



Up coming events organized by our partner CONGO

January 2009

*The CONGO update is produced by staff in New York, Geneva and Vienna,
with contributions from members and affiliated partners.*

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▪ **CONGO Co-Sponsors World Civic Forum – Call for Papers, 5 – 8 May 2009, Seoul;** CONGO agreed to partner with Kyung Hee University – one of its associate members – in holding the World Civic Forum that will be held in Seoul, Korea, from 5 to 8 May 2009. The Forum, with the general theme "Building Our Humanitarian Planet", is a joint initiative of Kyung Hee University and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA). As a major sponsor, CONGO is encouraging its members worldwide to attend the Forum. The President of CONGO, Mr. Liberato Bautista, will be a keynote speaker. CONGO will be leading a panel on one of the three themes, particularly "Civic Engagement in Public and Global Governance." In the meantime, everyone is encouraged to submit proposals for papers and panels that address the main and key themes of the Forum. More information about the Forum, including the Call for Papers and a TV interview by Korea's Arirang TV with CONGO President Liberato Bautista and Dr. Euiyoung Kim, Chair of WCF 2009 Steering Committee, can be found at www.wcf2009.org .

▪ **CONGO's Board Meeting and Launch of CONGO's Asia Regional Committee, 23 – 25 February 2009 (originally scheduled for 14, 15 and 16 December 2008), Pathumthani, Thailand;** After consultation with CONGO Board members, Liberato C. Bautista, CONGO President, announced that CONGO's next Board meeting and the launch of CONGO's Asia Regional Committee would take place from 23 to 25 February 2009 in Pathumthani, Thailand, on the premises of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). The meeting and the launch had originally been scheduled to take place in mid-December 2008. CONGO's Board agreed that its forthcoming meeting would encompass the postponed second meeting of 2008 and the first meeting of 2009. The agenda of the postponed meeting and other agenda items recently brought to CONGO's attention will be provided in a consolidated outline. Further details and regular news updates are available on CONGO's website: <http://www.ngocongo.org>

▪ **UPR: Geneva Course for Defenders from the Regions, 2 – 11 February 2009, Geneva; CONGO and Geneva for Human Rights –** Global Training (GHR) are organising a Geneva course for human rights defenders from the regions, attending the 4th Session of the Working Group of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) on the Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR). The event is entitled "Course on the Human Rights Council, International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Procedures and Diplomacy". The course will take place from 2 to 11 February 2009 in a conference room (to be announced) of the Palais des Nations in Geneva. More information is available on CONGO's website: <http://www.ngocongo.org>

▪ **CONGO Civil Society Development Forum 2009 – Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Global Public Health, 2 – 4 July 2009, Geneva;** CONGO's Civil Society Development Forum (CSDF) 2009 is scheduled from 2 to 4 July 2009 in Geneva. It will be held back-to-back with ECOSOC's High-Level Segment (6 – 10 July 2009), which will focus in 2009 on the theme "Implementing the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments in regard to Global Public Health". More information about this event will soon be available on CONGO's [website](http://www.ngocongo.org). Information about ECOSOC and its Substantive Sessions is available on: <http://un.org/ecosoc>. A UN-NGO-IRENE Best Practices Network on Global Public Health is available on <http://esango.un.org/irene>.

Events and Announcements:

▪ **Durban Review Conference, 20 – 24 April 2009, Geneva;** Organised by the UN, the Durban Review Conference is scheduled to take place from 20 to 24 April 2009 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The Preparatory Meetings are being held at the Palais des Nations on the following days:

- 19 – 23 January 2009 Intercessional open-ended intergovernmental working group meeting
- 10 – 16 April 2009 Formal session of the intercessional open-ended intergovernmental working group meeting
- 15 – 17 April 2009 Final session of the Preparatory Committee

Information on NGO participation will be made available on [CONGO's Website](#).

More information on the Conference is available <http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009>

▪ **Human Rights Council Advisory Committee – 2nd Session, 26 – 30 January 2009, Geneva;** According to an Information Note from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the 2nd Session of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee will take place from 26 to 30 January 2009 in Conference Room XVII of the Palais des Nations in Geneva. More information is available on: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/advisorycommittee.htm>

▪ **4th Session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 2 – 13 February 2009, Geneva;** As stated in a Note Verbale from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the 4th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group will take place from 2 to 13 February 2009 in Conference Room XVII of the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The first meeting will start at 10:00 hours.

▪ **Changing the Humanitarian Community – ICVA Conference 2009, 2 February 2009, Geneva;** The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) is organising its annual conference - "Changing the Humanitarian Community" – to be held on 2 February 2009 at the Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG) in Geneva. More information is available on: <http://www.icva.ch/doc00002867.html>

▪ **World Economic Forum – Open Forum 2009, 29 – 31 January 2009, Davos;** During the Annual Meeting of the [World Economic Forum](#), the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches and the Forum will organise discussions on global issues, open to the general public with no registration required. The 300 available seats will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. More information about this event is available <http://www.forumblog.org/openforum>

▪ **SIGNIS World Congress 2009 – Registration open, 17 – 21 October 2009, Chiang Mai, Thailand;** The World Catholic Association for Communication, SIGNIS, has scheduled its World Congress 2009 to take place from 17 to 21 October 2009 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. On the theme “Media for a Culture of Peace – Children’s Rights, Tomorrow’s Promise”, the Congress will aim at highlighting how the media can contribute to the building of peace through the creative empowerment of tomorrow’s generation. Find out more about this event on: <http://www.signisworldcongress.net/2009/spip.php?rubrique2>

▪ **CONGO Committees: NGO Committee on Youth (Geneva) – Committee Meeting, 30 January 2009, Geneva;** The CONGO Committee on Youth (Geneva) will hold its next Committee Meeting on 30 January 2009 at 14:00 hours at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva.

▪ **CONGO Committees: NGO Committee on the Status of Women (Vienna) – Committee Meeting, 31 January 2009, Vienna;** The CONGO Committee on the Status of Women (Vienna) will convene its next Committee Meeting on 31 January 2009 in Vienna. For more information, including contact details and minutes on previous meetings, please visit the Committee’s sub-site of CONGO’s website: <http://www.ngocongo.org/index.php?what=committees&id=40&start=3>

▪ ***Campaigns and Initiatives:***

▪ Decent Work Decent Life Campaign; <http://www.decentwork.org>

▪ Global Campaign against Poverty; <http://www.whiteband.org>

▪ Interactive global online conversation on the "Universality of Human Rights", by WFUNA; <http://www.realtimedelphi.net>

▪ Appeal and Petition for a Nuclear Weapon - Free World:
http://www10.plala.or.jp/antiatom/en/WC/e07wc/e-20070902_dec_riso.html

▪ Gender Training Community of Practice (GT CoP) – UN-INSTRAW
www.un-instraw.org/en/community-of-practice/general/gender-training-community-of-practice-gt.html

▪ International NGO Journal – Call for Papers www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ

■ **NGO Resources:**

- Integrated Civil Society Organization System – UN/DESA Civil Society Participation Database: www.esango.un.org/civilsociety

- UN-NGO-IRENE Best Practices Network: www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/irene

- First Committee Monitor – Resource on the General Assembly’s First Committee on Disarmament and International Security: www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/FCM.html

- Globethics.net Library – A Global Digital Library on Ethics: www.globethics.net

- Resources and Calendar for Peace Issues – International Peace Bureau: www.ipb.org and www.ipb.org/i/newsletters-and-publications/VI-A-ipb-newsletters-and-calendars.html

- Internet Governance Caucus Website: www.igcaucus.org

- 2009 UNDP Procurement Training Calendar: www.undp.org/procurement/training.shtml

- Human Rights Day 2008 (10 December) Information Kit:
www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/60UDHR/IK_HRDay%202008_En_20081126.pdf

- International NGO Journal: www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ

- African Journal of Political Science and International Relations:
www.academicjournals.org/ajpsir