

Dear Reader,

As some of you may already know, the European Consensus on Development Education and Awareness Raising was finally unveiled on November 9th, at the European Development Days held in Lisbon! A great success for the Multistakeholders group, due also to the presence of Commissioner Louis Michel at the launch. A special thank goes to Adam Davies for the commitment to DEEEP and to the Consensus, who has now moved to Tanzania. I would also like to welcome, Tobias Troll, the new Advocacy Officer at DEEEP!

To all of you best wishes for 2008!

Chiara Tripepi

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## 1/ News from DEEEP

### The European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising launched at EU Development Days– by Adam Davies

The 'European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising' was unveiled at the EU Development Days, by Louis Michel, EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid on 9 November 2007. Commissioner Michel announced that *"this Consensus on development education is as important as the European Consensus on Development. Young people are unaware of poor people suffering. Raising awareness amongst young people is a day to day effort. Development education is a long term process to prepare young people for the debates of tomorrow."*

This joint statement provides the first strategy framework on European development education and awareness raising (DE/AR) at local, regional, national and European levels. It is offered as a contribution to the implementation of the European Consensus on Development (2005), which recognises the importance of DE/AR among EU citizens in addressing such global development concerns and commitments including the Millennium Development Goals), and that there should be particular attention given to it (Part I, section 4.3, paragraph 18). It also complements and strengthens, and not replaces existing national and European initiatives to create increased public awareness, interest and involvement in development.

Rilli Lappalainen, Chair of the CONCORD Development Education Forum, explained that this strategy framework has been drawn up by the representatives from the current, past and future EU Presidencies; other Member State Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Development; the European Institutions; local authorities and municipalities; NGOs; Youth Organisations; the Global Education Network Europe (GENE); the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe; and the OECD. *"A lot of development education activities already exist, but each running separately. This strategy is a tool to encourage cross cutting activities,"* added Rilli Lappalainen who co-chaired the process.

It includes a number of significant policy recommendations to improve practice and impact towards the Member State governments, European Commission, European Parliament, media and civil society actors, in particular that there should be support,:

- To create more dialogue between European, state, media and civil society actors who are, or who could be, engaged in promoting DE/AR.
- For stronger mutual support in learning to improve existing practice and in developing new ventures.
- To encourage cross European programmes and activities, including between different and new actors in DE/AR and development cooperation.
- To encourage greater cross learning between national and EU levels; between people North and South; and with governmental and civil society actors in low and middle income countries outside the European Union.
- To highlight the relevance of global development to European, national, local and public concerns.

*"This strategy framework is the beginning of future actions. Annexes will provide details for each stakeholder's group on how to implement the strategy's principles and policy. In one year, we will assess what has been done. A reference manual of best practices and lessons learned will complement the framework,"* said Anita Reddy, co-Chair of the process, from InWEnt (Capacity Building International, Germany).

It is now crucial that each stakeholder group, including NGOs through CONCORD, work to develop their own concrete action plans to implement strategy framework's principles and policy recommendations. Also look out for the next key European DE/AR event, hosted by SLOGA the Slovenian NGDO Presidency, in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 9-10 June 2008.

**Download the Strategy Framework from:** [http://www.deeep.org/english/europe/strategy/european\\_consensus\\_30102007.pdf](http://www.deeep.org/english/europe/strategy/european_consensus_30102007.pdf)

**More information:** Rilli Lappalainen ([rilli.lappalainen@kehys.fi](mailto:rilli.lappalainen@kehys.fi)), and for details of the Slovenian NGDO Presidency Conference on 'the Role of NGDOs in Development Education and Awareness Raising', Ljubljana, Slovenia (9-10 June 08), contact ([info@sloga-platform.org](mailto:info@sloga-platform.org)).

## **Towards stronger and coherent Development Education in Europe: Next steps in the implementation of the Development Education Consensus – by Tobias Troll**

The unveiling of the European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness - or shortly: Development Education Consensus - (see the above article) is an important milestone towards the recognition of development education (DE) as fundamental element in the fight against global poverty. However, the presentation of the paper is only a first step. Together with the multi stakeholder group and CONCORD's Development Education Forum, DEEEP will continue to facilitate the implementation of the documents recommendations, on national and European level. 2008 provides important opportunities to make the Consensus a concrete tool for stronger and coherent DE in Europe. Upcoming milestones include:

The further implication of other important stakeholders in the strategy process, especially the national Ministries of Education, to assure that development education leaves the cosy corner of development cooperation and gets accessible to the greatest number of European citizens via formal education systems. 2008 will be the "European Year of Intercultural Dialog" and we will use this occasion to promote DE beyond the frame of development NGOs and cooperation or foreign affairs ministries.

The next meeting of the multi stakeholder steering group is scheduled for end of February, most probably at the European Parliament. This will be the occasion to concretise further steps towards in the implementation of the strategy's principles and policy, and to implicate further the democratic representation of the European citizens in the process.

SLOGA, the Slovene national NGDO platform and CONCORD member, made DE one of their priorities for the upcoming Slovene EU presidency. A conference on "The way towards the implementation of the **European Consensus on Development: the contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising**", co-organised by SLOGA and the Slovene Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will take place in Ljubljana on 9 and 10 June. It will unite a wide range of stakeholders from governments, parliaments and the civil society. Examples and best practises on how the DE consensus was used so far to promote development education will stimulate the reflection on further steps. A special focus will be the situation of DE in new member states.

During the French presidency in the second half of 2008, the national platform Coordination SUD made citizen's participation and development education one of their priorities. A DE conference will take place during the Global Education Week (every year the third week of November) and at the same time as the European Development Days. It shall prepare the ground for international solidarity playing an important role in the upcoming 2009 European Parliamentary elections.

In addition, it is up to all of us – European citizens, NGO people, politicians, teachers... - to read the Consensus and to use it as a tool and reference, for local approaches as well as for wider DE strategies. Do not hesitate to contact DEEEP if you want to get involved or if you have any questions on the DE Consensus.

For further information, contact: Tobias Troll (DEEEP Advocacy officer), at [t.troll@deep.org](mailto:t.troll@deep.org)

## **New CONCORD Development Education Forum Position Paper launched**

European governments have stated their commitments to meet their obligations for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other UN targets (including 0.7% of ODA / GNI) by 2015, and it is a moral imperative that these commitments are both honoured and met. The CONCORD Development Education Forum (DEF) believes that while governments and politicians have a responsibility, so do European citizens, and all European citizens must be given opportunities to become aware of and understand their rights and responsibilities as global citizens so they can fulfil their potential to effect change for a more just and equal world.

The CONCORD DEF believes that development education contributes effectively and productively towards raising greater awareness among European citizens. This is essential for building a true

'constituency' that not only encourages and pressurises our governments to meet their international development commitments and targets, including the MDGs, but contributes to greater public scrutiny and informed discussions on ever-improving each nation's development co-operation work and humanitarian aid programmes. There is also increasing positive political recognition of this, including in the European Consensus on Development (2005) and the Joint Development Policy Programme of the EU Presidencies of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia (January 2007).

As part of a six-month long consultation process, the CONCORD DEF has just completed a new Position Paper outlining their stance on development education, why they think it is important, and their guiding principles, and what they specifically work to do. It also includes strong national and EU level recommendations to the EU Member States and the European Commission and European Parliament. We encourage everyone to read this valuable statement in your national and EU level advocacy discussions to further raise the political profile of development education and the importance of strong European public engagement in the fight against international poverty and inequality.

For more information contact Tobias Troll at [t.troll@deeeep.org](mailto:t.troll@deeeep.org)

## 2/ Development Education Summer School 2008

### DESS 2008 "Getting eradication of global poverty and social inclusion in the political agenda through development education, campaigning advocacy"- by Chiara Tripepi

Utrecht will host from June 22 to June 29 the DEEEP/CONCORD Summer School on Development Education! The aim of this year DESS is to foster active and effective engagement of non governmental and civil society organisations working on eradication of global poverty and for social inclusion in educational, advocacy and campaigning work around political and electoral processes.

For the first time, participants will be divided into two groups, beginners (with less than a year of experience) and advanced (2 years experience), in order to give the opportunity to all to benefit from the one week long learning process. 3 working groups have been established, namely:

- 1- *How to involve political parties and citizens to put eradication of global poverty and social inclusion on the political agenda at local level,*
- 2- *how to involve political parties and citizens to put eradication of global poverty and social inclusion on the political agenda at national level and influence national government's position in international organisations,*
- 3- *Getting eradication of global poverty and social inclusion on the political agenda at European and regional level.*

Each working group will have the two experience level.

Furthermore, some 5 thematic sessions- each of about 120 minutes- have been thought: participants will be able to follow 3 different thematic sessions, on three different evenings.

- A- role of migrant organisations and diasporas in getting eradication of global poverty and social inclusion on the political agenda
- B- how to approach political parties , elaborate political demands and monitor politicians work shifting the paradigm: young people from target groups to partners of political campaigns and education activities
- C- EU decision making process on Development: role of the European Institutions, National and local governments
- D- How to effectively address and engage different segments of citizens and politicians sharing common norms and values.
- E- Democratic governance and the millennium development goals> holding governments accountable.

After the experience from the previous DESS, the market place session is going to be anticipated to the first days of the week, so to facilitate the "getting to know each other" process. An audiovisual tool exhibition is also foreseen, as well as a fundraising session.

Participants are welcome to apply to their national platform by January 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest. DEEEP is expect-

ing around 100 participants to take part in this week long learning process.

For more information please visit our website, at:

[http://www.deeep.org/english/about\\_deeep/summer\\_school/2008/index.php](http://www.deeep.org/english/about_deeep/summer_school/2008/index.php)

Or contact Angelo Caserta: [a.caserta@deeep.org](mailto:a.caserta@deeep.org), and Rina Froklage: [r.froklage@coswmbrabant.nl](mailto:r.froklage@coswmbrabant.nl)

## Call for Facilitators for the DESS 2008

DEEEP and the Dutch platform are looking for facilitators for the 6 working groups (3 for each level). The Call will be open until December 15th. For more information and to download the form visit [http://www.deeep.org/english/about\\_deeep/summer\\_school/2008/index.php](http://www.deeep.org/english/about_deeep/summer_school/2008/index.php), or contact Angelo Caserta ([a.caserta@deeep.org](mailto:a.caserta@deeep.org)) or Rina Froklage ([r.froklage@coswmbrabant.nl](mailto:r.froklage@coswmbrabant.nl)).

## 3– News from TRIALOG

### EC decided on DE projects in NMS– by Petra Kreinecker

As reported earlier, as a result of EU-wide lobby actions, the EC allocated 10 million Euros in the 2006 budget especially for development education and awareness raising activities in the new EU member states (NMS). They were added to the 20 million budget of the 2006 Development Education (ED) Call for Proposals.

It became known in September, that 38 pre-selected projects with active participation of NMS NGOs have been invited to submit a full application within the second stage of the Call.

Towards the middle of November 2007, the EC published the eagerly awaited **results of the ED call** including data on the 10 million for NMS. In the final selection, in total 56 projects from all EU countries have been selected for funding. Out of them, **18 projects with lead agencies from 8 NMS** have been approved by the EC and will begin in 2008. Together with 4 projects which will operate in NMS, but lead by British, Greek and Dutch NGOs, the full sum of 10 million Euros allocated for ED activities in NMS will be used.

The 18 projects with NMS lead agencies come from: Cyprus (1), Czech Republic (3), Estonia (1), Hungary (6), Lithuania (1), Poland (3), Slovakia (1) and Slovenia (2). The planned actions reach from documentary films to human rights issues, migration, health related topics over school and university curricula to climate issues and fair trade concerns.

TRIALOG congratulates all organizations who were successful as lead agencies, consortium members and European partners - a result of a lot of engagement and efforts!

**For details on the Call results, please refer to the following EC documents:** [http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/ed2006\\_success\\_rate\\_8-10-07.pdf](http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/ed2006_success_rate_8-10-07.pdf)  
[http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/ed2006\\_results\\_10-nms.pdf](http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/ed2006_results_10-nms.pdf)  
[http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/ed2006\\_results\\_15-oms.pdf](http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/ed2006_results_15-oms.pdf)

*Information also available on TIS*

### TRIALOG/CONCORD Conference, Prague, May 14-16, 2008– by Petra Kreinecker

As a result of a TRIALOG external evaluation recommendation, a joint TRIALOG - CONCORD EU-wide event on the "nature of development cooperation" will be organised in Prague, 14th – 16th May 2008. The draft conference title is "Civil society and the new challenges for development – which way forward". This conference is supposed to prepare a base for a second conference in the year 2009 that may both contrib-

ute to the CONCORD strategic plan 2009 – 2013 as well as initiate a conceptualisation of post TRIALOG work in new member states (NMS) and within the framework of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), focused on future goals and roles of civil society organisations (CSOs).

The aims of the conference are:

Analytical review of the actual situation of development countries (experts from the global South and East) and the different ways of tackling development problems by the European actors, especially development NGOs; discussing the differences in the approach towards development policies and the basic questions about goals of development in global South, North, East; starting to develop visions of European development policy after 2015; networking in the different fields of interests.

The first step of the conference should be an assessment of the current situation of developing countries in the South and in the East, situation in development co-operation realised by state and civil society actors. The assessment should respect the different perspectives: South, West, East – being conscious about differences in the regions themselves. A survey of immediate and long term needs – challenges for development co-operation.

The second step is to review the different answers of the actors – state and CSO in West and East. Are they different? Why? Recent trends in ODA (mixing up development policy and security policy, missing policy coherence, new open and camouflaged conditionalities, budget support) and the assessment of priorities within NGOs. Consequences of neo-liberal EU-policy are to be looked at, primarily the implicit intention to abolish NGO funding and surrender CSO development endeavours to private companies.

The third step is to develop a common base for reflection and future action (not unanimity in the attitudes).

This TRIALOG - CONCORD conference is co-organised by the Czech NGDO platform FORS and by the Ecumenical Academy Prague.

Please reserve the dates in your diaries, more information on the conference will be circulated in time and become available on the TRIALOG website at: <http://www.trialog.or.at>

## **TRIALOG Central Training Brno– by Petra Kreinecker**

The TRIALOG Central Training is a seminar for NGDO platforms from new EU member states (NMS) and accession/candidate countries. For the training 2008 in Brno, Czech Republic, TRIALOG would like to invite 3-5 representatives of each NMS platform and participants from Turkey, Croatia and Macedonia.

Reserve the dates for the Central Training in your diary: Monday, February 18 (arrival in the evening) to Wednesday, February 20, 2008 (end: late afternoon)

Further details and the agenda will become available soon on <http://www.trialog.or.at>. Contact: TRIALOG Capacity Building Officer, Petra Kreinecker: [p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at](mailto:p.kreinecker@trialog.or.at)

## **4/ Past and upcoming events**

### **Citizens from the developing countries expressed themselves via a photo exhibition - by Agnès Philippart**

The European Union is the biggest economic actor and aid donor in the world. But how do people living in these countries really view the influence of Europe?

To find out, CONCORD has asked people from developing and emerging countries to send photos and comments illustrating how Europe positively or negatively influences their lives and their country.

The result is a photo exhibition that will tour Europe to raise awareness of the public and the stake-holders. It is at the disposal of the organisations from the civil society.

The main themes that emerged were the problem of migrating, the impact of trade policies as the influence of Western culture on the habits and dreams of the population but also the importance of being supported to get organised and voice their concerns. More traditionally, the importance of aid in education, health, access to drinking water and to food came up strongly.

Called "Emerging views on Europe", this exhibition has been recently presented at the European Parliament and in the Development Days organised in Lisbon. In 2008 and 2009, it will keep travelling Europe.

A tool-kit is proposing ideas to use this exhibition as a tool to complement your activities or build one around the venue of the exhibition. They range from the traditional school visits to a TV-set or a treasure hunts.

With this exhibition, CONCORD hopes to aware the public but also the decision-makers of your country about the impact of the European and national decisions on the developing and emerging countries.

As Kenyans say: "The problem of North/South relations is not that the South does not keep its word, it is that the North has no ears."

### **This photo exhibition is yours!**

If you are interested to have this exhibition free of charge, contact: Agnès Philippart: [aphilippart@concordeurope.org](mailto:aphilippart@concordeurope.org)

Tel: +322 743 87 77 or visit the website: <http://www.concordeurope.org/Public/emergingviews/Page.php?ID=5029>

## **The Global Education Week– by Miguel Silva**

The **Global Education programme** of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe has been contributing for the promotion and development of global education through networking strategies amid European stakeholders in formal and non-formal education. This process is built on a network of global education national contacts/coordinators in 36 Council of Europe member states, including 4 GE & Youth international networks, which coordinate an annual Global Education Week focused on global education awareness-raising actions. The GEW acts as a kick-off event for a year-round awareness-raising process on globalisation issues and sustainable development.

The **Global Education Week**, occurring annually in the third week of November, encourages educational practitioners and activists to implement global education awareness-raising projects/activities in their setting, reflecting on how to address globalisation and its impact, in a holistic manner, including educational stakeholders perspectives from all parts of the world. The GEW network national contacts coordinate the event at national level by disseminating North-South Centre GE related information and by reporting back activities developed at national level. The GEW is supported by an interactive GE webpage and an GE electronic newsletter. GEW guiding themes are annually proposed and selected, in coordination with the GEW network, in the frame of the MDGs. In 2007, GEW given theme was "6 billion – ONE humanity!".

An annual **GEW evaluation seminar** gathers GEW network national contacts for an assessment of the Week and its networking mechanisms and for a reflection on the improvement and optimisation of such mechanisms. In 2006 it was decided to reinforce networking strategies with Southern partners and to produce a GE guideline to support educators in formal and non-formal systems to implement GE in their respective context, strengthening GE practice and fundamentals. A working group was constituted within the network to initiate this project in accordance with the GEW network. The GE guideline will be available on the North-South Centre website and circulated in a printed version. In a second phase a GE *on-line* training course would be proposed.

GE visibility and practice is encouraged and reinforced by an awarding process, the **World Aware Education Award**, rewarding GE awareness-raising projects developed in partnership between different stakeholders.

**Global Education Week** complementary information, including access to national coordinators and events organised in CoE member states is available from the [Global Education programme webpage](#) on the

### North-South Centre website.

For more information you can contact Miguel Silva  
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[www.nscentre.org](http://www.nscentre.org)

## **GLEN training programme for global educators: 130 internships in the South open for application– by Johannes Krause**

The Global Education Network of Young Europeans (GLEN) is recruiting participants for its multipliers training programme 2008. Core of the programme are internship projects in Africa and Asia. Applications are welcome until the end of December.

GLEN exists since 2004. It brings together engaged multipliers from New and Old Member States of the EU for trainings and action in global education.

The multipliers training programme of GLEN qualifies students and young professionals for high quality work in global education. The programme consists of 3 parts: training seminars, three months internships in Africa and Asia, and a transfer of the experience gained into global education activities in Europe. In 2008, GLEN has places for 130 participants. The costs of the seminars, travel to the host countries and low budget living expenses for 3 months abroad are covered by GLEN.

The internship placements are in 22 different countries and focus on a wide range of topics: supporting an HIV/AIDS awareness raising campaign in rural Tanzania, assessing the possibilities of eco-tourism in Georgia, co-operating with producers of fair trade clothes in Benin, making a movie on "football for development" in Kenya, organising seminars on climate-friendly technologies in India...

Target group of the programme are young people (21-30 years) who are engaged in global education and/or committed to become active in this field. Applicants must be from one of the countries participating in GLEN: Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Switzerland. Applications must be sent to the respective GLEN partner organisation in the applicant's country, which also sets the application deadline (generally around end of December).

For more information, see [www.glen-europe.org](http://www.glen-europe.org) or contact [johannes.krause@inwent.org](mailto:johannes.krause@inwent.org)

## **Global education Seminar in Budapest, November 19-20 2007– by Chiara Tripepi**

HAND, the Hungarian NGO Platform organised in Budapest on November 19/20 a Training on Global Education, attended by representatives of the Hungarian Civil Society, the North– South Centre of the Council of Europe, DEEEP and representatives from the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Education.

The idea behind the seminar was to set up an action plan for the years to come, in order to guarantee the integration of GE in the Hungarian School Curricula: the action plan should be ready by the end of December.

Miguel Silva from the North- South Centre, discussed on lobbying techniques in the field of Global Education. He presented the experience of the V4 Countries project, launched by the North South Centre a few years ago.

Several opportunities to collaborate with the MFA and MoE emerged for the Hungarian civil society during this training. Nevertheless, MFA insisted on the need to first change the mentality in order to change the system: a lot of patience and work is required, but changes can be brought to the Hungarian system.

For more information on this ongoing process in Hungary, contact Györgyi Blahó: [giorhrgyi.blaho@hand.org.hu](mailto:giorhrgyi.blaho@hand.org.hu)

## “Schools act globally” dealing with issues of global education-

*Artemisszió Foundation joined to a new project which is funded by the European Commission and coordinated by Welthaus (is an alliance of seven Austrian catholic organizations) The core theme of the project is global interdependence and its effect on developing countries. Interactions and dependencies between the EU and developing countries will be illustrated through the example of trade with agricultural products.*

The project aims to increase support for justice and fairness regards to North-South relations among the target groups through the incorporation of issues related to global poverty reduction into the school curriculum using the example of global trade.

In the project there will be trained 15 trainers, 820 teachers, 415 university students of pedagogy, 1160 students about the topic of global trade until the March 2010.

The main objective is to increase knowledge of trainers, teachers and students and access to pedagogic material related to global education, and particularly in Latvia, Slovenia and Hungary this will serve as a starting point for the intensive integration of global education in the school curriculum. It's also important to develop pedagogic material in the native languages.

Artemisszió is responsible for the organization of trainings in Hungary involving trainers, teachers and students and Artemisszió actively participates in the development of pedagogic material and the production of the world game.

For further info, or to get our monthly newsletter, please contact us at the [artemisiz@artemisszio.hu](mailto:artemisiz@artemisszio.hu)

## Synergy for development- By Ismayil Tahmazov

Initiated in June of 2004 Humanitarian Forum is an inclusive coming together of humanitarian relief and development organizations, which in particular seeks to foster partnerships and closer co-operation among humanitarian relief and development organizations from the 'South' and humanitarian relief and development organizations from the 'North'.

The goal of the Humanitarian Forum is to help create a conducive, unbiased and safe environment for the implementation of technically sound and principled humanitarian action by

- providing a platform for dialogue,
- promoting mutual understanding,
- supporting capacity building and development of NGOs and charities,
- advocating for a legal framework for greater transparency and accountability,
- promoting humanitarian principles and standards and
- improving communication and co-operation

The Forum is committed to giving each member organisation a chance; to discuss issues of concern to the humanitarian relief and development sector, to contribute to achievement of Millennium Development Goals, to form partnerships, to support better coordinated and more efficient delivery of humanitarian aid and development assistance.

Humanitarian Forum is setting an open source multilingual library for the member organisations to share capacity building resources related to international relief and development. Online library will give an opportunity to member organisation to upload its own capacity building materials, be it a policy, past project proposal or manual, to be shared with the peers from other member organisations and to download materials uploaded by other member organisations. Resources available for uploading and downloading will be related to; organisational governance; strategic planning; organizational and financial management; advocacy and fundraising; problem identification and proposal development and other relevant themes.

Online library is expected to launch in mid January of 2008.

For more information about the Humanitarian Forum or to become a member please visit: [www.humanitarianforum.org](http://www.humanitarianforum.org)

## Global Partners: Local Partnerships for Global Action

Teesside One World Centre, set up in 1983, is a charity set up by local people to provide support for schools and community groups throughout the Tees Valley wanting to explore the links between the local and the global. This includes building an understanding about people's lives in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Pacific. We undertake a range of projects that build knowledge and understanding and develop skills and attitudes to work towards active global citizenship.

One such project has just started and aims to work with disparate community groups throughout the Tees Valley over the next three years. The project will provide a forum for considering the Millennium Development Goals, their relevance to us all and the significance of action taken by citizens in the Tees Valley.

The project will link community groups within the Tees Valley and provide a stimulating opportunity for citizens to better understand the role that they can play in addressing development issues.

We aim to:

- enable people to work together to improve human rights, social justice and sustainable development
- strengthen links between Teesside One World Centre and local community groups
- ensure the opinions and experiences of the local Black and Minority Ethnic community are heard and considered

The project is funded by the Development Education Association's Capacity Building Project through the European Community.

Work to date has involved Tees Valley African Women's Voice, Multicultural East Middlesbrough, the North of England Refugee Council, the Regional Refugee Forum North East, Tees Valley Rural Community Council, Middlesbrough Connexions, the Middlesbrough BME Community Network, Groundwork South Tees and Hartlepool Global Peace and Justice Group.

For more information please contact: Kathryn Hull on 01642 322216 or e mail: [movigon@towc2.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:movigon@towc2.fsnet.co.uk)

## Would improving life standards while preserving environment be possible? - by Antonio de la Fuente

Andrés Rabago, a Spanish cartoonist said that if cows would produce oil they would also be considered sacred also in Europe.

It is next to cows that we looked for a valid alternative to oil, in order to compensate the unbalance between the increasing demand and the price of fuel. Indeed, we now speak of bio-fuels, which are essence of cane sugar, corn, soja and palm trees.

As the price of the barrel of oil is reaching a 100 dollars, and as we are lacking oil wells and oil refineries, producing new ideas seems to be the only solution.

In order to face the raise in price of oil and the strong dependence of the US towards the so called black gold, President Bush decided to invade Iraq, and to produce fuel from plants. This idea, which at a first glance could seem to be quite innocent is currently bringing major changes in Latin America's map: the price of the soil and of cereals are rising, while the rests of the Amazon forests are turning into smoke.

Africa is producing more than 10 % of the world's fuel, and receives back as a compensation only high corruption and contamination. Nigeria for instance is the first African oil producer, which has been extracting oil from the soil in the last half century; nevertheless, it still needs to buy its fuel because of the lack of oil refineries on its territory. Meanwhile, the majority of the Nigerian population lives with less than a dollar per day.

Since the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, the world market has triplicated its volume, which has brought up a selling out of the natural resources, still located in the South of the world, as well as an increase in the CO2 emissions. These two elements contributed to the acceleration of the climate change.

Although growth produces a reduction among poors across the world, it does not mean it reduces inequalities.

India and China are now growing about 10% per year. China's growth is now dragging along Africa's, which is now reaching a 4% growth rate. China has invested in Africa for extracting the natural resources it needs

and to unveil its industrial power; in the last weeks, China's CO2 emissions were registered higher than USA's.

The challenge humanity is now facing is obviously huge: "How to improve life conditions of populations, while preserving environment?", How to separate economic growth from the increase in the energy expenditure? Would that be possible?

The current issue of Antipodes (179) is trying to take a closer look to emerging countries such as India, China or Brazil, which are basing their development on a model that doesn't take into account environmental issues. Do they have an other alternative? What is the price of the "growth no matter what"?

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