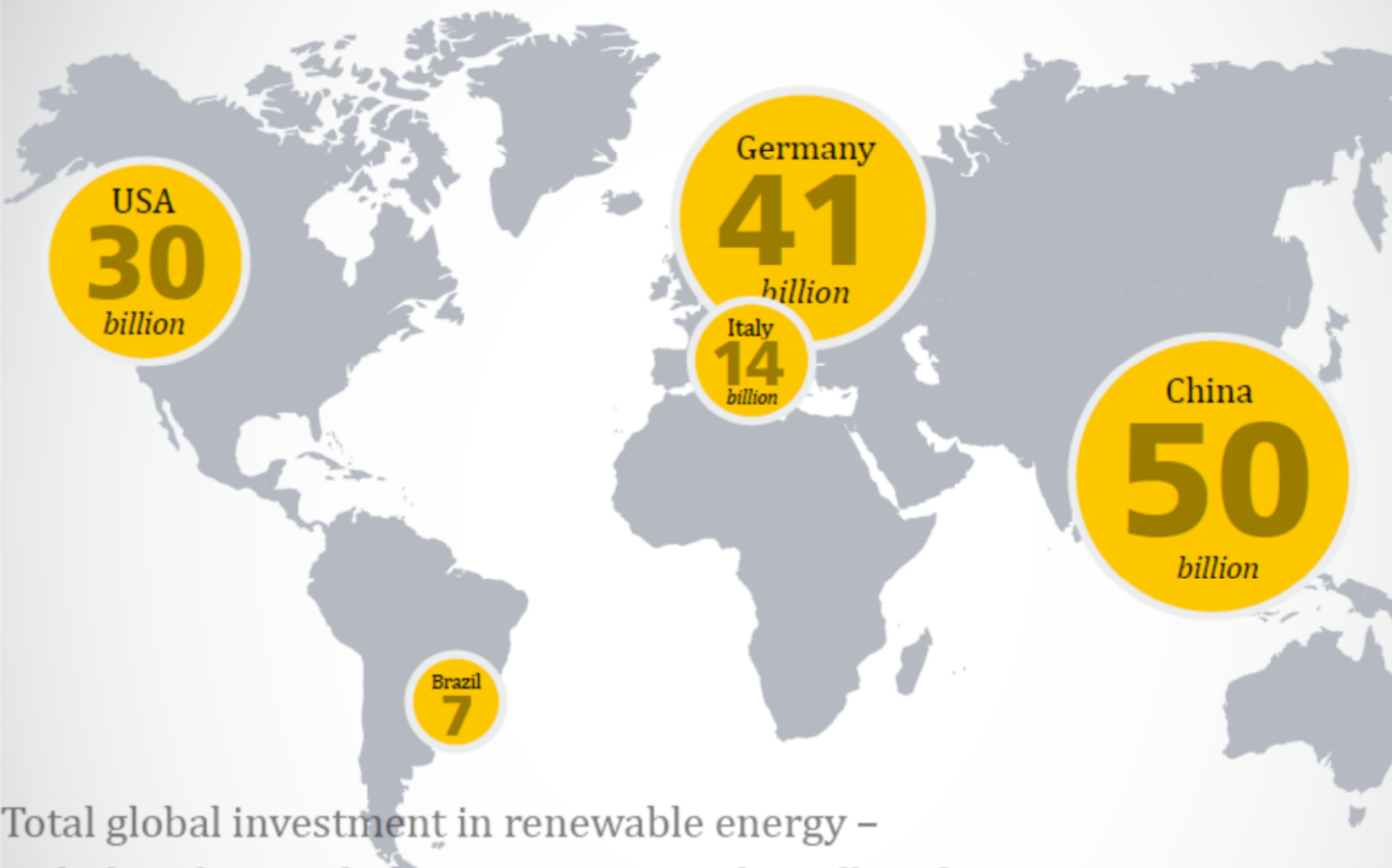
energy for municipal buildings and transit; subsidies, grants, or loans; as well as a variety of informal, voluntary actions to promote renewable energy at the community level.

Rural Renewable energy

In even the most remote areas, renewable energy is increasing access to basic energy services – including lighting and communications, cooking, heating and cooling, and water pumping – and generating economic growth. PV household systems, wind turbines, microhydro powered or hybrid mini-grids, biomass-based systems or solar pumps, and other renewable technologies are being employed in homes, schools, hospitals, agriculture, and small industry in rural and off-grid areas of the developing world.

The number of rural households served by renewable energy is difficult to estimate as the sector becomes driven increasingly by individual project promoters or private companies, but it runs into the hundreds of millions. Small solar PV systems provide power to a few million households, and micro-hydro configured into village- or county-scale mini-grids serves many more. Over 44 million households use biogas made in household- scale digesters for lighting and/or cooking, and more than 166 million households now rely on a new generation of more-efficient biomass cookstoves. Off-grid renewable solutions are increasingly acknowledged to be the cheapest and most sustainable options for rural areas in much of the developing world. This will have an impact on market development in the long term, especially if the barriers to accessing information and financing products are addressed. (excerpts from Renewables 2011 Global Status Report)

02 INVESTMENT FLOWS



Total global investment in renewable energy – including financial new investment and small-scale investment – jumped in 2010 to a record \$211 billion. China attracted nearly \$50 billion, making it the leader for the second year in a row.

DLSU students, faculty developing new solar-powered car



MANILA, Philippines – A team of 22 engineering students and seven faculty members of the De La Salle University-Manila's Mechanical Engineering and Electronics and Communications Engineering departments are developing a third generation solar-powered car dubbed "Sikat II" that would take part in the 3,000-kilometer World Solar Challenge in Australia this month.

School officials led by DLSU president Bro. Ricky Laguda, FirstGen Corp. president and chief executive officer Federico Lopez, and officials of the Philippine Solar Car Challenge Society, Inc. (PSCCSI) presented to media a miniature replica of Sikat II. Jose Antonio Catalan, along with fellow DLSU-Manila faculty member Dr. Pag-asa Gaspillo, said that the formal presentation of Sikat II upped the level of excitement, as well as pressure, for the team as they construct the solar car.

The PSCCSI, a group supporting the DLSU students that includes FirstGen, its sister company First Philec Solar Corp., Sunpower Corp., Ford, Shell, Merritt Partners, Isla Lipana & Co., hailed the Sikat II effort as a showcase of the talent and ingenuity of the Filipino engineering student.

"Sikat II is a testament of Filipino creativity and ingenuity, talent and technological capability in tapping clean and renewable sources of energy such as solar power. Just like Sinag and Sikat, Sikat II is beaming with promise as it shows the world what solar energy is capable of and what Filipinos can do in the field of science and technology," PSCCSI said in a statement.

"Just like Sinag and Sikat, Sikat II is beaming with promise as it shows the world what solar energy is capable of"

"The Sikat II sports a sleek and aerodynamic body made of lightweight carbon fiber-honeycomb composite. It is said to be faster than Sikat and Sinag, with a top speed of 110 kilometers per hour"

Sikat II will be the country's entry in the World Solar Challenge 2011, a 3,000-kilometer race from Darwin to Adelaide from Oct. 16 to 23. It will be the Philippines' second time to join the race. Sikat II boasts of many improvements to its design and mechanical features from its predecessors Sikat and Sinag, both developed by DLSU engineering students and their professors in previous years.

The Sikat II sports a sleek and aerodynamic body made of lightweight carbon fiber-honeycomb composite. It is said to be faster than Sikat and Sinag, with a top speed of 110 kilometers per hour with its two kilowatt motor. It weighs in at less than 180 kilograms, at least 20 kilograms lighter than Sikat and at least 110 kilograms lighter than Sinag.

The Filipino solar car will harness the inexhaustible power of the sun, with solar energy harvested and converted into electricity by photovoltaic cells.

Sikat II is equipped with Filipino-made solar cells from Sunpower Philippines, a leading manufacturer of high-efficiency solar cells in the world based in Laguna.

Sikat II is expected to finish the 3,000-kilometer race in a record-breaking feat this October.

The Philippines' first solar car, Sinag, accomplished a remarkable debut by finishing 12th among a field of 40 entries in the international race in 2007. (Source The Philippine Star)

Ecosystem Disservices and Poverty

If you want to alleviate poverty through ecosystem services, you might want to take into account the disservices too

Human beings depend heavily on ecosystem services for their survival and well-being. Basic needs like drinking water, fresh air, food and construction materials are to a large extent provided to us by nature, as are more luxury services like spectacular views for expensive homes and eco-tourism activities.

However, many of the problems that ail humanity also come from nature and might be thought of as ecosystem disservices: Approximately 2 billion people are infected with the hepatitis B virus, making it the most common infectious disease in the world today. Close to a billion persons are infected with tuberculosis, which causes nearly 2 million deaths every year. Several hundred million people suffer from malaria and almost a million children die from it every year. About 50 million cases of dengue fever appear each year, and countless millions suffer horribly from other infectious and parasitic diseases, such as African trypanosomiasis ("sleeping sickness"), cryptosporidiosis, leishmaniasis, onchocerciasis ("river blindness") and schistosomiasis.

In addition, the crops and livestock on which we depend for food are frequently assaulted by insects, fungi, viruses, weeds, bacteria and predators. Rainfall, which is great in the right amounts at the right time, can also cause huge disasters, if it arrives in the wrong amounts or at the wrong time.

Africa is the continent that suffers most from ecosystem disservices. More than 80% of all cases of malaria and AIDS occur in Africa, although the African population only constitutes about 15% of the World population. In the African region, 46% of all deaths are children aged under 15 years, whereas in the high-income countries, only 1% of deaths are children (1). The majority of child deaths can be attributed to ecosystem disservices, as they are caused

principally by infectious and parasitic diseases, such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria, AIDS and measles.

Table 1 shows a very strong relation between ecosystem disservices and poverty. In high income countries only 35 children out of every million die of infectious and parasitic diseases every year. For middle income countries this is 20 times more frequent, and for low income countries these heartbreaking tragedies are 130 times more frequent.



By Lykke E. Andersen
GSDM Correspondent, Bolivia
lykke.e.andersen@gmail.com

Table 1: Burden of ecosystem disservices on children (aged 0-15), by country income group

	High income countries	Middle income countries	Low income countries
Number of child deaths due to infectious and parasitic diseases (per million children)	35	679	4536

Source: World Health Organization (2008) Global Burden of Disease: 2004 update.

If you want to alleviate poverty through ecosystem services, you might want to take into account the disservices too.

Ecosystem disservice: Dengue transferred by mosquito and below Ecosystem service: Pollination by bumblebee. Source: Wikimedia commons



Towards the Rio + 20 Conference: Energy challenges in Uganda

Uganda like many members of the United Nations (UN) is preparing itself for a major international conference on sustainable development - *The Rio + 20 Summit* due on June 4 - 6, 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. According to the UN, the Rio +20 Conference will mark the 20th anniversary of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro (1992, and the 10th anniversary of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg. It is envisaged as a Conference at the highest possible level, including Heads of State and Government or other representatives. The Conference will result in a focused political document.

The objective of the Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges. It will focus on two themes: (a) *a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication*; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Rio + 20 Conference: Uganda's interests

The Rio + 20 Summit will take place against a backdrop of global development challenges to which some solutions have been found, and where others are yet to be addressed. In this article, I restrict myself to one major challenge for Uganda in relation to 'green economy in the context of sustainable development'- one of the main themes of Rio + 20. But, I would also like link this with the importance of assessing Uganda and other countries' performance in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation that built on the achievements of sustainable development made since 1992, to strengthen the implementation of Agenda 21 (the 40-chapter blue print for action that was adopted in Rio in 1992). Without this action, the agenda for the 'South' will be lost in 'new' abstract discussions of little practical consequence to addressing sustainable development loopholes.

Hence, for Uganda (and I guess many developing countries), it is important to prepare for this major Conference with unwavering efforts to assess the country's performance since 2002, so as to inform the themes of the Conference including *green economy in the context of sustainable development*. I would like to illustrate this below, with a 'live' example of the energy situation in Uganda.

'Energy poverty': A challenge for Uganda' economic growth and development

Energy is a vital factor in Uganda's continued economic development, but today the country faces many energy-related challenges that threaten to undermine this development (GIZ, 2011). For a number of years, there has been significant public

investment, primarily in an effort to expand the electricity supply.

Nevertheless, the problems facing the energy sector still include an inadequate supply, a situation which is exacerbated by consumers' inefficient use of the energy which is available. Outside the urban areas, access to energy services remains very poor as the appropriate mechanisms are still missing. Only 5% of the rural population is connected to an electricity supply and 93% still rely on biomass for cooking. The use of solid fuels such as firewood and charcoal remains chronically inefficient throughout most of the country, and this adds enormous environmental problems to Uganda's energy



By Kimbowa Richard
GSDM Correspondent, Uganda

Linking the 1992 Rio Summit and the 2002 Johannesburg Summit outcomes

The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (arranged in 11 Chapters) is grounded in the outcomes of the 1992 UNCED. It includes well over 20 new targets and draws together significant outcomes from related meetings of the time (Millennium Summit of 2000, Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development; The WTO Agenda; the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All; the World Summit on Social Development, the Third Un Conference on LDCs among others) into a sustainable development framework.

The Rio Summit focused on environment and development and helped to elaborate both the concept of, and practical approaches to sustainable development through integration of sustainable development. The Johannesburg Summit recognised that much more had to be done to bring about this integration, strengthening the focus on poverty, social concerns and Agenda 21 implementation.

Source: *The Plain Guide to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2005*

equation. The greatest contributing factor to this is the lack of awareness about the environment and the options for energy efficiency.



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

For example, as I write this article the power outage has happened 3 times due to rationing lasting up to 2-3 hours. This is affecting businesses and the efficient delivery of social services (schools, health centres and banking institutions) all over Uganda. One of the reasons for this is that Uganda's main power supplier, *Umeme*, in July 2011 announced a 12-hour load shedding programme after private suppliers Aggreko, ElectroMax, and Jacobson switched off their thermal power supply to the national grid over non-payment of arrears by the government. Worse still, this month (September), Uganda's Directorate of Water Development (DWD) has instructed to Eskom (Company generating hydropower) to step down hydro generation due to the need to comply with the recent water releases and major abstractions plan from the transboundary Lake Victoria basin water system that binds Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda under the auspices of the East African Community. In effect, this slaps a 24 hour load-shedding cycle once every 4 days on average (Umeme, 2011). One of the worrisome implications of this is that many households and business entities have rushed to fuel wood (firewood and charcoal) and fossil fuels as alternatives to run generators (for those that can afford). But already for the period of ten years from 1996/7 to 2005/6, the value of household charcoal consumption has increased by more than 100%, attributable to larger consumption volumes and higher prices which two factors together, contribute to rapid forest depletion (NEMA, 2008). This drastic rise can actually be higher than 100% today given the growing urban population that demands charcoal every day due to the above. This is straining Uganda's economy more as trees are cut, resulting in deforestation and forest degradation, while the rising pump prices affect people's disposable incomes, savings and have translated in high prices for basic commodities (since Uganda is a land-locked country). At the end of it all, we risk draining the progress made on reducing poverty and conserving the environment.

It is from the above situation, that I believe any discussion on 'green economy' (that works for the poor) in relation to the energy challenge in Uganda should consider alternatives to hydropower reliance, expanding affordable and equitable decentralised energy access for the majority rural poor people, promoting energy efficiency in electricity use, fuel wood use, and other available sources, as well as policy wide incentives that can trigger more investment in the modern energy services to meet the needs of private entities and the rural folks.

I also believe that the discussion on 'green economy' in a 'Southern' context should follow a *logical assessment* that identifies the constraints those who affect / are affected and to

what degree, among others, before making strategic and practical recommendations to inform and / or influence *the renewed political commitment on sustainable development at the Rio + 20 Summit next year*. (Kimbowarichard can be reached at kimbowarichard@yahoo.com)

MYANMAR: Blocked dam project raises hopes

Environmentalists and activists hope Myanmar will keep its promise to suspend construction of a controversial hydroelectric dam in the northern Kachin State, despite calls by the Chinese government for talks over the decision.

In a surprising move, on 30 September, President Thein Sein announced that construction of the dam, a project between the government and the state-owned China Power Investment Corporation (CPI), would be suspended during his presidential term. The decision was seen as a victory for the people who battled to stop the dam over concerns about the environment and millions of livelihoods linked to the Ayeyarwady River.

"The president knows the Myitsone Dam [project] is against the will of the people," Bauk Ja, Kachin activist and member of the National Democratic Force party, told IRIN. "So, he won't let it resume in his tenure, whatever the pressures from China."

"It's amazing," said Win Min, a Myanmar scholar now living in the United States. "The president shows that he cares more about the people who will suffer from the impact of the dam than China or economic interests."

But opponents of the dam urged continued vigilance. CPI workers and equipment were still on the ground, said Ah Nan, a spokeswoman for the Kachin Development Networking Group (KDNG) and assistant coordinator of Burma Rivers Network. There is also speculation that the Myitsone Dam project will be replaced by the construction of two smaller dams, as recommended in an environmental impact study by Myanmar and Chinese scientists.

"Only [CPI's] actions will confirm whether the dam is indeed suspended," she said.

Motivation

Thein Sein, who began a five-year presidential term in March, informed Parliament of his decision in a letter. His phrasing amazed many Burmese, who experienced decades during which the government ignored public concerns.

"As our government is elected by the people, it is to respect the people's will. We have the responsibility to address public concerns in all seriousness," Thein Sein said in his letter. "So construction of Myitsone Dam will be suspended in the time of our government."

The dam, with a flooding area larger than Singapore, is in Kachin State just 1.6km below the confluence of two rivers, an area known as Myitsone, which is the beginning of the Ayeyarwady River. The project would have forced more than 15,000 people in 60 villages to relocate, KDNG estimated. (Source IRIN)



THE NOT SO POST-CONFLICT GUATEMALA

Corruption, Crime and Violence Make for a Bleak Future

By Ioulia Fenton & Noah Marwil

Text & photos

Guatemala is technically at peace. Having signed Peace Accords in 1996 country that put an end to a 36 year-long Civil War, it has been officially labelled a post-conflict nation. As it finds itself in the thralls of a general election Ioulia Fenton and Noah Marwil take a look at how post-conflict it really is and whether or not the crime and violence that engulfed it for decades is truly dead and buried.

POLITICS, VIOLENCE AND THE SHADOW ECONOMY

Guatemala has a long history of violence, from the Spanish conquest and colonisation that destroyed much of Maya life to several military dictatorships and a CIA-backed coup that culminated in the 36 year civil war that left 200,000 mainly rural, indigenous citizens dead or 'disappeared' at the hands of the state. The 1996 Peace Accords were designed to bring peace and stability with much international focus on strengthening the country's institutions. Progress is slow, however, and serious government commitment to the accords questionable. The general environment of impunity is still dominated by an inefficient state; a corrupt police service; an ineffective justice system; organised crime networks with the economic power of small countries; violent city gangs that outnumber the state military and police forces; and recent decades' tidal wave of internal violence in the form of political assassinations, armed-robbery, femicide of genocidal proportions, kidnappings and extortion.

According to Amnesty International, this has placed the country in the grips of "a human rights meltdown" with internal crime rates higher than most other Latin American countries. Additionally, according to the Economist its internal homicide

rate of 46 per 100,000 is twice as large as Mexico and ten times the rate of the US, with only one in 20 murders gone punished (April, 2011). Part of the problem is that, due to the endemic corruption that permeates every level of government operation, the country has never enjoyed a strong and stable government in which its people have trusted. At the highest levels, this is partly driven by the fact that many active and former prominent military and political figures are known to be, to quote Insight Crime Guatemala, 'a key part of the [country's] illicit networks ... so entrenched that they have taken on a name the Illegal Corps and Clandestine Security Apparatus (Cuerpos Ilegales y Aparatos Clandestinos de Seguridad - CIACS).

CIACS' origins lie in government intelligence units and think tanks that are seen as the 'hidden powers' controlling both government and extra-legal factions. At the time of writing, General Otto Perez Molina of the Patriotic Party, for example, is currently in a head on run off for the Guatemalan presidency. According to Insight Crime, he is also a known CIACS member and was a very high ranking military leader during the armed conflict, purported to have been responsible for the deaths of thousands of rural Guatemalans. His party's campaign activities have undoubtedly been the most visible, at least in and around Sololá province in the Western Highland of Guatemala. Along a sixteen kilometre stretch from the highway through the city and out towards Panajachel on Lake Atitlán, the orange colours and solid clinched fist of the party's logo, representing the 'mano dura' or firm hand that alludes to Molina's proposed plan to crack down on crime, dominate a third of the largest of billboards - a serious presence considering there are over fifteen parties in the running that also compete for advertising space with tens of local mayoral candidates. In the days leading up to the 11th September elections every spare smidgen of space in the country was transformed into armies of standing posters streaming the smiling and not-so-smiling faces of dozens of national and local runners, whilst every formal and pirate radio wave has been hijacked with party propaganda. With no state funding of political parties, much of the money for the campaigns is speculated to be connected to drug and other illicit activities of

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“With few other jobs to go to, many have been recruited into organised crime units both in Guatemala and by powerful international drug smuggling cartels”

the candidates and their staff in the shadow economy of Guatemala.

Shadow economy includes activities (legal or illegal) of monetary and non-monetary transactions that evade normal regulation, taxation and formal detection. As with the highest echelons of government, the role of ex military and intelligence units in these going-ons is well known. The Guatemalan US/CIA-trained military and intelligence apparatus was largely disbanded as part of the peace agreements. Major cuts to the army further retired 10,000 army personnel in 2004. With few other jobs to go to, many have been recruited into organised crime units both in Guatemala and by powerful international drug smuggling cartels. Due to the US crackdown and war against drugs in Mexico, drug smugglers have rerouted their operations through Guatemala. The amount of cocaine transiting through the country, for example, has risen by 47% between 2006 and 2008 alone. The cartels use numerous Pacific coast ports and more than 490 clandestine airstrips in the country. The economist Norman Bailey has given Guatemala a 50/50 chance of failing in the medium term. In addition, as a result of these well-networked, powerful organised crime groups from which many ex-militaries draw their livelihoods, Guatemala is already being called a ‘sustainable narco-state’ by prominent commentators such as Edward F. Fischer, a Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for Latin American Studies at Vanderbilt University.

Researchers Friedrich Schneider and Rober Klingmair have estimated the Guatemalan shadow economy to be 51.5% of GNP, the fourth highest in the region. The black market in drug trafficking alone is estimated at over US \$10bn and the counterfeit goods and piracy markets that many Guatemalans draw their livelihoods from are worth a further US \$106mn. According to Hal Brands at the Strategic Studies Institute, much of the drug money “is laundered through local banks, business ventures and public investment projects.” Clearly, these shadow economies do not have the profile of a weakly organized crime

syndicate coordinated by a few amateur deviants. Rather they are vast, international, and connected to all forms of legal, licit and formal businesses and actors, and spread successfully across all areas of the country. The violence that accompanies them has made Guatemala one of the most murderous places on the planet.

CRIME AND VIOLENCE IN THE LIVES OF ORDINARY GUATEMALANS

Whereas the civil war violence was mainly directed at rural hotbeds of suspected guerrilla activity with 65-98% of all murders and disappearances between 1968 and 1996 having been in rural areas, the epicentres of peace-time crime and violence are urban in the popular imaginary and Guatemala City, the capital, is widely regarded as an especially dangerous place. People who ride public buses, for instance, expect to be robbed or assaulted on their daily commute and the homicide rate in the city has reached 250 people per month with street gangs numbering in tens of thousands.

Having said that, although much crime and violence is centrally and urbanely controlled, few escape its reach. It has become almost a naturalised part of a Guatemalan existence. Take Pedro, for instance, a dried fish trader and resident of a small rural town called Santiago Atitlan 30 minutes from the city of Sololá. He lost two brothers to murder and has not managed to escape brutality himself. In 2005 he and his cousin were kidnapped and their families extorted. Pedro took a loan to pay off the 100,000Q (US \$13,000) extortion fee for their release, a loan the family is still paying back: “*It was terrible and we were beaten badly, they wanted to take our families too, but luckily they weren’t able to. This happens a lot in Guatemala because people are always watching and know our business. People get jealous when others do well. My brothers in the city were in the same trade as us, they sold fish in the central market. Business was good too, so people got jealous and they were murdered in 2004 and 2006...We couldn’t go to the police, we had to sort it out in the family! The cops suck and the politicians are even worse*”. Pedro, despite his eloquence of expression and completion of six grades of primary schooling (which in Guatemala is somewhat of an achievement) vowed never to vote again: “*I do not vote because nothing ever changes*”.

Like Pedro, many victims of theft and kidnap-based extortion put the crimes down to outsiders and centrally controlled and organised urban crime cartels from the cities. These are said to have ‘eyes in every village’. Ordinary people are watched closely and as soon as there are signs of upward social mobility, the order comes to collect a ‘tax’ on their success. Legal and justice impunity and distrust in the police, who are rumoured to be involved in the crimes, means that they are not only unreported for official statistics, but families have no choice but to pay the extortion or risk losing their relatives.

The financial shocks experienced by victims of theft can be equally devastating. Mercedes, a 41 year old trader sells live farm



birds and pets in the central Sololá market, for instance, travels weekly, her basket in tow, to other cities to buy her stock. She has personally been robbed twice on the bus journey, once on her way to Chimaltenango, the capital of a department of the same name and once on her way to the municipality of Chiché in the department of El Quiché when on route the buses were held up by groups of armed men. The latter was particularly damaging because she was relieved of the 7000Q (£640) she had with her to invest in a dozen Labrador pure-bred puppies. A cost she did not recover for lack of insurance.

Even where credit can be accessed, usually at very high interest rates, insurance is not something that is valued or trusted by majority of people. As Victor, a 52 year old owner of a store selling haberdashery and materials for artisan clothing just off of the central plaza in Sololá explained when asked about his finances: *"I took out a bank loan to start the business twenty years ago, which was paid off with high interest. But then the store was robbed in 2006 and I lost Q75, 000 (US \$9,750) worth of stock, which was half of all the materials I owned. I do not have insurance for the shop, so I had to take out another loan to recover and I am still paying that back. I don't want to get insurance because it costs about Q100 per month, which is a lot of money. And besides, I don't trust that should anything happen I would get any money back. Most people are the same and do not trust the insurance companies. And life insurance? Well, what's the point? I won't get to enjoy it when I am dead!"*.

COMMUNITY ADMINISTERED JUSTICE

Some speculate that whilst the number of extortions is falling, thefts and robberies are on the rise. They put this development down to the fact that in many towns and villages people have begun taking justice into their own hands in forming vigilante groups, or 'patrulleros', and carrying out public lynchings of wrong-doers. In one instance several men from the capital, who were suspected of making threatening and extorting phone calls, were caught by organised groups of 'vigilantes', lynched and burnt alive by a group of residents from Sololá. According to one man's analysis, the news of this and other similar exercises in community-administrated justice has travelled far and wide. So much so that although the potential reward of robbery is a fraction of what a successful extortion operation may extract, break-ins into stores are preferred by some criminals targeting business owners in Sololá as the risk of lynching is proving too threatening.

These vigilante groups and lynch mobs carry with them their own problems of impunity and it is not uncommon to hear reports of unfair and unjust punishment. They are a reality and according to Brands, a form of 'social cleansing' that rooted in what researchers John-Andrew McNeish and Oscar López Rivera have called the 'systemic violence of elites and contradictions of international intervention'. They are a response to the structural inability of the state to protect its citizens and administer justice.

CORRUPTION

Corruption is endemic in Guatemala's government at all levels. Elite capture of public projects aimed at the neediest and public fund embezzling is commonplace as one resident of Panajachel explained: 'at the top is the president, then regional deputies, then the mayors, then the community representatives. By the time the money filters down through a number of pockets, there is little left for communities'. Just like crime and violence in the country, corruption's impact is not all behind closed doors. In a recent USAID sponsored household survey of 1,500 Guatemalans investigating the Political Culture of Democracy in Guatemala 16.6% reported being victim to at least one act of government corruption in the past year. This corrodes trust in government and whilst most people speak positively about their local councils, many are deeply dissatisfied with politics overall, with some, like Pedro above, choosing not to vote. 'I do not vote because nothing ever changes', 'I used to vote, but not any more. They always lie, they promise things like roads, but never do

"Whatever the outcome of the November 6th run-off, with its deep-seeded corruption, Guatemala remains an unstable democracy"

"The new government in place will have to work very hard to cut its own ties to criminal factions, stamp out political corruption and use all the help it can get to put in place effective legal and justice systems that will instil trust in law and order that is currently non-existent"

anything, I do not trust them" are the common explanations offered. Along the same lines, it is impossible to miss one of the 500 large signs lining the highway and rural roads all around the country put up by Movimiento Para Integración (The Movement for Integration) proclaiming 'Los Politicos Son Una Mierda!', 'The Politicians are Shit!'. In a phone interview, one of the leaders explained: 'People are fed up. They have seen nothing of the promises made by the politicians every four years during elections when they need people's votes. The placards are designed to get attention, generate discussion and get individuals to think about their vote before casting it'.

WHAT IS THE OUTLOOK NOW?

The reality of crime and violence is on most Guatemalans' minds, who consistently rank security as their number one concern in opinion polls. All presidential candidates focused heavily on this issue in their campaigns, but none quite so adamantly as Otto Pérez Molina whose party collected 36% of the September votes, well below the 50% required for an outright victory. The clinched fist of the party logo promises to put a heavy hand to crime, but many are worried that the hand may be too heavy given the military involvement in the deaths of hundreds of thousands during the armed conflict. Whatever the outcome of the November 6th run-off, with its deep-seeded corruption, Guatemala remains an unstable democracy in which, as the USAID study found, its citizens show the lowest levels of support for democracy and trust in government of all its Latin American neighbours. The new government in place will have to work very hard to cut its own ties to criminal factions, stamp out political corruption and use all the help it can get to put in place effective legal and justice systems that will instil trust in law and order that is currently non-existent. This presents no easy task and would take decades of carefully orchestrated state and consensus building, not likely in a country where no elected government has lasted beyond a single term in office. This lack of continuity is compounded by the fact that each new administration comes with an army of new, usually under-qualified, political appointees in a corrupt system of patron-client relations. So what is the outlook now? Change is not likely to come fast. Simple talk of significant reforms earns prominent figures serious death-threats as was recently rumoured to the case for Harold Caballeros, an ex-presidential candidate blocked from running due to ineligibility. The outlook is not a bright one. With continual growth in organised crime, violence against ordinary people, community administrated justice and institutionalised corruption things are likely to get a lot worse before they get better.

(Ioulia Fenton is an Assistant Editor at GSDM and Noah Marwil is our newly appointed Regional Editor for Latin America. Ioulia can be reached at iouliafenton@gmail.com and Noah can be reached at noah.marwil@gmail.com)



Favela Morumbi, bordered by one of the city's richest neighbourhoods, also named Morumbi, São Paulo. Alexandre Meneghini/AP

Amalgamating the slum society into the adjacent mainstream society

The mainstream urban societies castigate everyone who resides within the peripheries of such secluded systems. However, ask anyone who resides in such an impoverished and dilapidated world he/she will willingly admit that it is a wondrous world to live-in. According to the UN-HABITAT a slum is "a heavily populated urban area characterized by substandard housing and squalor". Herein the residents are missing at least one of the following: access to improved water, improved sanitation, and security of tenure, durability of housing and sufficient living area.

Today slums are extensively prevalent in majority of the South (developing) countries spread across the globe. This has been a direct outcome of the 20th century urban revolution in the developing world. Since the West had experienced the modern industrial revolution ahead of the East (presently referring to the developing countries) by a few centuries, hence it had successfully bore the phenomenon of rise and decline of slums with suitable government policies, crafty development and welfare works, conscious public or non-governmental initiatives and so on. However the developing countries are unable to apply the western 'problem-solving' methodologies in this context due to financial constraints and situational differences in comparison with the West. A big question here is – how do the developing countries proceed to effectively tackle this crippling problem of rising slums?

The basic reason for sharp rise in the number of slums across the developing world is due to rapid increase in number of cities and industrial towns with flourishing trade and commerce. It is the availability of very limited residential space that is majorly contributing for the same. As Mike Davis has concluded in his book Planet of Slums, "That frontier of free land is essentially over.". People from the rural areas migrate to cities with utopian dreams to end-up residing in such sub-worlds with one-way flux. It is the slum-dwellers who come-out to work in the adjacent urban areas whereas the urbanites rarely venture inside slums. Life in a slum is fight-for everyday survival.

Children are hardly able to get minimal primary education, mothers the basic maternal necessities, adults a mode of fixed income and elderly the required old-age support and care. Despite all these hardships slums are booming in almost every major city in the developing countries, like Orangi Township in Karachi (Pakistan), Dharavi in Mumbai (India), Kibera in Nairobi (Kenya), Ashaiman in Tema (Ghana), Rocinha in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil).

Since there is no particular tried-and-tested formula to redress such a poverty-stricken scenario, only full-hearted and all-round intra and interstate partnerships are expected to bring-up much-wanted 'miracles'. If we are to make any long-lasting impact for face-lifting of the slums, the developmental activities should target the root problems that in-turn give rise to various subsidiary problems. Following are listed as the major steps, which if enacted with vigour and integrity can bring-up decisive changes to any slum.

"Today slums are extensively prevalent in majority of the developing countries spreading across the globe. This has been a direct outcome of the 20th century urban revolution in the developing world.

First, the slum-dwellers need to be taught different vocational skills according to their individual preference and calibre. This will equip them with a medium of income-generation, and the financial security will help meet their basic living requirements. Second, everyone (regardless of sex and age) needs to be given



By Hriday Sarma

Special Correspondent, South-to South Cooperation

“The basic reason for sharp rise in the number of slums across the developing world is due to rapid increase in number of cities and industrial towns with flourishing trade and commerce”

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compulsory primary education and then further secondary education if willing and possible on part of the particular individual. This will not only boost their morale but also make them immune from being deceived and swindled by outsiders. Third, there should more number of transaction outlets between the slum and the adjacent urban centre. This will substantially facilitate the flow of goods and items between the side-lined economy and the mainstream economy, which will elate the slum-dwellers to produce more quantity and variety of indigenous products. Fourth, the state in collaboration with the civil society and private partners should carry-out extensive developmental works in a well-planned manner be it construction or refurbishing of residential quarters, streets, public and private toilets, streets, garbage disposal systems etc. This will help the slum-dwellers to reside in a hygienic environment which will prevent them from contracting diseases and infections and will also give an orderly outlook to the slums. Fifth, create functional bodies on poverty alleviation under the auspices of different regional grouping of countries (like ASEAN, SAARC, OIS, CSTO) to extensively coordinate and cooperate among member countries of the groups to streamline the national policies of the countries to conform with consensual regional goals on poverty alleviation. A permanent SAARC Commission on poverty Alleviation, which is presently being proposed by certain member countries, will benefit the stated regional mechanism for poverty alleviation and will bring about a new regional approach to addressing the varied aspects of poverty alleviation and amalgamation of slums into adjacent urban mainstream societies.

Throughout the implementation process of the above listed steps there should be external (i.e. moral and professional

inculcation) and internal (i.e voluntary) conditioning among all for transforming the general perception of stigmatizing and discriminating against the slum dwellers. There should also be simultaneous attempts to cultivate an action-oriented mutually supportive environment between the slum dwellers and mainstream society inhabitants. Such marginalized sections of people are very self-esteemed and don't usually tolerate misconduct and rebuke against them. Across the world, there have been numerous stories of slum dwellers who have garnered power by illegitimate and violent ways to either flaunt brawn power or execute retaliatory steps on their fellow urbanites. The rise and fall of one of the world's most dangerous drug lords Christopher “Dudus” Coke, leader of Shower Posse gang that has its base in impoverished Tivoli Gardens in Tivoli Gardens (Jamaica) and even operates in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, is a classic case in this regard. He succeeded his father Jim Brown, who was killed in a prison fire in 1992, to become the ganglord who would serve as community leader and enforcer not only within gritty Tivoli Gardens but even further across the prosperous city of Kingston by ordering the killing of selected individuals/ groups, extortion of ransoms, intimidating voters at times of elections etc. Coke was known as “President” to the people of his slum and could elude police offensives in the past by hiding in his slum stronghold. However on 22nd June 2010, Coke was finally arrested by Jamaican police nearly a month after 76 people were killed during a four-day assault carried-out by the Jamaican security forces against him and his henchmen.

It is to be acknowledged that a rapprochement between the two societies (i.e slum societies and adjacent urban societies) will be mutually beneficial and will lead to the overall progress of the slum infested countries.

Herein few examples of programmes or initiatives are listed that have highly succeeded in bringing-up a desirable change in the context of redressing slums. Slum Electrification and Loss Reduction Program in Paraisópolis, Sao Paulo, Brazil, a pilot project implemented through a Global Development Alliance with partnership of International Copper Association, Ltd. (ICA) AES Eletropaulo and USAID whereby successful results were achieved in improving safety and quality of electrical power, allowing utility companies to recuperate at least part of their so-called ‘non-technical losses’ and in process making the consumers legal citizens. The various developmental projects implemented across the developing countries under the ambit of Slum Upgrading Projects and City Development Strategy drawn-up by Cities Alliance (a global coalition of cities and their development partners that aims to eliminate slums globally) have successfully alleviated various problems concerning slum residents. Rajiv Awaj Yogna, a central government initiative in

India being implemented by the Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) Ministry for the period of 2009-2017, is expected to benefit 32 million people in 250 cities across the state. This is an endeavour on part of the Indian government to make the country slum-free by empowering slum dwellers with property rights of the houses built under the scheme. Though dilapidated, slums have an aesthetic beauty in themselves. The day slums will be completely wiped-out from the face of this earth, a vibrant civilization will demise. However till then let us unitedly endeavour to work in the very direction. (Hriday can be reached by email at hridayarma@yahoo.co.in)



By Irene Nyambura Mwangi
GSDM Correspondent, Development &
Democracy in Africa

Why World mourns Wangari Maathai?



You may have heard it. Kenya and the world are mourning the death of Africa's first Woman Nobel laureate. Prof Wangari Mathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate and founder of the Green Belt movement died on Sunday 25th September 2011 at The Nairobi Hospital.

Many people who are not familiar with Kenyan politics may not understand why '*mama miti*', as she was popularly called to mean mother of trees in Kiswahili is synonymous with multi party democracy in Kenya.

But for being a first of many admirable things, the fallen heroine is to be admired for her ability to connect the ordinary, often ignorant citizen or '*mwananchi*' as is known in Kiswahili to complex global development issues in an ingenious yet simple way.

Flashback to the 1990's. Kenya, like many other African countries was still under single party rule under then President Moi who took over power in 1978 soon after the death of Kenya's first president Jomo Kenyatta. Wangari and President Moi were bitter rivals. Why? Moi once termed Prof Maathai as a mad woman. At a time when Press Freedom and Freedom of Speech were highly curtailed, Wangari Maathai opposed Moi's government and cronies' encroachment of water catchment areas and land grabbing in Nairobi city's metropolis, quite notably the City's Uhuru Park and Karura forest.

But Prof Maathai may as well have been unknown by many global citizens until 2004 when she won the Nobel Peace Prize. You may wonder how the acclaimed environmentalist's work is related to

"Wangari was a unique visionary. She saw the essence of environmental conservation vis a vis Kenya's future in development way before climate change became a global phrase. And she used her passion, courage and influences to engage ordinary citizens in her vision"

"She is to be admired for her ability to connect the ordinary, often ignorant citizen or '*mwananchi*' as is known in Kiswahili to complex global development issues in an ingenious yet simple way"

democracy and development. In a country where elections are often marred by violence and other anomalies, womenfolk often chicken out or are forced to due to the intensity of violence involved prior to and sometimes during elections. Wangari was a unique visionary. She saw the essence of environmental conservation vis a vis Kenya's future in development way before climate change became a global phrase. And she used her passion, courage and influences to engage ordinary citizens in her vision. One is considered politically influential if they can garner support from a wide range of economic and social spheres and this is what Wangari Mathai did. Way before multiparty democracy set in, at about the same time when the Berlin wall fell, Prof Maathai had

“Maathai spoke boldly in the Media against encroachment of land in Nairobi’s Karura forest and Uhuru Park, whose parcels of land were to be sold to prominent and politically connected individuals”

“let us remember and honour the local village woman who appreciates and is the beneficiary of efforts of intertwining the intricacies of gender, development and politics in Africa; she is the foundation of democracy in Africa for without her, Wangari or Sirleaf would not have made such massive impact in Africa’s politics”

“when Wangari joined other women in a hunger strike blocking Moi’s government plans to build a multi storied business block at the Nairobi’s Uhuru Park, president Moi called her a ‘mad’ woman”

a huge grassroots following among Kenya’s rural women who she worked with in planting trees to reduce environmental degradation and promote sustainable livelihoods. She did this courtesy of the Green Belt movement. Like other developing countries, Kenya’s majority rural population relies on firewood and charcoal for cooking and this often leads to rapid fast deforestation as swelling Human population continues to exert pressure on natural resources.

Toil on the Soil

So when Wangari joined other women in a hunger strike blocking Moi’s government plans to build a multi storied business block at the Nairobi’s Uhuru Park, president Moi called her a ‘mad’ woman. Who was she to question his authoritarian rule? But what may have worried the president was the massive influence the environmentalist had across the country’s regional and ethnic blocs and that meant trouble for Moi. You see, Wangari always explained to local people, especially women she worked with, the intricate connection between Kenya’s fragile environmental structure and Kenya’s future for a

sustainable development in a simple yet realistic way that won the hearts of many from all walks of life. She worked hard in her vision, to the point of being ruthlessly beaten by Security arms, severally and each time in deeper terms, at one time leading to her hospitalisation. But she did not bow down to Moi’s threats, who at one time declared in the Media that An African woman ought to be humble and quiet, referring to Wangari Mathai’s movement.

Africa’s politics has been termed as synonymous with ‘it is our time to eat’ and this is what Kenya’s president Moi’s cronies did in many illegitimate land grabbing deals. But they did not succeed in silencing the author of *‘Unbowed’*, a biography that speaks of Maathai’s early life and her political engagement in her last two decades. Maathai spoke boldly in the Media against encroachment of land in Nairobi’s Karura forest and Uhuru Park, whose parcels of land were to be sold to prominent and politically connected individuals. Eventually, the events surrounding the hunger strikes, several beatings and attracted global Human Rights outcry and consequently pressure mounted on President Moi to work towards granting Kenya a multiparty democracy.

Female foundations

Although she joined active politics and became a member of parliament in her native Tetu constituency after current President Kibaki took power in Kenya in 2002, it is her ability to bring her passion in to the forefronts and garner massive support for her ideals in a way that focused on governance and development that made her the icon she is. I am drawn to yet another of Africa’s first, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf equally benefited from the grassroots women movement that visited Charles Taylor at Liberia’s Executive Mansion and demanded peace after 2003 second Liberian Civil war in the West African country. While Sirleaf Johnson, who is also a 2011 Nobel Laureate for Peace, is celebrated as Africa’s first woman president in Liberia, there is a need to focus on the grassroots efforts and participation among women in Africa that eventually lead to her political position. Today as the world celebrates such women who have made political gains against social and cultural bottlenecks, let us remember and honour the local village woman who appreciates and is the beneficiary of efforts of intertwining the intricacies of gender, development and politics in Africa; she is the foundation of democracy in Africa for without her, Wangari or Sirleaf would not have made such massive impact in Africa’s politics being as much as our ‘firsts’ of multiparty democracy reaps in the continent. *(GSDM’s Special Correspondent for Democracy & Development in Africa, Irene Nyambura Mwangi can be reached by email at irenemwangi@gmail.com)*

“Development from Within”

A book by Lykke Andersen

Reviewed by Ioulia Fenton

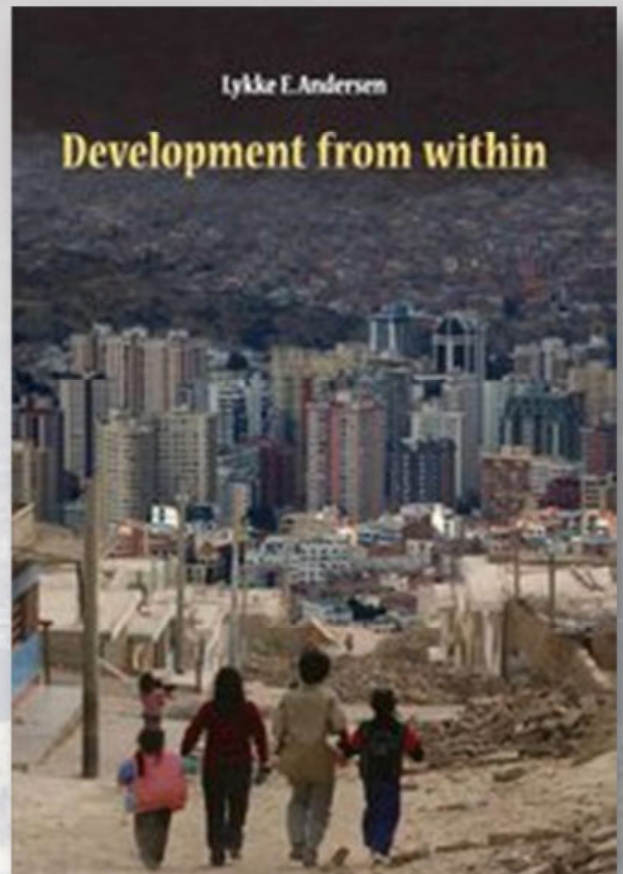
I distinctly remember an escalating panicking internal monolog that accompanied the first six months of my study of international development. The alien complex interplay of economics, politics, sociology, environmental studies and even anthropology inspired feelings of dread and thoughts of “I am so out of my league here!”, “I will never understand this”, “Value exchange theory, Rents – what?”. I was not alone and most of my Masters classmates were equally lost having little to no background in development. If only we had access to “Development From Within” and similar writings.

Lykke Andersen, a regular contributor to GSDM, not only has the knack of making complex theories and

concepts manageable, but actually fun and incredibly stimulating.

Although it does not follow like a text book, the chapters are intuitively organised by subject and each entry is taken from half a decade of Lykke’s weekly short essays published by INESAD (Institute of Advanced Development Studies) in Bolivia. Each one is a bite size chunk digesting one tasty issue at a time. It is packed full of evidence without the usual academic dryness that can put many a student to sleep. Always it is critical and sometimes controversial, but never boring. At times, the pages have you smiling, at others shaking your head with disagreement, and on occasion it has the power to change your mind. It serves a fantastic read for students, professionals and those entirely new to development alike. If that was not appealing enough, Lykke is giving it away for free. The online version of the book is downloadable from:
<http://www.inesad.edu.bo/pdf/Andersen2011DevelopmentFromWithin.pdf>

Happy Reading!



“Always it is critical and sometimes controversial, but never boring. At times, the pages have you smiling, at others shaking your head with disagreement, and on occasion it has the power to change your mind. It serves a fantastic read for students, professionals and those entirely new to development alike”

The book is available for free at
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 Contact the author by email: Lykke.E.Andersen@gmail.com

Ioulia is GSDM's Assistant Editor



EU falls well short on aid pledges

The European Union missed its target of aid to developing countries by 15 billion euros (\$21.3bn) in 2010 and is on course fall well short of future goals, according to a report on the world's largest donor.

The study by CONCORD coalition of advocacy organisations says that despite the 54bn euros (\$71.5bn) in aid provided by the EU in 2010, its effectiveness is damaged by "inflated" budgets, a lack of transparency, and the failure of several large countries - including Germany, Italy and Spain - to meet their commitments.

Germany, the EU's largest economy, and financially wobbly Spain and Italy together accounted for 9.5bn euros (\$12.6bn) in the shortfall in the EU's aid targets last year. Just nine of the bloc's 27 countries kept or exceeded their promises on aid.



China leads world in green energy investment

Global investment in renewable energy jumped 32% in 2010 to a record \$211bn (£130bn; 149bn euros), according to the Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2011 report.

Published jointly by the UN Environment Programme and the Frankfurt School of Finance, it shows that China has become the largest investor in renewable energy projects.

But the country still faces grave cases of pollution despite progress in cutting down on the number of new coal-burning power stations during the last five years. According to Zhang Lijun, vice-minister of environmental protection, coal consumption increased by a billion tons between 2006 and 2010. "And it is likely to see another one-billion-ton rise in the coming five years," he adds.



While Yege's children are the township's first generation who can read, they would effectively become illiterate after dusk. That's because there was no electricity, and, therefore, no lights, in the seven tents that the nearly 80 students call "dorms".

But that changed in early August, when the nonprofit Step Up, Solidarity to End Poverty — United for Progress, installed two high-voltage solar panels through its Brighter Future project. The children cheered when first light bulb turned on in their tent.

The school's deputy headmaster Yongdingquepab says, "The solar panels have given the children new eyes." These students are the first generation to go to school in this Tibetan community of about 2,000 nomadic yak herders in Qinghai province's Yushu prefecture. More than half of the heads of nomadic households surveyed by the World Bank can't read and have never attended school. But two-thirds of those with solar panels can.

Most adults in Yege township don't know numbers, but their children do. And they're proud to be different from their parents. Deputy headmaster and math teacher of Yege's primary school Yongdingquepab holds up a 100-yuan bill and explains.

Most of Yege's 137 primary school students started school only a few years ago. Their parents previously believed they should herd yaks instead of study. The teachers traveled from tent to tent over hundreds of kilometers to explain the value of education to the families.

In Argentina, child allowance restores families' ties with schools

Cash payments to poor parents on condition their children keep up with school attendance and health checkups is having a positive impact



Conditional cash payments to poor families with children in Argentina "have had a very positive impact", says an enthusiastic Graciela Dulcich, the principal of a primary school in a poor neighbourhood on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. "Once the kids are enrolled in school, the responsibility is ours, and if they miss class for more than three days, we have to move heaven and earth to find out what's going on, and to make them start coming again," she explained.

For the past 35 years, Dulcich has worked in public schools in low-income neighbourhoods on the outskirts of the capital, such as school number 34, which she currently heads in San Isidro, a Buenos Aires district marked by strong social contrasts. In late 2009, the centre-left government of Cristina Fernández introduced the Universal Child Allowance (AUH), which now grants 220 pesos (\$53) a month for each child under 18, up to a maximum of five, to parents who are unemployed or work in the informal sector of the economy.

In the case of disabled children, the monthly allowance is four times that. The AUH was later expanded to the children of domestics, pregnant women, and low-earning members of co-operatives. The cash transfer, which is now received by the families of more than 3.6 million children and adolescents, is conditional on school attendance and keeping up to date on vaccines and health checkups. Independent studies show that the AUH has led to a drastic – between 55% and 70% – reduction in extreme poverty, as well as a less significant drop in the levels of poverty and inequality.

Foreign Aid Set to Take a Hit in U.S. Budget Crisis



America's budget crisis at home is forcing the first significant cuts in overseas aid in nearly two decades, a retrenchment that officials and advocates say reflects the country's diminishing ability to influence the world.

As lawmakers scramble to trim the swelling national debt, both the Republican-controlled House and the Democrat-controlled Senate have proposed slashing financing for the State Department and its related aid agencies at a time of desperate humanitarian crises and uncertain political developments. The proposals have raised the specter of deep cuts in food and medicine for Africa, in relief for disaster-affected places like Pakistan and Japan, in political and economic assistance for the new democracies of the Middle East, and even for the Peace Corps.

Spending on international affairs, including foreign aid and the State Department's operating budget, reached \$55 billion in the 2010 fiscal year, Mr. Obama's first full year in office, but declined by the end of the 2011 budget to \$49 billion.

Steve Jobs, Apple and the developing world

Steve Jobs always became big news, mainly in the Western, but also in the developing world, when he was alive and also when he passed away. Millions paid tribute and lamented his death throughout the world. People extensively used social networking sites and online forums to express their admiration to Jobs, to Apple, and to their sleeky, amazing products. Influential global magazines such as Time and The Economist dedicated their issues writing about Steve, his exemplary leadership, extraordinary success at Silicon Valley, and then about his fight against pancreatic cancer, suffering and death.

Today Apple stands as the world's most valuable company which sufficiently demonstrates Steve Jobs' brilliant vision and extraordinary leadership, and the fact that Apple products are so admirable, addictive and are loved by millions across the globe confirms his creative ingenuity, passion and tireless longing for perfection.

I never bought an Apple iPod or a Mac, but when I got my first iPhone, it felt like owning a magic wand. That tiny little thing could do so many things. That was like a noiseless minicomputer which you could use for making phone calls to sending emails to reading books for your university exams. The whole understanding of a mobile phone changed from that point onwards. It was unbelievable.

However, despite these amazing products and soaring success, Apple remained a close company and didn't show any interest in the developing world, home to 5.5 of the planet's 6.7 billion people. Apple products are so expensive that recently a Chinese student decided to sell his kidney so that he could afford an iPad 2.

In order to maximize profit, Apple moved its production units to developing countries, and today many of Apple's products are assembled in China. Retailing has been the norm of the company and, recent media reports claim, working conditions at Apple's suppliers in China are simply appalling. A worker was reported to committing suicide after a 34 hour work shift at a firm that produced parts for iPhone and iPad. In the past, Apple was also accused of using child labor in one of its production houses, which Apple ultimately accepted, and of importing raw materials from war trodden areas of the developing world.

We do love magical Apple products, but it is worth knowing, these unbelievably sleeky products and Steve Jobs' as well as Apple's success come under a heavy price, often paid by petty workers in the developing world. Importing raw materials as well as using cheap labour from the developing world, Apple and Steve Jobs solidified their success in the Silican Valley. However, when it was time to return the favor, they miserably failed.

Recent reports confirm that Apple has more cash than the US treasury, but, reportedly, when Bill Gates, another Silicon Valley legend, approached Mr. Jobs to persuade him to join the Giving Pledge Campaign, a chairty campaign of US billionaires that takes away half of their wealth to charities, Mr. Jobs declinded the offer.

Worth noting, after he came back to Apple in 1997, Steve Jobs, suspended all charity programs and donations.

We at Global South Development Magazine would have loved to publish a special report about Mr Jobs and how his charity helped get education to children and how many lives were saved from malaria and HIV/AIDS, but when we searched for Apple's social initiatives, all we found was a donation made in California to a campaign that advocated for legalization of same sex marriages.



With his amazing products and innovation, Steve did touch, and to some extent, transformed our lives, but despite possessing \$8.3 billion of personal wealth and leading a company that worth \$39.3 billion, he failed to deeply touch and transform the lives of the most needy and vulnerable people on this planet.




“Many people have said that Steve Jobs is going to be placed right after Thomas Edison and Walt Disney in the shelves of history. It is difficult to predict, who will get what position in the long run, but to me Mr. Gates will always come ahead of Mr. Jobs. It is Mr. Gates who actually ‘thought differently’ and touched the hearts and minds of millions in a deeper, subtle way”

Apple has been lauded for being innovative, authentic and for not copying anything from others. However, I would say, they should have copied at least some traits of social/global responsibility exhibited by Microsoft. Through Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Microsoft has channeled billions of dollars to fight global poverty, to promote equal access to health and education in the developing world, and to protect the environment. After stepping down as the CEO in 2000 to give more time for his philanthropic work, Bill Gates, in 2006 announced that his fulltime work will be at Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

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And yes, the Forbes list still shows Apple as the most valuable company on the planet; whereas, Microsoft stands at number six. But to me, once again, unless Apple recognizes its social responsibility, Microsoft stands at number one! (*The Editor can be reached at manoj.bhusal@silcreation.org*)



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