

# **BULLETIN** International Campaign on Illegitimate Debt

**Issue 7, June 2008** English version. Version française / español disponible.

## **About this bulletin**

This is a publication that comes out every two months to summarise recent and forthcoming actions in the International Campaign on Illegitimate Debt carried out by activists across the world. It aims to publicise the actions and give opportunities for more people to get involved to challenge illegitimate debts and the structures which lead to them.

The bulletin is produced by Jubilee South, Jubilee USA, Eurodad, and CADTM

Please circulate widely to people you know who will be interested. Please send your feed back and or articles for the next issue to: [debtbulletin@eurodad.org](mailto:debtbulletin@eurodad.org)

Deadline for articles is on August 15, 2008.

More information about the International Campaign on Illegitimate Debt can be found and circulated through the Campaign Website – [www.illegitimatedebt.org](http://www.illegitimatedebt.org)

## **2008 Global Week of Action vs. Debt and IFIs Set for October 12-19**

The dates for the 2008 Global Week of Action vs Debt & IFIs has been set for October 12-19. This week will again cover the Annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank; the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, and Thomas Sankara's Death anniversary.

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## Actions against G8



### Open letter calling for immediate debt cancellation for Haiti

Civil society organisations from the G8 nations and other European organisations are urging all G8 Governments to support immediate multilateral and bilateral debt cancellation for Haiti or a moratorium on all debt service payments until such a time as the debt is cancelled.

[http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Open\\_Letter\\_to\\_G8\\_Finance\\_Ministers\\_June\\_08\\_EN.pdf](http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Open_Letter_to_G8_Finance_Ministers_June_08_EN.pdf)  
et: [www.eurodad.org](http://www.eurodad.org)

## In Japan

All the programm on :  
[www.jca.apc.org](http://www.jca.apc.org)

### JS APMDD at the G8

JS APMDD, together with other organizations, is organizing public forums on illegitimate debt during the week of the G8 Summit, to be held in Hokkaido, Japan, this year.

**Public Forum: Illegitimate Debt, Country Cases & the Responsibility of G8 & Japan**  
July 5, Saturday 9:30 - 12:30 Venue: Kaderu 27

Lidy Nacpil (JS APMDD) will discuss the concept of Illegitimate Debt, while four resource persons from the Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Bangladesh will be presenting case studies on illegitimate debt. Junko Okura (Jubilee Kyushu) will discuss the Role of Japan and the G8.

This forum is organized by JS APMDD together with ATTAC Japan, Pacific Asia Resource Center (PARC) Japan, St Columban's Society, Jubilee

Kyushu, FDC - Philippines, INSAF India, INFID Indonesia, LDC Watch, South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), CADTM

### Public Forum - On Illegitimate Debt, Ecological Debt and Climate Justice

July 7, Monday 10:00 - 1:00 Venue: Sapporo Convention Center

The first part of this forum will discuss on the threat of Climate Change on Countries of the South and the Role of IFIs and Debt-Financing. Lidy Nacpil of JS APMDD will give the overview and introduction while Md Shamsuddoha from EJWG Bangladesh and Flourent Noel of Africa Jubilee South from Cameroon will present case studies.

Vinod Raina (India) will give a presentation on ecological Debt as a basic starting point for demanding climate justice

Janet Redman (IPS/SEEN) and Karen Ornstein (Friends of the Earth International) and Fabby Tumiwa (IESR) will give the Critique of the Role of IFIs in "Solutions" to Climate Change

Sponsors of this forum are Jubilee South - Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt & Development (JS APMDD); Pacific Asia Resource Center (PARC), ATTAC Japan, Japan, St Columban's Society, Jubilee Kyushu, LDC Watch, South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE), IESR Indonesia, EJWG Bangladesh, Friends of the Earth International, Sustainable Energy & Economy Network (SEEN)

## In Africa

**People's forum in Mali: the African G8 counter-summit**  
*Everyone together for a just and fair world*

The People's Forum is a space for popular education and analysis of neoliberal policies. It questions the policies of national and international decision makers and their disastrous consequences on the lives of many people. The People's Forum is also a space for the development of alternatives.

Like similar forums before it, the People's Forum has important objectives which are

essentially:

- Capacity building of Malian and African social movements including their capacities for action
- Greater awareness of social movements of the different ways they can achieve their common objectives and resolve the problems which mire Africa

Several themes were tackled by the forum: including the numerous causes and consequences of conflict and war; massive overindebtedness and its impact on human rights; unfair global trade policies; repressive and selective immigration policies; the growing spectre of poverty in the South; the triumph of financial capital and globalisation which characterises current times and transforms countries of the South into objects of exploitation, social, political and ideological domination by the gatekeepers of neoliberalism.

In this context, CADTM Mali is trying to better identify the forces which intervene in this process, to analyse their strategies, exchange strategies at a national and international level with social movements and to work for better prospects for all the world's people.

Koulikoro, the second most important region of Mali will open the 7th People's Forum from 6-10 July 2008

<http://www.forumdespeuples.org/>

## In Europe

### Action against the G8 in Belgium (Liège) - Tchant-Ché kicks the G8!

On the occasion of the G8 in Japan, Tchant-ché kicks the G8 on 9 July 2008. Liège will welcome an invasion of ladybirds with shields against anti-G8 to fight against a loss of rights and to make understood their demands for justice before the G8 giants. On the programme is street theatre, concerts, debates and a popular tribunal.

More

information : <http://tchantchescross.over-blog.com/>

## International

### South-North meeting on illegitimate debt

Following Dakar and Havana, an international strategy meeting on illegitimate debt will take place in Bangkok between 8-14 September. It will attempt to look at the current situation with respect to debt campaigns and formulate new

strategies for debt cancellation.

### UN consultation emphasises unfinished debt agenda

By Alex Wilks, Eurodad

June 2008

Civil society organisations from all continents were in New York on 29 and 30 June to attend a consultation on debt organised by UNDP. The consultation - on the theme of Avoiding the 2015 Debt Crisis - was organised in the context of the financing for development process that will conclude in Doha in early December this year.

Opening the meeting Kamal Malhotra, senior adviser on inclusive globalisation at UNDP, outlined several serious problems relating to debt. He said that several low-income countries have not benefited at all from the existing official debt reduction schemes, that extra grants have been slow to arrive for these and other countries, and that new lenders are getting active. He also mentioned that odious debts have been cancelled by Iraq's creditors in recent years.

Manuel Montes, Chief of Policy Analysis and Development in the UN FfD office, said that commitments on debt are a long way from being fulfilled, that conditionalities on debt cancellation have sometimes restricted development investment. He also drew attention to the debt language in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus. This includes a statement that "debtors and creditors must share the responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations" and that money set aside for debt cancellation must be additional to existing aid.

CSOs emphasised that debt continues to be a very pressing issue for human development and its resolution a vital precondition for the achievement of social justice. Presentations were made by representatives of CSOs from Bolivia, Jamaica, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Germany, Norway and Mexico.

Some presenters gave a perspective from their country, setting out the major development finance challenges that remain for countries that have been through the HIPC and MDRI schemes. Several strong criticisms were made - for example by Patricia Miranda of Latindadd and Muytwa Sitali of Jubilee Zambia - of the World Bank and IMF debt sustainability approach, which is leaving many governments short of money for vital spending on poverty reduction. Among other difficulties is that domestic debt - a growing problem in many Southern countries - is routinely ignored, and commodity price shocks

or the lack of new grant aid are not factored in properly.

Many speakers challenged the legitimacy of many creditor claims, arguing that the financial architecture, power relations and circumstances of specific deals put Southern countries at a disadvantage. Karina Saenz, member of Ecuador's official debt audit commission (on which Eurodad also serves), outlined the process of investigating the origins, nature and impact of that country's credits, a process that is due to finish in July.

Several speakers - including Juergen Kaiser of Eurodad member Erlassjahr.de - urged new international arrangements for impartial and transparent arbitration of contested debt claims. Oscar Ugarteche of Latindadd and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México went further, urging Southern governments to form stronger regional institutions as global ones were not serving them well.

Other speakers - for example Kim-Marie Spence of Jamaican think tank CaPRI - agreed with the Monterrey Consensus approach that responsibility for preventing bad debts lies with recipient governments as well as with creditors. Spence and IMF representative Christian Beddies agreed that governments should conduct their own independent debt sustainability analyses rather than wait for international organisations to do so.

Interventions were also made by representatives of the French and Tanzanian governments. The IMF, World Bank and UNCTAD gave inputs from their perspectives as international organisations. Among other points of note were that Carlos Braga, now in charge of the World Bank's debt department, said that "much more needs to be done".

Many participants commented that the danger of a new major debt crisis was already clear and present. This was partly because of the inadequacy of existing official arrangements and because of a surge in new loans private lenders and by governments who were not previously active in international lending. Approaches such as that outlined in the Eurodad responsible finance charter were recommended to regulate and improve this, ensuring popular participation and scrutiny at all stages of the lending and repayment process.

The agenda and report of the meeting and links to all the presentations will be posted on UNDP's website at:

<http://www.undp.org/poverty/inclglob-debtflow.htm> and will be submitted formally to the UN FfD process in June.

## Are lenders serious about the 2015 debt crisis?

by Gail Hurley, Eurodad: [ghurley@eurodad.org](mailto:ghurley@eurodad.org)  
June 2008

With respect to developing country debt, the question which currently dominates many policymakers' minds is how to avoid another debt crisis five or ten years from now. Following pledges of US\$55 billion more in multilateral debt cancellation for the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) in 2005, many lender governments have tended to portray debt cancellation as "done" and have attempted to move the debate swiftly on to ways to avoid the build-up of new unsustainable debt.

Logically, this should prompt a reflection - by lenders and borrowers - on why countries became so dramatically over-indebted in the first place. How and why did countries accumulate such large amounts of unpayable debt? Answering this question will help the international community develop appropriate tools to avoid the 2015 or 2020 debt crisis.

A vast literature already exists which points to some of the principal causes of the current developing country debt crisis. This has pointed to a range of contributory factors which include the collapse of commodity prices, the unilateral rise in interest rates and appreciation of the US\$ which tightened many governments' fiscal positions and balance of payments and forced them to refinance maturing loans with fresh loans. Much literature has also emphasised the role of western banks which ignored signals of an imminent debt crisis and worsened the debt portfolio of many debtor countries by refinancing maturing loans with loans of shorter maturities. And although the role of "obsession lending" (lending which aimed to offload surplus petro-dollars deposited in western banks by oil exporter countries) has been highlighted by many writers on the subject, the role of odious and illegitimate debt as another key contributory factor has to-date been remarkably under-emphasised.

Full article:

<http://www.eurodad.org/whatsnew/articles.aspx?id=2424>

## PUBLICATIONS

**The 2008 International Critics' Week at the Cannes festival selected Philippe Diaz' movie The End of Poverty ?**

With so much wealth in the world, how is it possible that there should be so much poverty ? *The end of poverty ?* takes us back to the

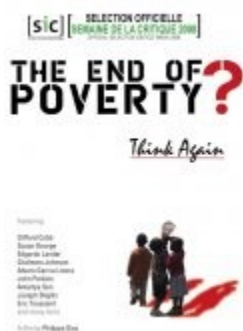
beginning of the modern age, which is also the beginning of the colonial period, to understand not just when but also how it all began. International experts as well as victims contribute to our understanding when they point at colonialism, market economy, the Third World Debt, the appropriation of land and natural resources as factors that maintain and indeed develop poverty in Third World countries, condemning those who attempt to survive to a daily struggle against an increasingly hostile environment. Isn't it time for us to wonder why 25% of the world population use up over 85% of the planet's resources ?

Experts that were present in Cannes from May 18 to 20:

Clifford Cobb: Historian specialized in issues related to inequalities - Former president and current projects director at the Robert Shalkenbach Foundation based in New York (and co-producer)

Susan George : Author specializing in North South issues - Associate director and Cofounder of the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam - President of the Observatory on Globalization in Paris, Cofounder of ATTAC

Eric Toussaint : Committee for cancellation of Third World Debt' President and founder, member of the international council of World social forum. Author specialized in Third World Debt.



## Campaigns and Action Alerts

### LATIN AMERICA and CARAIBES

#### NICARAGUA Illegitimate Debt to Venezuela? Jubilee South-Nicaragua

Ordinarily, the 14 countries that are member of Petrocaribe would have reason to be grateful to President Hugo Chávez. Under the terms of the oil delivery terms, Venezuela has agreed to supply 100% of the country's oil needs at market rates: 50 % paid in 90 days, but the other 50% over 25 years at 2% with two years grace. What

is more, that unpaid 50% of the sales revenue would remain in the country for bilaterally-supervised social and development projects. Certainly, these are terms that no country could have expected from the oil corporations, private or multilateral banks, or even traditional "donor" co-operation. From the Jubilee South perspective, it may be a case where the debt should be repaid as it seems legitimate and fair priced.

However, social movements and various organizations in Nicaragua are challenging the legitimacy of that debt incurred by the Ortega government. The principal argument invoked is that the use and channeling of the funds is far from being transparent or subject to accountability, let alone citizen participation in the decision of how the funds/debt can be used. The process itself in Nicaragua, although not in other recipient countries, is incredibly convoluted. Venezuela provides the oil directly to Nicaragua's oil distributor PETRONIC which then resells the petroleum to private companies such as Esso. PETRONIC then transfers 100 % of its sales revenue to ALBANISA, which in turn transfers 50% of the money back to Venezuela as payment within 90 days, and then pays the other 50 percent over 23 years at 2% annual interest. Of the money paid up front, half goes to the ALBA social fund and another half into Albanisa coffers. Private economist Adolfo Acevedo calculates that in the past year ALBANISA has handled 800 million in oil business, meaning there should be 200 million salted away in company fund for social projects. Ortega, however, has mentioned that Venezuela aid to Nicaragua already totals 520 million. So needless to say the numbers have everyone confused—and concerned given that this amount is roughly the equivalent of all external western "aid" to Nicaragua, and over one third the amount of Nicaragua's total exports.

Amidst all the money transfers the question is posed where the money really ends up, who it belongs to, and who owes what to whom. Of late, the government claims that it is not a public debt and hence does not have to be legally submitted to the Parliament, scrutinized or reported in its budget. If Albanisa is a semi-public enterprise, then its "private" debt would have to be assumed by the State in case of a default.

The IMF has, up to now, gone along with governmental reasoning. Even the US has been silent, considering perhaps a good example of "public-private" partnerships.

Independent civil society groups and the Jubilee coalition in Nicaragua, by contrast, are calling

for a public auditing of the arrangements. While some groups are ideologically eager to lambast Chávez and the Venezuela connection, other groups demand that the ALBA cooperation scheme deserves support on account of the principles its support including that of stimulating development and cooperation alternatives to the Washington Consensus model. The fact that the President of Petronic, the Vice President of Albanisa and the Treasurer of the Sandinista governing party is the same person speaks volumes.

Insistence on transparency, accountability and public participation is also part of an alternative development and politics. Venezuela must clarify whether it is the purpose of the cooperation to allowing Ortega and his governing party to use the ALBA/Petrocaribe funds for patronage purposes and strengthening its own business enterprises. If that is the case, ALBA may still be considered a geopolitical proposition wishing to win over governments and parties to its side, but the ideological component will be placed in doubt—that is, providing a genuine alternative to the neoliberal formulas for enrichment while paying lip service to the impoverished.

After all the money transfers and sleight of hand there are many unanswered questions about where that money really ends up, who it belting to, and who owes what to whom. If this is not cleared up, then both the legality and the legitimacy of the debt will be in question.

## **ECUADOR**

### **23-06 / 27-06 | Quito Seminar on the Bank of the South**

Since 2006, various nations in Latin America have come together to consider the creation of a new alternative bank - the Bank of the South - to finance the economic and social development of member countries, in order to strengthen regional integration, reduce inequalities, poverty and social exclusion.

In order to move forward with its creation, a workshop will take place in Quito from the 23-27 June. It will focus on the technical aspects of the Bank of the South. The proposal is to bring together national, regional and international experts to present and discuss options for the operationalisation of the Bank founded on principles of sustainability. The objective is to obtain a framework which focuses on participation and transparency, areas of governance and administration, investment,

purchases, audits, project cycle in order to ensure the social, environmental and economic development of the region.

### **Quito Meeting of lawyers, 8-9 July**

A group of lawyers will meet together following Ecuador's debt audit commission in order to draft arguments which call for a suspension of payments on Ecuador's debt and that of other Latin American countries.

### **Support the CAIC!**

The Ecuadoran Integral Public Credit Audit Commission (CAIC), established by presidential decree one year ago, is expected to release its final report in just a few more weeks. It is thus a critical moment to express support for this historic process and to reiterate our hope and expectation that it will contribute to the securing of justice. Movements and organizations from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the entire world, can also in this way support the mobilization of the movements, organizations, and peoples of Ecuador who continue in their struggle to stop payments on a debt that is illegitimate, hold accountable those responsible, and insure that more unjust debt is not accumulated in their name.

WE INVITE ORGANIZATIONS FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD to add their support to this OPEN LETTER that will be presented to Ecuadoran President Rafael Correa and others. Please indicate your endorsement by sending a message to <apoyoauditoria@gmail.com> before JUNE 30. Indicate clearly the name of the organization, country or region, and contact details for follow-up purposes.

We also invite you to give this Open Letter as broad a circulation as possible, encouraging others to add their support. Some of the initial endorsements are listed on the letter now, and the full listing will be available in early July at the Jubilee South website. You might also consider carrying out some action in your own country, to inform about the Audit process and demonstrate global support.

With solidarity greetings  
JUBILEE SOUTH/AMÉRICAS

### **OPEN LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE PUBLIC DEBT AUDIT IN ECUADOR**

To the President of the Republic of Ecuador,

Rafael Correa

To the Minister of Finance, the Minister Coordinator of Economic Policy, the Constituent Assembly and the CAIC -

The undersigned organizations, networks, movements, and persons wish to express our recognition, support, and solidarity with the decision to create the *Integral Public Credit Audit Commission (CAIC)*, the goal of which is to determine the legitimacy of the processes of indebtedness imposed on Ecuador, notwithstanding whether they were legal or not, in order to advance in the implementation of measures to achieve justice, put an end to the domination and plunder provoked by the debt, and to restore to the peoples of Ecuador the sovereignty and resources which are rightfully theirs.

The comprehensive and participatory Debt Audit opens a pathway toward the building of an autonomous financial system, together with other decisions that you, President Correa, have been pursuing such as the creation of a *South Bank* based on the equitable participation of member countries, the questioning of the jurisdiction of the ICSID - the World Bank's Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes -, and the willingness expressed to suspend payment on certain credits that have generated illegitimate debt.

We trust that you will continue firmly in this direction. We further express our commitment to continue to support the above-mentioned policies and goals and we invite the other governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to join in their support and emulation in favor of a free and sovereign continent.

Initial signatures:

Jubilee South - Lutheran World Federation Advocacy Program on Illegitimate External Debt - Jubilee USA - Southern Peoples' Alliance of Socio-Ecological Debt Creditors - CLOC Via Campesina - Regional Executive Committee of the Caribbean Peoples' Assembly CER-APC - COMPA - Cadtm Internacional- Latindadd - Network of Women Transformando the Economy REMTE - CONACAMI Perú - Common Frontiers Canada - Red quebequense frente a la integración Continental - Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres Perú - Hemispheric Social Alliance National Chapters Argentina, Canadá, Cuba, México, Paraguay, Perú, Venezuela - CDES Ecuador - Fuerza Socialista Bolivariana de Trabajadores de Venezuela - Diálogo 2000 Argentina - Central de Trabajadores Argentinos - Bloque Popular Honduras - Jubileu Sul Brasil - Observatorio de la Deuda en la Globalización (España) - PAPDA Haití - Red Sinti Techan El

Salvador - CESDE Colombia - Rede Brasil sobre las Instituciones Financieras Multilaterales - ATTAC Marruecos - Movimiento Social Nicaragüense - Centro de Estudios Internacionales de Nicaragua - Freedom from Debt Coalition Philippines - Coalición sobre Deuda y Desarrollo de Zimbabwe ...

Please send additional endorsements to: [apoyoauditoria@gmail.com](mailto:apoyoauditoria@gmail.com)

More information:

[jubileosur@wamani.apc.org](mailto:jubileosur@wamani.apc.org) - [www.jubileosuramericas.org](http://www.jubileosuramericas.org) - [www.jubileesouth.org](http://www.jubileesouth.org)

## EUROPE

### Adoption of the shameful directive

« Liberalism and European Solidarity »

In the South, people are dying due to being forced to open borders to agricultural imports from Europe and via the never ending spiral of debt imposed by the IMF and World Bank. In the North, a directive has been approved which criminalises those who are knocking at Europe's door for a decent life.

Without a doubt this is the shock strategy described by Naomi Klein in her latest piece of work?

We are far from a collective sense of compassion and solidarity. Even though we know the causes of this catastrophe, Europe wants to put to bed the concerns of its citizens via announcement of grants: several hundreds of millions of dollars like aspirin tablets to take care of the symptoms of death. Questioning the ultra liberal policies which allow rich countries to pillage the poor, with hypocrisy, while dumping subsidised agricultural exports which ruin local agriculture as well as illegitimate debt which has bled countries' finances for over 30 years, does Europe not think about that?

This shameful directive was adopted on 18 June in the European Parliament with a comfortable majority. It concerns foreigners in an "irregular situation" within the European Union. The text provides for the detention of immigrants for up to 18 months. It also foresees the incarceration and expulsion of non-accompanied minors, the deportation of immigrants to countries other than their home country, and to prohibit their entry into the EU for a period of up to 5 years.

CADTM has launched an appeal against the directive and a call for immediate and unconditional debt cancellation as one of the factors which forces migrants to flee from their

countries.

En français :

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3470>  
<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3448>

En espagnol:

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3471>  
<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3449>

In English :

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3475>  
<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3467>

## SCOTLAND Update from Jubilee Scotland

Kusfiardi, of Koalisi Anti-Utang (the Indonesian anti-debt campaign) visited Jubilee Scotland in May. This was for a tour of Scotland in pursuit of cancellation of the debts owed by Indonesia for the UK's military support for General Suharto.

Kusfiardi spoke to campaigners in the political constituencies of signal UK ministers (Defence, Finance, International Development and the Prime Minister). He went on to meet agencies campaigning on human rights; and the head of the UK's Export Credit Guarantee Department. Kusfiardi impressed on campaigners that the problem of Indonesia's debt was not just that the loans were given, corruptly, to a corrupt regime: but that the system of super-indebtedness underpins the persistence of neo-liberal economics and economists within Indonesian politics.

For more information, and photos, see Jubilee Scotland's [blog](http://debttribunal.wordpress.com/):

<http://debttribunal.wordpress.com/>

## SPAIN

### Spain : Who Owes Who Campaign Alternative Summit on Oil

From 29 June to 3 July the 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Oil took place in Madrid which brought together the major oil and gas companies as well as representatives of governments and international institutions. CSOs organised their own response to the Congress in the form of an Alternative Summit on Oil which will take place between 27 June and 3 July. See: ([www.nomassangreporpetroleo.org](http://www.nomassangreporpetroleo.org)).

The Who Owes Who Campaign is supporting the Alternative Summit, with the organisation of, among other activities, workshops on illegitimate, social and ecological debt and the relation to oil. Specifically the campaign is organising the following workshops:

- Illegitimate oil debts
- Climate change and the clean oil mechanism
- PetroREO
- Playing the game of the transnationals : CSR debated
- A debate on the Yasuni proposal

The campaign is also formulating articles a materials to circulate on the subject of debt and oil.

## BELGIUM

### No Development Without the Emancipation of Women

5-6 July, Namur, Belgium

Between 5-6 July, CADTM Belgium will organise a residential weekend on development and women. The weekend is an opportunity to deepen knowledge of feminism and current feminist trends in the North and South. It is also an occasion to discuss the impact of debt on women and how to further development taking into account women. See:

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3451>



## AFRICA

Africa Jubilee South will hold its general assembly August 5 - 11, 2008 in Nairobi - (arrivals August 4; departures August 12).

The Assembly is primarily for organizations that are Africa Jubilee South members or that wish to join AJS during the Assembly. Membership in the Africa Jubilee South network is for organizations, groups, networks, associations, etc, in continental Africa and the African Diaspora and NOT individuals.

The AJS Assembly is also open to observers

(allies, partners, friends, etc), though they will not be eligible to participate in elections and other AJS organizational matters, and will be responsible for all the costs of their participation in the AJS Assembly.

Come one, come all! For more information, please write to [afrijub@gmail.com](mailto:afrijub@gmail.com).

Africa Jubilee South Coordinating Committee (Demba Moussa Dembele [Senegal], Patricia Kasiamhuru [Zimbabwe], and Njoki Njoroge Njehu [Kenya])

## CONGO Brazzaville

APASH/CADTM BRAZZA participated in an environmental week which took place from 5-15 June 2008 in the French Cultural Centre of Brazzaville. The theme retained for 2008 was: "No to dependance! Towards a low carbon emission economy"

Benefiting from a stand, APASH/CADTM BRAZZA took advantage of the occasion to circulate its information, sell CADTM books and display recycled products (bags, boxes, portable cases, hats).

Lots of leaflets on diverse themes were distributed:

- Global warming and the risks of overconsumption and growth
- The dangers of plastic bags
- Effects of debt on daily life
- The WTO and its secrets
- The risk of declining public services
- Thomas Sankara, a future for Africa
- The APASH association
- The dangers of imported frozen chicken
- Good nutrition to avoid imports

In addition to leaflets, the link with debt, structural adjustment, HIPC and global warming were made.

Activities at the stand included lively discussions with the public, taking place at the site or in homes. During discussions numerous contacts were made with people in diverse sectors (teachers, agricultural workers, students, environmentalists, economists). Some of them work in cooperations with the lead organisation of certain projects.

In sum, the environmental week was a great success for CADTM/BRAZZA, an occasion in which the link between debt, poverty, environmental degradation and global warming was revealed to the public. It was an occasion for APASH to say

once again: no to odious debt, no to neoliberal globalisation and capitalism which suffocates our natural resources, destroys our environments and is the principal cause of CO2 emissions. Yes to a just world, in which production and consumption respect man and the environment.

## MAURITANIA

The network for the promotion of citizens has undertaken a caravan awareness raising tour within three regions of the country (Trarza, Gorgol et Hodh el Gharbi). This took place between 24-26 April and tackled the painful question of debt.

Those who participated in the caravan included trade unions, human rights organisations, press associations, lawyers and accountants, development and women's organisations.

Other activities undertaken included press and radio interviews in national languages (Pulaar, Wolof, Soninké and Arabic). In the near future, another campaign will be undertaken directed towards parliamentarians. Contact [assisesscm@gmail.com](mailto:assisesscm@gmail.com)

## ASIE

### JS APMD at the ADB AGM in Madrid, Spain

On the occasion of the Annual General Meeting of the Asian Development Bank held in Madrid, Spain, Jubilee South - Asia Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JS APMD) was one of the organizers of a Solidarity Dialogue and Forum bringing together Asian and Spanish movements and NGOs to discuss common issues and struggles; as well as to discuss the ADB's impacts to the lives of the peoples of Asia and ongoing campaigns to challenge it.

One of the sessions held was on Illegitimate Debt and Aid Issues with resource persons from the Freedom from Debt Coalition in the Philippines, Natalia Ablova of the Human Rights Bureau in Kyrgyzstan and Iolanda Fresnillo of ODG Observatorio de la Deuda en la Globalizacion.

The session aimed to have an exchange on debt and aid issues and struggles. Speakers from both Asia and Spain discussed the issue that the South - North International Campaign on Illegitimate Debt is addressing, the calls and recent developments. The discussion included examples of illegitimate Debt that involves the ADB.

Spanish Groups are involved in the current

international process on the issue of “AID EFFECTIVENESS” so this session included this issue. Other issues tackled in the forum were on Privatization of Water and Power Services; Climate Change; Trade, Food Sovereignty, Agriculture and Livelihoods; and Women and Globalization.

Other co-organizers were: NGO Forum on the ADB, Who Owes Whom Campaign, La Asociacion para la Cooperacion en el Sur (ACSUR), Ecologistas en Accion, Friends of the Earth International, Freedom from Debt Coalition-Philippines, Indian Social Action Forum, and Institute for Essential Services Reform - Indonesia.

### ***More on this bulletin***

The bulletin is an initiative of the International Facilitation Team of the International Campaign on Illegitimate Debt. The Team was established in Nairobi in January 2007 and is composed of Jubilee South, CADTM, Jubilee USA and Eurodad. It facilitates exchanges and joint initiatives of groups participating in the illegitimate campaign.

Debt groups and movements have agreed to call for the immediate cancellation of illegitimate, unjust and unpayable debt of the South without externally imposed conditions. The agreed priority areas for coordination and joint actions are:

- Generating official recognition of the issue of illegitimate debt;
- Raising the profile of illegitimate debt issue among social movements, CSOs and the general public;
- Conducting debt audits, and;
- Developing definitions, perspectives, analytical tools, advocacy instruments on illegitimate debt and alternative/responsible financing.

This bulletin digests recent and planned actions from around the world. It complements existing lists and newsletters by containing only extremely short and action-oriented articles, with links or e-m addresses for follow-up. Coming out every 2 months it will help busy people in the campaign and in related campaigns who want to keep track of and join in with our work. It is available in English, French and Spanish.

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The next issue will come out in August. The deadline to submit articles will be August 15. Submit articles in a short format (200 words), with web links and/or e-mail addresses as appropriate.