



Up coming events organized by our partner CONGO

February 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 Events and Announcements:**

▪ **CONGO Co-Sponsors World Civic Forum, 5 – 8 May 2009, Seoul.** CONGO agreed to partner with Kyung Hee University – one of its associate members – in holding the World Civic Forum 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." More information about the Forum, including a TV interview by Korea's Arirang TV with CONGO President Liberato Bautista and Dr. Euiyoung Kim, Chair of the WCF 2009 Steering Committee, can be found at <http://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 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. Further details and regular news updates are 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>.

▪ **Events and Announcements:**

▪ **"Perspectives on Transitional Justice & Social Integration: The Role of Religion" – panel discussion, 6 February 2009, New York.** Representatives to the 47th session of the UN Commission for Social Development are invited to attend the panel discussion entitled "Perspectives on Transitional Justice & Social Integration: The Role of Religion," taking place on 6 February 2009 from 13:15 hours to 14:45 hours in UN Conference Room B of the UN Headquarters in New York.

The event, which is co-sponsored by the Bahá'í International Community and the Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN, will feature speakers presenting the religious and ethical perspectives of transitional justice within the framework of this year's commission theme which is "promoting social integration."

▪ **“Political Will at the Center of Achieving Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation” – panel discussion, 6 February 2009, Geneva.**

A panel discussion entitled “Political Will at the Center of Achieving Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation” will be held on 6 February 2009 from 09:00 hours to 12:30 hours in Room 5-6 of the Geneva International Convention Center (CICG), rue de Varembé 17, Geneva. The event organized by the Inter-African Committee (IAC), the Department of Institutions State of Geneva, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will feature speakers on building national frameworks to end female genital mutilation and enforcing change including the role of political leaders.

▪ **74th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), 16 February - 6 March 2009, Geneva.** The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will convene its 74th session from 16 February to 6 March 2009 at the Palais Wilson in Geneva.

▪ **The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), 23 – 27 February 2009, Geneva.** The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will hold its first session from 23 to 27 February 2009 at Palais des Nations in Geneva. During the session the Committee will *inter alia* elect officers and start discussions on its draft provisional rules of procedure with a view to further strengthening and enhancing the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. NGOs are invited to attend a meeting with the Committee, which shall be held at Palais des Nations, Room VII, on 26 February 2009 from 10:00 hours to 13:00 hours.

▪ **OECD-Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy (OECD-ICCP) meeting, 11 – 13 March 2009, Paris.** The next OECD-ICCP meeting will be held from 11 to 13 March 2009 in Paris following a meeting of the OECD Working Party on Information Security and Privacy (WPISP). A classified draft proposal for the ICCP committee on the practical modalities for non-governmental stakeholder participation has just been sent. This document follows up on the decision, now approved by Council, to revise the ICCP committee’s mandate to include the participation of civil society and the Internet technical community. Comments are due by 11 February 2009. More information is available on <http://csisac.org>.

▪ **“Agrofuels Boom in India: Dead End or Golden Opportunity?” 10 February 2009, Geneva.** SWISSAID Geneva will present a conference entitled “Agrofuels Boom in India: Dead End or Golden Opportunity?” featuring journalist, writer and researcher Devinder Sharma. Sharma will discuss the impacts on the increasing spread of agrofuels and access to land and food for the Indian people. The event will be held on 10 February 2009 from 19:00 hours to 21:00 hours at the Maison des Associations, rue des Savoises 15, Geneva.

▪ **10th Session of the Human Rights Council, 2 – 27 March 2009, Geneva**

The OHCHR announces that the opening meeting of the 10th Session of the Human Rights Council will be convened on 2 March 2009 at 10:00 hours in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Chamber (Room XX) of the Palais des Nations and will be followed by a high-level segment. The session will continue in the same room through 27 March 2009. Delegates are invited to be present in Room XX, for the opening of the session, at least 30 minutes before the meeting starts.

▪ **2nd European Brain Policy Forum, 25 – 26 February 2009, Brussels, Belgium**

The 2nd European Brain Policy Forum, hosted by the European Brain Council (EBC), will take place in Brussels from 25 to 26 February 2009. The focus of the forum this year will be on Depression and European Society. More information can be found on the website of the website: <http://www.europeanbraincouncil.org>

▪ **Seminar on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies, 16 – 17 February 2009, Brdo, Slovenia.** Sponsored by the OSCE Secretariat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, this seminar aims at raising awareness of the need for gender-sensitive labour migration policies among policy makers, social partners and other key stakeholder groups of the OSCE participating states and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The event will take place from 16 to 17 February 2009 at the Brdo Congress Centre in Brdo. For more information, visit the seminar's website: <http://www.osce.org/item/32399.html>

▪ **Be-Free Center International Award – Call for Entries.** The Be-Free Center and ZenDo – Bahrain are sponsoring awards for presentations of the best practices in child protection and prevention that utilise creativity and new dimensions. Practices should focus on online protection, cyber bullying, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, physical abuse, neglect, societal awareness and/or parental awareness. Each practice should then lead to the presentation of solutions or preventive actions. Prizes include \$2,000, a "Best Practice" trophy and certificate and an invitation to participate in the International Conference on Effective Strategies for the Prevention of Child Online Pornography, Trafficking and Abuse that will be held in May 2009 in Bahrain. Material must be received on or before 15 February 2009. For more information about the award, contact the Be-Free Center at +973 17242415 or contact@befreecenter.org.

▪ **15th UICC Reach to Recovery International Breast Cancer Support Conference – Registration Open, 13 – 15 May 2009, Brisbane, Australia.**

Held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, the conference will connect women from around the world to focus on supportive care for those diagnosed with breast cancer. The conference will feature a programme of international speakers, unique case studies and detailed presentations and workshops. More information about the conference can be obtained by visiting the conference's website: <http://www.qldcancer.com.au/reachtorecovery2009/home.html>

▪ **2009 World Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health, 2 – 6 September 2009, Athens, Greece**

The World Federation for Mental Health will convene its 2009 World Congress from 2 to 6 September 2009 at the Hilton Hotel in Athens. The theme, "Working Together for Mental Health," reflects WFMH's call to action to "Make Mental Health a Global Priority" and recognizes the crucial role of informed, concerted and coordinated advocacy across the entire mental health movement. The congress will provide numerous opportunities for participants to gain new information and skills, to strengthen current networks and build new ones, to share their own knowledge and experiences and to become actively engaged in the global mental health movement. For more information, please visit the congress's website: <http://www.wmhc2009.com/static/index.html>

▪ **Durban Review Conference, 20 – 24 April 2009, Geneva**

The Durban Review Conference will be held at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 20 to 24 April 2009. The process of preparatory meetings, also conducted at the United Nations in Geneva, started in November 2008. The first formal meeting was held on 27 November 2008, during which the working group elected its first Chair, Yury Boichenko, First Counsellor at the Russian Permanent Mission. For more information on the Durban Review Conference please visit the following web page: <http://www.un.org/durbanreview2009>

▪ ***Campaigns and Initiatives:***

Decent Work Decent Life Campaign: www.decentwork.org

Global Campaign against Poverty: www.whiteband.org

Appeal and Petition for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World:
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: <http://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

International NGO Journal: www.academicjournals.org/INGOJ

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