



Newsletter

From FES New York

Number 4, volume 2, December 1994

Trade Union Leaders from Developing Countries Contribute to Preparation for Social Summit

Four Continents Represented in ICFTU Delegation at PrepCom II

With a view to strengthening the voice of labour in the process leading to the forthcoming World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, FES New York assisted the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in widening its presence and influence during the second PrepCom for the Summit in New York. Five trade union leaders from developing countries joined the delegation of the ICFTU from August 22 to September 2, 1994 and actively participated in the process of lobbying and negotiating on behalf of some 120 million members living predominantly in developing countries.

The trade union leaders from the South also appeared, for the first time ever, as speakers at a round-table organized exclusively for them at the UN Secretariat. Some 80 delegates and observers of the PrepCom attended this event.

This initiative builds on the historic involvement of FES in social issues, through its own activities, and through its work with the ICFTU and the International Trade Secretariats. The program was planned in cooperation with the headquarters of FES in Bonn and ICFTU in Brussels and the ICFTU office in New York.

The ICFTU delegation to the PrepCom was led by Luis Anderson, the Secretary General of the American regional organization of the ICFTU, ORIT, and was comprised of delegates from Europe as well as North America. In addition, FES New York
(continued on p. 12)

Topics of this issue

Labour leaders at PrepCom.....	p. 1
Strategic planning for UNDP.....	p. 2
Southern Broadcasters at UN.....	p. 3
Communication among NGOs.....	p. 4
E-mail handbook to be published.....	p. 5
Journalist Li Wei on Beijing.....	p. 6
Topic Migration in Cairo.....	p. 8
Seminar with British MEP.....	p. 9
Visitors-visitors.....	p.10



Strategic Planning as a Tool For Development: Are there Useful Models in the Corporate World?

Opening a Dialogue between UNDP Planners and Corporate Specialists

Is there anything in common between the profit-oriented corporate world on the one hand and an international non-profit development agency like UNDP on the other? And if so, does it make sense to talk to each other and to mutually profit from this dialogue? The recently established Department for Evaluation and Strategic Planning at the United Nations Development Program would like to explore this question further and has suggested to FES New York a joint approach which might lead to a set of answers to these questions.

But would it also be possible to interest representatives of the corporate world in such a dialogue and if so, by what argument? When we put out feelers to discover whether we as an NGO could serve as a broker in this matter between a non-profit inter-governmental body and the very much profit-oriented world of big business we soon learned that there is an interest. Corporate strategic planning Specialists are prepared to look into an office like UNDP, partly out of curiosity, partly because a world-wide agency might also provide them with some new ideas and contacts.

However, we also learned that this dialogue needs careful preparation in order to become meaningful for either side. FES New York, therefore, organized a planning meeting with the staff of Evaluation and Strategic Planning on November 10, 1994, and invited four specialists in the field of strategic planning to help pave

the way to a more in-depth treatment of methods, goals and techniques.

The first speaker, Prof. Nancy Roberts, who teaches systems management at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, emphasized that "public and non-profit strategic planners must be very careful to tailor their approach to their context - especially the political economy of which they are a part".

Mr. James Striker, Vice President of Planning and Analysis, Ingersoll-Rand Co., and Arthur Sherman, Vice President, Service and Parts Group, Sharp Electronics, both gave detailed examples for strategic planning within their companies. The fourth speaker, Lance Berger, CEO, Lance Berger Consulting Group, summarized some of the principles and problems of strategic planning.

In their statements, and during a long and lively discussion period, all four speakers stressed that a public agency like UNDP needs to formulate its mission and its goals in some detail before strategic planning methods can be applied. As one of the specialists put it: "Determine who your stakeholders are, on the donor and on the recipient side".

All participants agreed that the meeting was indeed a useful beginning to a dialogue with corporate specialists. It was suggested that all concerned make preparations for a bigger brainstorming session during the first half of 1995. We will work on this.

FES New York Helps Organize UN Orientation Program for Southern Broadcasting Unions

Newscasters From Developing Regions Voice Hopes and Frustrations

FES New York, in cooperation with UNDPI and other UN agencies, organized an information and orientation program for members of regional broadcast unions from the developing world. The program, held from June 20 - 24, included ten specialists in news and current affairs from the ABU, CBU, ASBU, URTNA, as well as a few Latin American news organizations. The second in a series, the program informed the participants about the practical possibilities of cooperation with various UN departments and agencies, with particular emphasis placed upon major events on the UN agenda such as the Social Summit in Copenhagen.

The overall purpose of this ongoing seminar series is to improve the ability of people in the developing world to get international news, especially coverage of the UN. To accomplish this, members of the developing world's media are introduced to the individuals behind the doors at the UN, and are familiarized with the work done by each agency.

The broadcasting union concept of TV news exchanges, based on the model of the European Broadcasting Union founded in 1952, provides a way for media cooperation which the Foundation has long promoted and actively worked to transfer to developing countries.

The broadcasting unions' systems Afro-Vision, Arabvision, Caribvision and Asiavision have shown the most interesting results. These schemes coordinate the use of their limited resources by exchanging television news pictures among the members via satellite.

Since these regional systems are already in place and working in the Southern hemisphere it would only be logical and in the interest of either side, if UN news and other visual material would be made available to these systems via satellite

However, this is not possible according to UN officials because the UN is too poor to bear the costs for daily satellite feeds and the broadcasters in developing regions - in turn - lack the means to collect the TV news from the UN at the doorstep of the Secretariat. Instead, broadcasters participating in the FES program repeatedly complained that by the time they receive UN news material, their audiences have already seen it on CNN or the BBC World Service, with the accompanying text often carrying an inevitable "Northern" slant.

To address this concern, several UN agency representatives urged the union representatives to pressure their governments into proposing a UN communications satellite or at least a UN-leased daily satellite transponder in the General Assembly. But the unions balked, noting that their governments often see the media as their enemy.

The problem of news distribution could perhaps best be solved in a more comprehensive forum. At the seminar, FES New York proposed a high-level UN Broadcasting Conference to further explore the idea of providing funding for UN satellite facilities and feeds in developing countries and to make UN news available more quickly to developing countries.

NGO Cooperation Through Communication: Part II

Small Businesses Profit from New Network

Duncan Pruett, FES New York, went to Peru in August to help in the creation of a computer communications network for the COPEME Microenterprise Support consortium, a group of NGOs working together to support small businesses in the countryside and in the cities of Peru. Last March, Pruett traveled to Caracas to discuss the advantages of computer communications with FITELAC, a group of Latin American NGOs.

Invited by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Peru, Duncan Pruett spent ten days in Lima working with that organization and some of the fifty-plus other members of COPEME to study the need for, and the feasibility of, the use of E-Mail to enhance the effectiveness of their activities. COPEME is a secretariat coordinating the work of roughly 50 NGOs in Peru. With many of its member organizations operating in rural areas, COPEME is involved in improving microenterprises in villages and farms as well as the creation of shops, small factory workshops, and housing projects in urban slums.

In a series of meetings held in Lima with COPEME members, Pruett assessed the need to improve communications and evaluated the present level of necessary skills and resources available. He found that only a few NGOs had facilities for computer communications. Almost all members were limited to telephone, fax and postal communications, expensive and inadequate methods for a consortium whose mission is to coordinate the activities and financial affairs of its members.

In his final report, Pruett formulated a plan for creating an E-mail network for COPEME. He recommends that as the group is starting almost from scratch, COPEME should start slowly to permit its members to learn to effectively use simple E-Mail at first. From the position of greater cohesion made possible by E-Mail, COPEME could later co-develop

expansion into more advanced computer communications.

In order to strengthen the skills initially available to each NGO, and to greatly reduce the chance that staff losses might interfere with the process, the outline also calls for training at least two members from each group to install and manage computer communications. To ensure maximum efficiency and minimal usage costs, the entire system should use one E-Mail provider. Over time, the costs of equipment and training would be more than recouped in savings on telephone charges.

The outline suggests that COPEME might appoint a coordinating committee to formulate the details for implementing the plan. After the facilities are up and running, members would enjoy immediate benefits, especially in the area of their main mission: co-ordination between member NGOs. They could share reports and plans instantaneously and at very low cost over the network by posting such information on an electronic mailing list, or so-called "bulletin board."

In October, CRS-Peru reported that along with COPEME's secretariat they will move forward to strengthen COPEME with a project incorporating a communications element. Implementation should begin in the near future, with "a good chance that many of [Pruett's] recommendations will fly."

Electronic Mail And Savings For All: A Handbook Explains How It All Works

UN-NGLS and FES New York Offer a Guide for NGOs in Developing Countries

Thanks to the cooperative effort of many contributors worldwide, the first edition of: "*A Handbook for NGOs: Using Electronic Mail in Developing Countries*" will become available early next year. The product of a fruitful, ongoing, collaborative project between FES New York and the UN's Non-Governmental Liaison Service, the book offers a step-by-step approach to using computer communications, focusing primarily on E-Mail. E-mail not only provides a reliable means of communication, but more importantly a substantial savings to its users, especially those in the developing world.

At present, many NGOs depend on conventional mail services and fax or voice communications via telephone connection. In many countries, conventional mail is extremely slow, unreliable, or both. Telephone calls for faxes or voice calls require much more time, and therefore expense, than calls involving the transfer of computer-coded data. To illustrate, many pages of previously-typed data can be exchanged by E-mail in the time it takes for a person to say a few sentences or send a one-page fax.

Beginners' Guides

A handful of other beginners' guides to computer communications have long been commercially available, but few of these contain advice on every

thing from how to find the proper equipment and software in the developing world, to country-specific advice on E-mail availability and use in Africa, Latin America, and the Asia/Pacific area.

Advice is offered on how NGOs can tap into the resources of the Internet, through computer conferencing and databases. This information will be especially useful to those in the developing world where information is scarce.

Serving different goals

Although intended mainly for NGOs based in developing countries, the book may also prove useful to anyone working in the UN development community. Whether the goal is to get on the global information superhighway or to simply enhance communications between a few organizations, the *Handbook* instructs the reader on how to proceed.

Jagdish Parikh of Interdoc AsPac and Duncan Pruett of FES New York, coordinating their activities by E-mail, together researched and wrote the bulk of the *Handbook*.

The book will first be published in English, but a French and Spanish version shall also be available in the first half of next year. The next NEWSLETTER will give details pertaining to the ordering procedure for NGOs in developing countries.

China Prepares for World Conference on Women Beijing Journalist Li Wei Has All the Details

Participant in UNDPI-FES Training Course Stays on For Contacts and Studies

In September, **Li Wei**, a journalist with China's Xinhua News Agency, came to New York to take part in the Broadcasters and Journalists Program at UNDPI which is co-sponsored by FES New York. At the conclusion of this six-week course, FES New York and the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), teamed up to support a further two months of research. The objective of her work (including this article on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing) is to improve Chinese media coverage of the conference and enhancing communication between Chinese media and women's organizations.

China is speeding up preparations to host the Fourth World Conference on Women (FWCW), to be held in Beijing in September 1995. The FWCW promises to be the largest international meeting ever hosted by China. Some 30,000 people from all over the world are expected to attend and discuss world development, equality, peace and the environment as they relate to women's affairs.

Preparations in China:

The Chinese Organizing Committee (COC) for the conference was set up two years ago. The COC plans to reserve 30,000 beds in more than 100 hotels for conference participants. In addition, a number of mass organizations in China, such as the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF), have participated in the preparations for the Conference.

Altogether, another 30,000 women from all over China, including 1,000 officials, have been trained for the Conference or for the implementation of the Strategies for the Advancement of Women set by the last Conference.

The opening ceremony of the FWCW will be held at the Great Hall of the People on September 4, 1995. The Beijing International Convention Center will host the inter-governmental meetings from September 5 to 15.

High Expectations on FWCW

One-fourth of the world's women are Chinese. They have high expectations for the FWCW.

The Conference should advance improvement in women's status including the protection of women's rights and interests, increased involvement of women in politics and economic development, and, ultimately, the realization of gender equality, according to a leading COC official.

During the FWCW, participants will assess how women's lives have changed over the past decade and take steps to keep issues of concern to women high on the international agenda.

The Conference will adopt a Platform for Action, analyzing obstacles to

women's advancement and recommending steps for overcoming them. the platform is intended to guide and mobilize society on women's issues.

The Platform for Action will focus on ten critical areas of concern such as power-sharing, commitment to women's rights, poverty, education and health, violence against women, and economic participation. It will also consider practical measures governments can take to advance the status of women.

An official with the UN Commission on the Status of Women notes that the United Nations has been working for the achievement of equal rights for men and women for many years. The goal of equality is proclaimed in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and in a number of legally binding international instruments.

Decade for Women

Thanks to the UN's efforts, 1975 was declared the International Year for Women, and in that same year the First World Conference on Women took place in Mexico City. Subsequently, the UN recognized a Decade for Women (1976-1985). Since that time, there has been growing awareness that what happens to women has a profound impact on the well-being of Nations.

At the recently concluded International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo,

women's role drew global attention again.

The Program of Action adopted by the ICPD has focused on empowering women and providing them with more choices through expanded access to education and health services and promoting skills development and employment.

Before the FWCW, one other major UN conference -- World Summit for Social Development -- will convene in Copenhagen, and will consider many of the issues to be debated in Beijing. The 50th anniversary of the UN will provide another opportunity for highlighting women's issues.

Will the Social Summit, the FWCW and the UN 50th anniversary bring about necessary changes for further women's development? Women around the world have high hopes...



Chinese journalist Li Wei



At PrepCom III for Cairo Conference: Focus Towards International Migration

FES New York Introduced New Actors from Developing Countries

At the end of March, representatives of NGOs and government delegations met in New York to complete a draft program for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo this September. Working groups discussed issues ranging from reproductive rights and family planning (Chapter VII of the plan) to the more general topics of health, morbidity and morality (Chapter VIII). International migration was also to be included in the draft program. However, media attention to political battles shaping up over the handling of abortion indicated that participants would prove reluctant to tangle with migration issues at PrepCom III.

FES New York, along with several other NGOs, worked to correct this unbalanced situation. Relying on partner organizations for a list of suitable candidates, FES supported the participation of two representatives to the conference. Arriving in New York, Charito Basa, Chairperson of the Filipino Women's Council in Rome was soon followed by Mamadou Dicko of CER-POD, a population policy thinktank in Mali. With FES assistance, they were soon accredited at the UN, provided with communications facilities and introduced to population and migration policy experts.

While both participants focused on migration, they held different perspectives. FES, working in cooperation with Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), organized a luncheon workshop on April 9 entitled "International Migration: A factor of develop-

ment which cannot be ignored" at which Charito and Mamadou were the keynote speakers.

Most economists in the industrialized countries believe that migration by people from the South to the North mainly enriches immigrants, rather than the host country, and that remittances from these immigrants help finance growth and development of their home economies. In her speech Charito criticized both beliefs. Migrants are cheap labor, benefiting the citizens of the host countries with lower costs. Remittances are "spent on status symbol consumer goods such as color TVs, VCRs, stereos", and since these goods are imported from Northern countries, their purchase hardly benefits growth in Southern economies. Finally, lacking legal status, migrant workers are separated from their families for long periods, routinely grossly underpaid, sexually abused, and forced to seek abortions to end the pregnancies resulting from relationships of loneliness and, too often, sexual exploitation. Her criticisms were well-spoken, and they clearly made a powerful impression on the many delegates who approached her afterwards.

In contrast, Mamadou spoke on the benefits of remittances, citing cases where these monies were "channeled by sending communities to build up local infrastructures." He also expressed great satisfaction with the NGOs present, finding them "concrete and practical" due to their direct contact with the communities they represent, making them especially useful in sensitizing government delegations to specific

human needs. Mamadou urged that government delegations work in partnership with NGOs, and bring NGO representatives along to Cairo in particular. Mamadou worked closely with the African group at the conference, and in recognition of FES's role, he encouraged the delegations from several African countries to make contact with their local FES offices.

FES New York, in cooperation with several other NGOs, helped to bring to these discussions dynamic individuals who are committed to the advancement of rational migration policies. Despite long odds, their involvement in the process helped to ensure that migration issues received the attention they deserve in the ICPD process.

Charito went on to work with WEDO at the Cairo conference, chairing the Women's Caucus task force on migration.

FES Workshop discussing Europe's Aid for Development

A luncheon workshop hosted by FES New York on July 8 was the site of lively debate on aid to the developing world. In a discussion led by Mr. Amedee Turner, a former MEP from Britain in the European Parliament, questions were raised by some participants on the motives behind the sponsorship of aid packages to developing countries of the South.

Mr. Reinhard Keune of FES New York introduced Mr. Turner, who follows Mr. Neil Kinnock as the second in a series of prominent speakers from the European Union.

As an MEP, Mr. Turner was until recently involved in the making of EU policy towards developing countries.

Mr. Turner spoke on two issues. First, he advised developing countries to revise their relations with what, in his opinion, has become a "two-speed Europe" where some states are leaders and others followers. More specifically, he continued, developing Nations must take into account that leadership in foreign aid lies with only a few European Nations, and that of these few, different Nations lead depending on the type of aid in question.

Second, moving from analysis to prescription, he counseled a pragmatic strategy to help recipients to increase their chances of receiving aid, advising that they target certain donors and focus requests on specific types of projects. As examples of the types of projects most favored by donor states, Mr. Turner recommended those aimed at either sustainable development or building up the capacity of existing non-governmental organizations.

A question-and answer session followed the prevention. At least one participant indicated rejection of the entire foreign aid enterprise. He leveled the familiar charge that developed Nations donate aid only to further their own strategic aims and to project a magnanimous image abroad.

Mr. Turner countered that although strategizing may be the motive for much foreign aid, it does not detract from the genuine altruism of the officials actually responsible for spending the aid money. Usually, their goal has been to see to it that the funds disbursed are instrumental in improving the lives of many in the recipient countries, and Turner asserted that this goal is often accomplished.

The Friedrich Ebert Foundation is a German-based international NGO whose history, aims and objectives are briefly described elsewhere in this issue. Its office in New York liaises with the UN and runs programs of its own, such as seminars, conferences, training courses, internships and research. Programs can also be cosponsored with other partners.

These activities are designed to serve partners in and from countries of the South who want to further pluralism and socio-economic development.

This Newsletter shall inform them of recent or ongoing programs of the FES New York Office pertaining to issues of the South and

About this Newsletter

related to major events on the UN agenda and other important topics in development. It shall also provide a means of communication with other NGOs, governmental and non-governmental agencies working in similar areas and, last but not least, is published to provide relevant information to other offices and projects of the Foundation in some seventy countries.

As the graphic design of the Newsletter head suggests we shall think twice about what we should put into it and we promise to be brief and to the point. Nobody wants to have more paper on his or her desk over and above the existing piles. Nobody likes to have more communication "noise" than necessary.

Should you, however, feel that you need more information on any mentioned topic we would be glad to provide you with any material we have available. Just send us a fax or e-mail. We are also open to your comments and your criticism

Visitors, Visitors, Visitors

Among the visitors to FES New York were:

Kant Bhargava, Former Secretary General,
S.A.A.R.C., India

Sara Brombart, ILDIS
Caracas, Venezuela

Everardo de Carvalho
Pastoral da Crianca
Teresina, Brazil

Olatokunbo Awolowo Dosumu
Executive Secretary
Obafemi Awolowo Foundation, Nigeria

Carol Grodzins
Program Director
Edward S. Mason Fellows Program
Harvard University

Axel Hanisch, Secretary General,
Party of European Socialists, Brussels,
Belgium

Phil Harris, International Press Service
Rome, Italy

Jared Hoffmann
Catholic Relief Services, Peru

Wolfgang Holler, PACNEWS, Port Vila,
Vanuatu

Kela Leon
Instituto Prensa y Sociedad, Peru

David Lush
Media Institute of Southern Africa Windhoek,
Namibia

Professor Robert Rotberg
President, World Peace Foundation

Christina Ruhmbo, Swedish Broadcasting
Stockholm, Sweden

Yvonne Ruijters, UN University
Maastricht, Netherlands

David Stewart, Corporation for Public
Broadcasting, Washington, DC

About the Friedrich Ebert Foundation

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung or FES (Stiftung is the German word for foundation) was set up in 1925 as a legacy of Germany's first democratically elected president, Friedrich Ebert, who died in that same year. Ebert, a Social Democrat, had made his way from a poor craftsman to the highest office of his country in the face of much persecution and hostility on the part of his political enemies.

He assumed the burden of the presidency in a defeated, crisis-ridden Germany after World War I. Building on his experiences, he proposed to establish the foundation which should serve a triple aim:

- to further a political culture based on democracy and pluralism by means of civic education for all strata of German society,
- to facilitate access to higher education for gifted young people from the less advantaged groups of the German population by means of scholarships,
- to contribute to international understanding and cooperation wherever possible as a protection against new wars and conflicts.

Immediately banned by the Nazis in 1933 and reestablished in 1947 after World War II, the foundation continues to adhere to these goals and has developed large programs in each of the above areas. Between 60,000 and 100,000 participants attend civic education courses and seminars

each year in Germany, and on an average 1,600 students from Germany and abroad receive scholarships.

About 60 percent of the annual budget of around 200 million Deutschmarks, which is made available from public funds and private donations, are invested in international development and cooperation programs, predominantly in countries of the South and in Eastern Europe.

More than 100 projects in over 70 countries deal with the development of small-scale industry, civic education and assistance in building pluralist structures, trade union and labor education, social and economic research, women's programs, agricultural and marketing cooperatives, development of democratic mass media and other areas.

The Foundation's headquarters are located at Godesberger Allee 149, D-53170 Bonn, Germany. About 130 of its staff (of over 750) are stationed outside of Germany as consultants and heads of FES offices and projects.

Impressum

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The ICFTU delegation with the Chairman of the PrepCom and "father" of the Social Summit, Ambassador Juan Somavia, Chile. From left: Luis Anderson, ORIT; Ambassador Somavia; Nancy Riche, Canada; Richard Falbr, Czech Republic; Bill Brett, UK; Kandeh Yilla, Sierra Leone; Kjeld Jakobsen, Brazil; Beatrice von Roemer, ICFTU New York; Sidibe Kadiatou, Mali; Fackson Shamenda, Zambia; and J P. Candia Veiga, Brazil.

Trade Union Leaders...

(continued from p. 1)

assisted in bringing to the PrepCom Kjeld Jakobsen (CUT Brazil), Pathma Tamby Dorai (ICFTU-APRO, Singapore), Fackson Shamenda (ZaCTU, Zambia) Kandeh Yilla (SLLC, Sierra Leone), and Sidibe Kadiatou (Mali).

The delegates made an effective contribution to the debate of the PrepCom, which focused partially on "productive employment". This is one of the core issues of the Summit, and one that is of particular relevance to trade unions. The chapter on productive employment in the Summit's Draft Program of Action contains a "social clause" which emphasizes the importance of ratifying and implementing the six most basic ILO conventions on workers' rights.

Powerful groups of developing countries have, in the past, refused to discuss the labour rights issue in such fora as Summits or World Conferences, claiming that commitments on labour standards would lead to protectionist trade sanctions imposed by the West on those countries deemed to be violating labour rights. Under these circumstances it is especially important for labour leaders from developing countries to voice their own views, to clarify misunderstandings and to be advocates of their membership of 120 million workers living to a large extent in the Southern hemisphere.

FES New York and the ICFTU intend to continue, where possible, this cooperation during the rest of the Social Summit process and also in the context of other big events on the agenda of the United Nations in forthcoming months and years.