

News Advisory - More Security Means Faster Development

The Global Development Annual Conference, Security for Development: Confronting Threats to Survival and Safety will be held in Brisbane from 29-31 January 2008. It will bring together nearly five hundred researchers, policy makers, Prime Ministers and Ministers from developing countries together with world-renowned experts. During the conference they will tackle some of the most troubling and controversial questions on global poverty and security today: In 2008, why does the world remain divided between societies where peace prevails and those where violence is commonplace? and much more...

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In 2008, why does the world remain divided between societies where peace prevails and those where violence is commonplace? What is the cost of insecurity in countries where aid flows continue, yet development is severely limited if not impossible?

Is poverty the main cause of civil wars and violence, or does the evidence point elsewhere?

Prevention versus emergency response: Where should governments and international agencies put their dollars?

If aid funds facilitate economic development in some of the poorest countries, can it be said that aid flows contribute to climate change? Should disaster management be a central part of development strategies rather than an add-on?

Individuals, even governments lack incentives to prevent the spread of diseases like HIV/AIDS or SARS. So whose responsibility is it?

News media are invited to explore the issues raised at the conference with participants who will showcase new ways to look at old problems, and offer new statistics and methodologies to measure success and failure.

Participants include:

Oxford University professor Paul Collier, author of the recently published *The Bottom Billion: why the poorest countries are failing and what can be done about it*;

Mozambique's first female Prime Minister Luisa Dias Diogo;

Minister of Disaster Management in Sri Lanka Mahinda Samarasinghe;

Hon. Bob McMullan, Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, Australia

Assistant Secretary General and Director of Development Policy at the United Nations Development Program, Olav Kjørven;

Managing Director of the World Bank Graeme Wheeler;

Nobel Laureate, Economist Michael Spence;

Former President of Mexico and Chair of the Global Development Network Ernesto Zedillo.

To give an Asia Pacific perspective, participants will include the new Australian Parliamentary Secretary for International Development, Bob McMullan; Chief Justice for Solomon Islands Albert Palmer; High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea Bernard Narokobi; and academics from Australia, Fiji, PNG and elsewhere.

The conference will also showcase this year's finalists for the Global Development Awards and Medals Competition. This is the largest international competition for research on development. First prizes include a grant of US\$30,000. Finalists this year come from places as diverse as Macedonia, Peru and India.

About the Global Development Network

The Global Development Network is a global association of research and policy institutes. Its annual conferences are held in a different region each year.

It was founded to support more research in developing countries, because when research is 'home-grown', it is more relevant and more likely to attract broad-based support. Better research means better policy and better results.

WHAT: The Ninth Annual Global Development Conference *Security for Development: Confronting Threats to Survival and Safety*

VENUE: The Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

DATE: Tuesday 29 January - Thursday 31 January 2008.

Regions represented at the conference include the following:

Latin America

As countries in Latin America continue their fight against crime, speakers from the region provide unique perspectives on the relationship between crime and productivity. Speakers include former head of Colombian State Security Andres Penate, As a finalist in the category for the 'Most Innovative Development Project', the Executive Director of Peru's Ciudad Saludable, Albina Ruiz will present his institution's new approach to 'Sustainable Solid Waste Management in the Rural Cities of Peru'. A full session is dedicated to examining 'Crime and Security in Latin America.'

Africa

Mozambique's first female Prime Minister Luisa Dias Diogo will chair the final session where policymakers will discuss the feasibility of various options for improving security. Sessions focus on identifying policy practices where development reduces rather than exacerbates the risks of civil war in Africa; the challenges of maintaining macroeconomic stability in post-conflict nations; and how to manage aid flows in an environment of limitative absorptive capacity. Participants from Kenya, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Tunisia and Ghana will offer perspectives.

Asia

Sri Lanka's Minister of Disaster Management, Mahinda Samarasinghe will be a panelist in the final session and will provide first-hand experience from Sri Lanka in handling post-tsunami recovery. Focus on security and development relationships in Asia will be discussed through speakers highlighting human trafficking problems, transborder security threats, contagious diseases and post-SARS efforts. Varughese Jacob from the Byrraju Foundation in India will present an innovative development project, 'Safe Water for Everyone using Effective Technology' currently underway in India which seeks to enhance the supply of water to poorer areas of South India.

Eastern Europe

Almost two decades after the fall of communism, societies in Central and Eastern Europe are engaged in the process of reforming institutions to enable integration with Western Europe. Speakers discuss support for European Union accession, educational reform, the development of financial institutions and ethnic conflict and crime among societies in transition.

For more information go to www.gdnet.org/ninth_conference

News media interested in attending the conference, interviewing participants or requiring more background, please contact Josie Pagani, +64 29 9050207 or josie@sugarmedia.tv

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For more information, Please contact:

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You can also visit www.sugarmedia.tv for more information.