



Learning Initiative on Citizen Participation
and Local Governance

news

LogoLink is a global network of practitioners from civil society organisations, research institutions and governments working to deepen democracy through greater citizen participation in local governance. LogoLink encourages learning from field-based innovations and expressions of democracy which contribute to social justice.

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LogoLink News and Resources

Global News

LogoLink is moving to Brazil!

We are happy to announce that starting April 2007, the Instituto de Estudos, Formação e Assessoria em Políticas Sociais (POLIS) shall be the new host and coordinating partner for the LogoLink network. POLIS has been part of the LogoLink network since its inception in August 2000. As Regional Partner for Latin America, POLIS has been responsible for forging and strengthening LogoLink partnerships throughout the region. Using a combination of effective networking strategies and responsive learning events and activities, POLIS has enabled the LogoLink Latin America network to grow and expand. Until LogoLink moves to the POLIS offices in São Paulo, Brazil in April 2007, the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex shall continue to coordinate the LogoLink programme, working closely with POLIS throughout to insure a smooth and orderly transition. After April 2007, IDS shall continue to be a member of the network focusing especially on its research role. Please join us in celebrating the selection of POLIS as the new host and coordinating partner of LogoLink. We trust that you will continue to support and engage with LogoLink as we sustain our work to deepen democracy through greater citizen participation in local governance!

John Gaventa elected to the Chair of Oxfam

We are delighted to announce that Oxfam's trustees have unanimously voted for John Gaventa, director of LogoLink, as the new Chair of Oxfam. John has been appointed Chair Designate with immediate effect, and will take over from me as Chair after the AGM on 10 November 2006. Since joining Oxfam as a trustee in 2004, John has made a great impact as Chair of the Programme Review Committee, and I know that you will welcome him in this new appointment.

Regional News

LogoLink South Asia

South Asia Regional Meeting on “Local Governments in South Asia”, Jaipur, India, 3 March 2006

A little over 50 participants from India, Nepal and Bangladesh civil society organizations and research institutes were in Jaipur on March 3, to consider the state of local governments in South Asia and the directions for citizen engagements in the future. Most of the participants at this meeting also attended the International Conference on “Methodologies for Change: Approaches to Knowledge and Participation”, which was also held in Jaipur 1-3 March 2006.

South Asia Women Elected Representatives Study Visits, Bangladesh, 16-20 February 2006

From 16-20 February 2006, a group of 6 women elected representatives from four states throughout India participated in a study visit to Bangladesh. The women participants were endorsed to LogoLink (through PRIA and PRIA partners throughout India) by their panchayats as outstanding leaders in their communities. PRIA organized the pre- and post-study visit meetings in India and worked closely with the People's Oriented Program Implementation (POPI), which hosted the study visit of the women elected representatives. More than 12 sites were visited by the study team. Since their return to India, the women elected representatives who participated in the study visit have been involved in other PRIA programs and activities on local governance to share their experiences in Bangladesh, what they learned from their trip, and what they hope to do with what they have learned. Each woman representative has been invited to at least 7-10 events to share the lessons and insights gleaned from her Bangladesh trip. In addition, there have been efforts to broadcast the collective learning through mass media.

India-Bangladesh LogoLink Meeting, Bangladesh, 19 February 2006

Taking advantage of the presence of the women elected representatives and PRIA staff in Bangladesh, a meeting with LogoLink partners was also organized by POPI on 19 February. A total of 23 networks of Bangladeshi civil society organizations met with the delegation from India to discuss the importance of engaging with local governments in governance processes. There was an exchange of experiences in and challenges to engaging in local governance processes. It was agreed by those present that POPI would continue to anchor the LogoLink-Bangladesh discussions on a monthly basis, wherever feasible.

For more information on LogoLink South Asia activities, contact PRIA at logolink@pria.org

LogoLink South East Asia

Assessing Decentralization in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, ongoing

In Southeast Asia, LogoLink has embarked on a comparative assessment of decentralization processes throughout the region. The 4-country study hopes to look at the democratizing potentials of decentralization reforms in these countries, and how these potentials are continually undermined by the central-local power relations and exacerbated by weaknesses in the institutional design of central-local governments. This 4-country research hopes to surface the various lessons from decentralization reform and identify areas for progressive intervention. The work on this research project has just started. Researchers who are going to work on the country studies have been identified and met up in Manila in May 2006.

Kick off for the cross-country research project entitled “Assessing Decentralization in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines”

From 16-17 May 2007, Institute for Popular Democracy (IPD) organized a writers' workshop to kick off LogoLink Southeast Asia's major intervention for this year: a cross-country research project entitled “Assessing Decentralization in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines”. The Philippine hosts welcomed scholar-activists from the region for an intense two-day discussion on challenging conceptual and empirical questions such as ‘do local elections advance democratization on the ground?’ and ‘is the devolution of functions mirrored in the decentralization of power?’ Having arrived at a common political understanding of the significance of understanding decentralization in Southeast Asia from a progressive lens, research activities in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines are now in full swing. A conference to present the findings of this research initiative will be organized in early 2007. For more information, contact: logolinksea@ipd.org.ph

For more information on LogoLink South East Asia activities, contact IPD at logolinksea@ipd.org.ph

LogoLink Latin America**Latin American Translation and Dissemination Initiative published first Phase II electronic bulletin in July**

As part of LogoLink support to Latin America, a second round of the Translation and Dissemination Initiative (TDI) is currently underway. The TDI was conceptualized as a way of building and strengthening the LogoLink Latin America network through the common project of translating practitioner oriented materials in Portuguese into Spanish and vice versa. All translations have been uploaded on the LogoLink Latin America website and have been serialized in the TDI Bulletin which has been electronically circulated. The second TDI round will entail essentially the same process, but is now anticipated to be undertaken in close partnership with the CEAAL (Consejo para Educacion Adultos en America Latina). In addition, the identification of materials for translation will be a little more purposive. Each batch of materials to be translated is pre-identified so that the TDI Bulletin can have a little more coherence. Each bulletin will serialize 4 texts on a particular theme. But the texts shall be a mix of conceptual/theoretical think pieces, the documentation of actual experiences of citizens engaging in local governance, and some learning guides and/or pedagogical materials that will be of use to other civil society organizations. The LogoLink Latin America website shall continue to serve as the access point for the full texts of all materials to be translated. For more information visit www.logolinkla.org

Limits and possibilities of citizen participation in Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador ongoing

As a first undertaking of the Andean region in Latin America, another multi-country research project has been supported by LogoLink. The Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (IEP) is leading a research consortium to examine both positive and unintended negative consequences of decentralization reforms in general, and the promotion of citizen participation in particular, in Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. This 5-country study considers the research questions for each of the national country contexts and in addition, shall have a synthetic piece that shall draw comparisons and contrasts from each of the country researches. Researchers from the 5 countries working on the studies have been identified and the first meeting was held on April, 21 at the IEP's building to discuss the legal framework of citizen participation from each country and the influence of the last electoral processes along with the research methods and the workshops that are forthcoming.

News at the website of CESEM

There are news at the website of CESEM including the most recent publications, the Women Conference from Cunduacán in Tabasco, the Citizen Municipal National Convention that CESEM is convening in October along with daily news and references of CESEM's work. For more information visit www.cesemheribertojara.org.mx

Women Conference from Tabasco

On April 28 CESEM in addition with the Women Assistance Coordination from Cunduacán, Tabasco organized the municipal conference "Building the Municipal Citizenship Agenda" aiming to consolidate a space for debate and proposition of projects that engage in educative and developing process promoted by the Women Assistance Coordination. The conference had 2 axes of discussion: women's rights, family violence, youth and gender and productive and economics alternatives.

Citizen Municipal National Convention calling

The Citizen Municipal Assembly was held on October 7-8 2005 and delivered some commitments, including building the Citizen Municipal National Agenda that CESEM has pushing forward in 2006 by building local and regional thematic agendas. Another commitment was the organization of the Citizen Municipal National Convention that many institutions are calling civil society organizations, citizens, indigenous, countryside works, local activists, scholars, academia, local officials and legislators committed with democratic processes, local development to take part at the convention taking place on October 6-7 2006 in the city of Xalapa, Veracruz to engage the citizenry in building the Citizen Municipal National Agenda aiming to promote dialogue between the parties, political leaders and legislators. The agenda seeks also to stimulate a municipal reform. For more information on CESEM activities contact logolink@cesemheribertojara.org.mx

For more information on LogoLink Latin America activities, contact POLIS at logolink@polis.org.br

LogoLink North America

DDC promotes “Champions of Participation: Strengthening Public Engagement and Knowledge-sharing Within and Across Federal Agencies”

Early this Summer, public participation managers and executives across federal agencies came together to share lessons from public involvement practice and develop insights into ways to deepen the role citizens fill in governance processes at the federal level on June 19-21, 2006 in Wye River, Maryland. The goal of this retreat-styled meeting was to identify ways federal officials can augment their work, collectively and individually, to advance good citizen engagement practice at the local and national levels. Set among the lovely green acres and comfortable appointments at Aspen Wye River, this meeting brought together and recognize as “champions of participation” federal officials from across the United States who share a common passion for strengthening policy design and implementation, service delivery and governance through improved public participation. The work undertaken during the time together made a significant contribution to public administration and to the field of public involvement overall. For more information contact Lars Torres at lhtorres@americaspeaks.org

DDC promotes “21st Century Governance: Designing Institutionalized Mechanisms for Large-scale Democratic Engagement”

This summer, seasoned executives from the government, non-profit, and private sectors as well as leading scholars from around the world are invited to come together to discuss the evolving relationship between people and the institutions that serve them – and to critically examine the design and prospects for new democratic governance mechanisms in the 21st century. The better part of the last two decades has seen a resurgence of efforts to bolster democratic governance processes through citizen participation. Across the globe complex forces are reconfiguring relationships within and across sectors, revolutionizing business and governance models from the ground up. The Internet, stimulating ideas about a “flat world,” continues to drive innovation and influence across sectors. At the same time, powerful anti-democratic forces have strengthened their footing in many regions. This unique gathering on New Governance Mechanisms will explore personal experiences in developing new mechanisms for decision-making. These stories will inform how we think about participatory governance mechanisms through as broad and diverse lens as possible. Through careful synthesis and facilitation, the meeting will distill from these insights 3-4 proposals for new participatory governance mechanisms in the United States. This conference will be unique in bringing together an outstanding group of leaders from the public and private sectors, civil society and media -- each of whom brings direct, practical experience in creating new mechanisms for large-scale cooperation and decision-making. For more information please call Lars Torres at 802-223-4288 to reserve your place, or send an email to lhtorres@americaspeaks.org

For more information on LogoLink North America activities, contact DDC at logolink@deliberative-democracy.net

LogoLink East Africa

East Africa Regional Workshop on Facilitating Citizen Participation in Local Governance, Mombasa, Kenya, 5-10 February 2006

A total of 30 participants from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda convened in Mombasa, Kenya for this 5-day workshop on “Facilitating Citizen Participation in Local Governance”. The workshop was designed in a way that allowed those present to share their own experiences in mobilizing and facilitating citizen participation in their contexts, speak to the victories that they have realized, and talk about current and future challenges. The workshop considered what “meaningful” citizen engagements with their local governments is all about. The participants also had the chance to visit and learn from communities that have mobilized around land and housing issues in Mombasa. The workshop was facilitated by LogoLink partners from the Coastal Rights Forum in Mombasa. For more information contact DENIVA at info@deniva.or.ug

National Civic Education Programme, Uganda, ongoing

DENIVA, serves as a member of the national steering committee of the programme and has repeatedly argues that in order for this programme to be effective, citizens must be involved in the planning and implementation processes. Throughout the past year, DENIVA has borrowed many useful ideas from other similar initiatives that LogoLink partners from other regions have employed. For more information contact DENIVA at info@deniva.or.ug

National Minimum Agenda, Uganda, ongoing

This is a collaborative undertaking on civil society organizations in Uganda and is aimed at putting in place guidelines and indicators for good governance. Many discussions have been informed by LogoLink work but at the

same time, these discussions have also been shared with others in the LogoLink regional network. For more information contact DENIVA at info@deniva.or.ug

East African LogoLink Partners' Meeting in Mombasa, Kenya

All the East African LogoLink partners converged in Mombasa, Kenya from the 6th – 10th of February 2006. They attended a 5-day training workshop organized by the LogoLink Regional Partner DENIVA in conjunction with the Coastal Rights Forum (a LogoLink partner in Mombasa, Kenya) to provide LogoLink partners in East Africa with practical facilitation skills for effective community mobilization in regard to local governance.

For more information contact DENIVA at info@deniva.or.ug

The NGOs and pressure from below project, Jinja

Ever realised that there is a tendency for most NGOs in Uganda to focus on rural poverty and not urban poverty? Apparently urban poverty may be worse than rural poverty. The experiences so far show that poor citizens in urban settings are surrounded by excessive poverty, extremely poor housing, lack latrines, high levels of illiteracy and a feeling despondency. And so the overall goal of this project implemented jointly by DENIVA and FABIO, funded by Ford foundation is to cause empowerment, and enhance abilities of communities so as to raise their voices and ensure response from the Government and other stakeholders to their demands. It is based in *walukuba masese* division on the outskirts of Jinja town. So far - through this facilitation and working with a team of volunteers called mobilisers – who were elected by the community themselves, they are beginning to gain confidence partly through the successes they have already achieved. They include; acquisition of ambulance stationed at the community clinic all the time, repair of the nearby primary school building, forcing *madhvani* to clear a bush that harboured thieves for sometime. The thieves have now fled the area. Attitude of communities beginning to change as they realise that transformation is in their reach. Project is still going ahead what is planned this year is to supplement what has already happened. For more information contact DENIVA at info@deniva.or.ug

LogoLink Kenya chapter

A regional study on how Citizens are tracking Local Government Public Expenditures in the 3 East African Countries is one of the critical areas that the partners are currently working on. The LogoLink Kenya Chapter is already in the process of developing a proposal geared towards monitoring devolved funds. For more information contact Christian Partners Development Agency at info@cpda.or.ke

For more information on LogoLink East Africa activities, contact DENIVA info@deniva.or.ug

Resources

LogoLink is constantly developing its online searchable resource centre. Resources focus on various aspects of citizens' participation in local governance from a wide spectrum of organisations and institutions. Different types of documents are available, including reports, policy and research papers, case studies, training manuals and tools. *If you want to include documents produced by your organisation or any other key resources, send electronic copies to LogoLink@ids.ac.uk or hardcopies to LogoLink, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, BN1 9RE, UK.*

Existing resources on participation in local governance can be accessed through the Participation Resource Centre online at <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/particip/information/readrm.html>

The Communications Team from IDS are pleased to introduce In Focus - the Institute's new thematic summary series. In this first issue on Social Protection, members of the Vulnerability, Poverty and Vulnerability Team look at how both social protection thinking and practice have taken several new directions since the phrase was first coined ten years ago. Browse the briefing notes or download the complete collection at <http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/pvty/socproinfocus.html>

Other Resources and Features

Sources and Resources

Public Deliberation: A Manager's Guide to Citizen Engagement

There are new and exciting opportunities to engage citizens by informing, consulting, involving, and collaborating with them through a number of techniques; for example, the use of online surveys and peer-to-peer communication tools such as blogs and wikis. Many of these are now being piloted and used by states, localities, and nonprofits. There is also an increased interest by federal agencies. But the challenge of reaching those who don't already participate as activists or interest group members remains. This report documents a spectrum of tools and techniques developed largely in the nonprofit world in recent years to increase citizens' involvement in their communities and government. It also highlights ways in which public managers can develop an active approach to increasing citizens' involvement in government at all levels. This report will be useful and informative to managers across the nation seeking new, innovative ways to engage citizens. To access the report visit <http://www.businessofgovernment.org/pdfs/LukensmeyerReport.pdf>

Book "Citizen Participation: a regional approach from local actors"

This publication is the output of a joint initiative from CESEM, LogoLink and SERJUS and relates to the citizen participation and the collective space of the Mesoamerican Meeting and Caribbean over many civil society organizations perspectives that allow a critical vision of the participatory processes. For more information contact CESEM at encuentromesoamericano@cesemheribertojara.org.mx

Book "Social Movements and State Power: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Ecuador"

In the political development of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Ecuador and in other parts of Latin America there are some fundamental questions. This book from James Petras examines some questions in the theoretical framework of the relationship between the State and the social movement.

For information on this book, please e-mail plazaeditora1@terra.com

Useful Links

Welcome to the MSP Resource Portal!

On this portal you can find practical information on how to facilitate participatory learning processes with various stakeholders. It provides theoretical foundations, methods and tools to create learning processes, facilitation tips, examples, literature and links. We hope that in this way you can build your capacity for more sustainable development! Internationally there is a growing need for people who can facilitate dialogue, joint learning and collaborative action. Practitioners and policy makers who wish to use or learn from designing or facilitating multi-stakeholder and social learning processes currently are confronted with four constraints. By developing a resource portal for facilitating multi-stakeholder processes the IAC contributes to fulfill these demands. This portal will continuously be further developed. We would be most happy to share the link to our MSP resource portal, dealing with Multi-Stakeholder Processes, Governance and Societal Learning. It would be great if you could place this link on your website: <http://portals.wi.wur.nl/msp>

Calls for ...

The Deliberative Democracy Consortium (DDC) recruits Executive Director

The Deliberative Democracy Consortium (DDC) is a network of more than 20 research and practitioner organizations working to renew democracy through citizen participation and deliberation. The mission of the Consortium is to bring together practitioners and researchers to support and foster the nascent, broad-based movement to promote and institutionalize deliberative democracy at all levels of governance in the United States and around the world. The Executive Director of the Deliberative Democracy Consortium will have substantial knowledge of the field of Deliberative Democracy from a practice as well as a research perspective. He or she will demonstrate exceptional, proactive leadership and management skills, in particular as these skills relate to leading an all volunteer organization. Working with the membership, the Executive Director will increase the visibility of the Consortium, and creatively expand its role in the field. The Executive Director will have significant experience in raising funds as well as existing relationships with donors in the field. The Consortium operates via an Executive Committee and four task groups: Research and Practice, Online Deliberative Democracy, Link to Government, and Organization and Strategic Planning. The Executive Director reports to the Chair of the Executive Committee and

works closely with each task group, initiating and helping to manage implementation of their work plans. The salary will commensurate with experience. For more information, contact Carolyn Lukensmeyer, Chair, Deliberative Democracy Consortium at (202) 775-3939 x 105 or C.JL@americaspeaks.org

Reinventing Development Research - Essay Competition

This year, IDS is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. When IDS was founded in 1966, the world was a very different place. The first postcolonial governments in Africa were being inaugurated, the Cultural Revolution began in communist China, Indira Gandhi was elected Prime Minister of India and the USA bombed Hanoi for the first time. Forty years on, we're marking our anniversary with a programme of events, including a conference in September which aims to 'Reinvent Development Research'. As well as reflecting back, we'll be looking at the key issues facing our globe in the next 40 years and asking, how can we ensure that development research continues to shape thinking and action to tackle these challenges? As well as celebrating the achievements of IDS, our central aim is to encourage the development research community to think ahead and to innovate. In order to gather ideas from alumni and students of IDS and our partner organisations we are inviting entries for an IDS40 essay competition, generously funded by the ESRC. The essays should be inspired by any one of the following themes:

- Achieving the Millennium Development Goals – what's stopping us?
- Can development research change the world?
- 40:40 vision: A development research agenda for the future.

Rather than academic essays, we are looking for entries written in a punchy journalistic commentary or opinion piece style (see for example the writing in print magazines such as Prospect, or online formats like Open Democracy). We want to know what you think and what your vision is, rather than what your set texts say. We are looking for originality of thought, excellent writing, incisive analysis and a firm grounding in political, economic, and social reality – as well as a desire to challenge convention and to suggest innovative alternatives. The best entry will win £500. The authors of the winning entry and the runner up will be invited to attend the IDS Fortieth Anniversary Conference in September 2006. And their work will be published in the Fortieth Anniversary issue of the influential IDS Bulletin. This competition is open to students, staff (except Research Fellows) and alumni of IDS and postgraduate students at IDS partner institutes. Entries must be e-mailed by midnight (GMT) on 10 July 2006. Submissions will be judged by a panel of IDS Fellows and senior staff, and winners will be notified by email at the end of July 2006.

Terms and conditions

1. Entries must be original essays of 3,500 words (max). They should be accompanied by a half-page summary.
2. Please include your name and contact details on a separate page and e-mail your entry in MS Word format to ids40@ids.ac.uk, in Arial 11 pt and with 1.5 line spacing. If you are a student in an IDS partner organisation, please include details of your affiliation, which we may need to verify.
3. The winning entry and the runner up will be published in the fortieth anniversary issue of the IDS Bulletin. The authors will be invited to attend the IDS fortieth anniversary conference from 20 to 22 September 2006.
4. The judges reserve the right not to award the prizes if the standard of entries is not sufficiently high.
5. By submitting your entry, you agree to permit IDS to reproduce your work in keeping with the spirit of the competition and the terms described.
6. The winners will be announced in August 2006.

The competition is open to students, staff (except Research Fellows) and alumni of IDS and postgraduate students at IDS partner institutes. Undergraduate students are not eligible to enter the competition. For more information visit www.ids.ac.uk

Events

Access the events list in the LogoLink website for current information on training and courses, workshops and conferences, online initiatives, etc. (<http://www.eldis.org/logolink/events/index.htm>)

Do you have any event you want us to know about? Use the online form on the LogoLink website to submit events for inclusion in this list (<http://www.eldis.org/logolink/events/index.htm>). Events included in the LogoLink database

will also be automatically submitted to appear on the events lists of the The Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability website and on the Participation Group at IDS website.

Study Trip on Citizen Participation to the Stuttgart region, Germany on 13-14 July 2006

Every local authority and public agency is now taking citizen participation seriously. The hunt is on for approaches which really connect with local people (not just the 'usual suspects'), involve them in service planning, management and delivery, and provide them with excellence service standards. One of the areas of Europe which has become famous for innovative and successful approaches to citizen involvement is the state (Land) of Baden-Württemberg in South-West Germany, where public agencies have already won many European awards. Governance International, a non profitable organisation based in Birmingham UK, is organising a study trip to allow politicians and staff from public agencies to see these approaches in practice and explore the lessons that can be transferred from the best agencies and local authorities in the Stuttgart area. The visit will be prepared and coordinated by the experienced staff of Governance International, who will brief you at all stages of the study trip and help you to identify the lessons most important for your own organisation. The programme will also give you ample opportunity to network with the other participants – indeed, exchanging ideas with them will play an important part in working out how to transfer the best practices you see in Germany to your own organisation. For more information visit www.govint.org

News about the 2006 National Conference on Dialogue & Deliberation

The 2006 NCDD conference will take place in San Francisco, California, August 4-6, with fantastic pre-conference trainings on Thursday, August 3rd. If you are dedicated to solving group and societal problems through honest talk, quality thinking and collaborative action, this gathering is for you! NCDD's conferences offer leaders and future leaders in the dialogue & deliberation community a place to share resources and strategies, increase the visibility and effectiveness of their work, get inspired to try new things, build relationships, and initiate collaborative projects. We are accepting applications for concurrent workshops until the end of the month, and we encourage you to think about the kinds of skill-building, knowledge-building, or issue-exploring workshops you would like to offer to the dialogue and deliberation community. Apply at <http://www.thataway.org/conference/sessions/index.php>. For more information visit www.thataway.org/conference/index.php to learn more about the National Conference on Dialogue & Deliberation.

Contributors to this issue

We would like to thank all our subscribers who contributed to this issue by sending us information on their programmes and organisations. Unfortunately, we are not always able to feature all the contributions we receive because of consideration to limited space.

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