



UN-NGO-IRENE UPDATE

Issue no. 28-August 2007

Special Edition of the Annual Ministerial Review

In this update we celebrate the success of the Annual Ministerial Review Innovation Fair (AMR) as a new function of the Economic and Social Council, and thank those Non-Governmental Organizations for their contributions towards the goals of the UN. The update includes an overview of the Annual Ministerial Review Innovation Fair, where non-governmental organizations were invited to exhibit their best practices and success stories in line with the theme of the AMR both at the regional and global level.

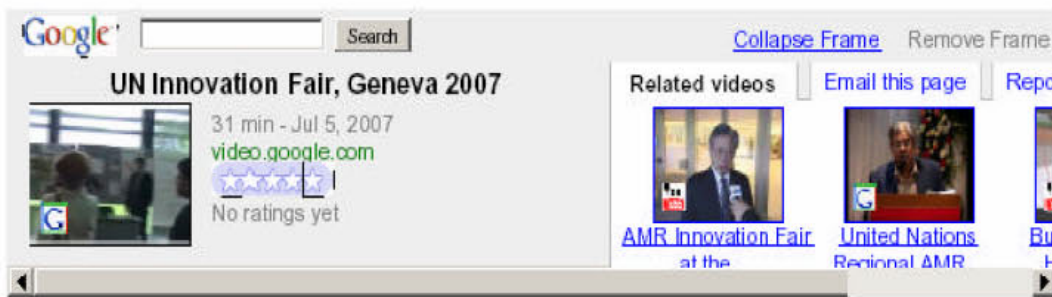
“... The spirit of partnership was a defining feature of the substantive session. The practical reflection of partnerships was shown by exhibitors at the first-ever Innovation Fair...” Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs at the Closing Session of the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon inaugurated the Civil Society Pavilion on 2 July 2007. Ms. Hanifa Mezoui introducing the success stories being exhibited by 29 NGOs to the Secretary General

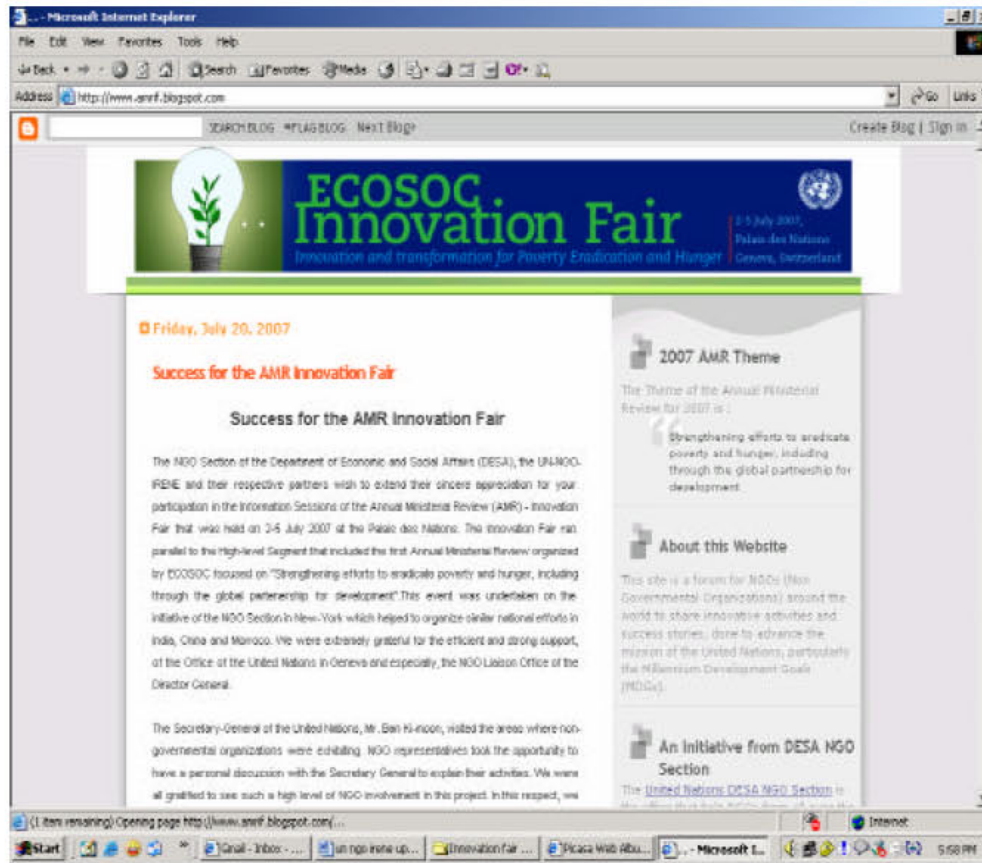


Live video coverage on <http://amrif.blogspot.com>


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UN-NGO-IRENE Launches the AMR Innovation Fair Blog:
www.amrif.blogspot.com




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ELICA memorial technical fellowship

The Launch of ELICA memorial technical fellowship during the United Nations Annual Ministerial Review Innovation Fair, Mumbai, India 24 June 2007...ELICA AMR MET Aquaro ECOSOC

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In preparation for the 2007 **AMR Innovation Fair** the NGO Section held regional **AMR** fairs in Brazil , India and Morocco . Best practices from the **innovation** ...
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I The Annual Ministerial Review



Annual Ministerial Review

The Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) is one of the two new functions of the Economic and Social Council. It was mandated by the Heads of States and Government at the 2005 World Summit as a vehicle to step up efforts to bring the international community back on track in meeting the Millennium Development Goals by the 2015 target date.



The first AMR was held on 3-4 July 2007 at the United Nations Palais des Nations in Geneva. A parallel event, the AMR Innovation Fair, was held from 2-5 July also at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. As a global high-level forum with broad-based participation, the AMR serves as a powerful new tool in advancing the implementation of the UN development agenda. It can provide a forum for an exchange of lessons learned and successful practices and approaches which merit scaling-up.

This year, the 2007 AMR focused on “*Strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development*”. Participants had the opportunity to learn from policy makers, practitioners and academics about strategies and approaches to effectively reduce poverty and exchanged lessons learned through their best practices and success stories about overcoming the obstacles encountered in implementing national development strategies. Participants included Member States, UN System Organizations, other major institutional stakeholders as well as non-governmental organizations, private sector representatives and academics.

NGOs participated actively in the ministerial roundtables and the side events that were held from 2 July to 5 July 2007 in Geneva.

i. The Annual Ministerial Review Innovation Fair



Visit www.amrif.blogspot.com to view success stories, best practices, and the media center, which includes pictures of the Fair, images and videos of the Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon's visit to the Fair, and “Youtube” links to interviews with ambassadors, presidents of organizations, and participants of the AMR Innovation Fair.

One of the main contributions from NGOs to the AMR was the AMR Innovation Fair. To show case best innovative experiences and mobilize a wide range of stakeholders in support of successful development activities, the United Nations organized an innovation fair during the main part of the annual substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This fair ran parallel to the High-level Segment that included the first Annual Ministerial Review organized by ECOSOC and devoted this year to the “strengthening of efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development.” Both events took place in the Palais des Nations



in Geneva, allowing interaction between policy makers and NGOs, authors of innovative experiences.



Members of civil society were given the opportunity to share examples of innovative products, approaches or practices and to disseminate them more widely to Member States and other actors. By participating in this event, NGOs worked to raise the awareness of decision makers at all levels, civil society actors, and of the public at large to potential solutions for achieving the United Nations Development Agenda, including the MDGs, and promote the transfer/sharing of knowledge, expertise and experience through networking and peer-to-peer learning.



Participation in this event included 29 Non-Governmental Organizations, each of whom presented specific innovative products and projects to showcase in the field of poverty, eradication and hunger. These Non-Governmental Organizations were: Action Aid, Association Droit à l'Énergie SOS Futur, Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research, S.E.R., Institute of International Social Development, International Ontopsychology Association, International Organization for Migration, International Eurasia Press Fund, Ius Primi Viri (IPV), Legion of the Good Will, The Mulchand and Parpati Thadhani Foundation, Mumbai Educational Trust, Osservatorio Per La Comunicazione Culturale E Audiovisiva Nel Mediterraneo E Nel Mondo (OCCAM), Peace Boat, Petrobras / Petroleo Brasileiro SA, Rotary International, Sulabh International Social Service Organization, The International Network of Street Papers, Korean Foundation for World Aid, The Social Promotion of the Cultural Foundation, Vikas Samiti, Women's Federation for World Peace, World Sports Alliance, Zenab for Women in Development, Women's World Summit Foundation, CIBJO (World Jewellery Confederation), Mohammed V Foundation for Solidarity, ATD Fourth World, China NGO Network for International Exchanges and Right to Energy.

The innovative approaches/tools/projects that were showcased at the Fair by these 29 Non-Governmental Organization focused on various thematic areas, including: increasing incomes and make market work for the poor, ensuring access to infrastructure for the poor, building skills, business linkages and employment opportunities for the poor, increasing the agricultural productivity of food-insecure farmers, improving nutrition for the chronically hungry and vulnerable, reducing vulnerability of the acutely hungry through productive safety nets, and restoring and conserving natural resources essential for food security.

II. Regional AMR Innovation Fairs

i. AMR Regional Innovation Fair, New York City

The NGO Section/DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) in partnership with NGLS (Nongovernmental Liaison Service), DPI (Department of Public Information), CONGO (Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the United Nations) and WFUNA (World Federation of United Nations Associations) hosted the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) Regional Innovation Fair in New York City on February 23, 2007. The Regional fair was in preparation for the AMR Innovation Fair, held in Geneva in July 2007. The fairs showcase the “best practices of NGOs” in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), more specifically, their progress at addressing the theme for this year's AMR: **“strengthening efforts for the eradication of poverty and hunger through global partnerships for development.”**

NGOs represented at the Regional fair included: the Legion of Goodwill, AIGA, World Information Transfer, People's Movement for Human Rights Learning, Peace Boat, Kennedy Center at BYU, International Munt AID Fourth World, CCC-UN, Kochi Konther Asar, Istanbul International Brotherhood and Solidarity, Medical Mission



Sisters, Virginia Gildersleeve League, Loretto Community, To Love Children Educational Foundation, Voices of African Mothers, IMSCO, Zenab for Women in Development, International Institute for Cooperation Amongst People, Al-Hakem Foundation and World Federation of United Nations Associations.

The following themes emerged from this Regional Innovation Fair:

- **To inspire** – NGOs that shared their success stories helped to inspire others to continue their commitment and dedication to their missions. Continued pursuit of their missions can result in many benefits to the world community.
- **To encourage partnerships** – Each NGO has something to offer the other and partnerships provide a unique learning experience for growth.
- **To reach out to other NGOs** – NGOs with consultative status are strongly encouraged to work with non-accredited NGOs in an effort to promote the betterment of their respective constituencies.

ii. AMR Regional Innovation Fair, Mumbai, India



The United Nations Regional Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) Innovation Fair, Asia was held at the Mumbai Educational Trust (MET) League of Colleges on 24 and 25 June 2007. On June 24 and 25th, corporations and especially Non-Governmental Organizations from India met at the innovation fair at MET Mumbai reviewed and shared the experiences of Asian Region countries, with focus on “strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, through the global partnership for development” with Round Tables in global partnership in poverty eradication and global partnership in promotion of health. The focus this year was on identifying and sharing innovations developed by NGOs, corporations and public-private partnerships so that the attainment of MDGs is made possible within the time frame.

The countries that participated in this event included NGOs and corporations from India, Italy, Brazil, Korea, Jordan, UK, Israel, Spain and other United Nations member countries.

The event was inaugurated by Shri. Chhagan Bhujbal, Founder Chairman, MET League of Colleges and Honorable Minister – Public Works Department, Government of Maharashtra, Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief – NGO Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN ECOSOC) and her senior delegates, in the presence of Professor Luisa Brunori, University of Bologna, Italy and Erez Tsalik, facilitator, SIT, Israel. Kumar Ketkar, Editor, Loksatta delivered the keynote address. Over the two days, four Round Tables were held. The topics ranged from global partnership in poverty eradication – Role of SME/ Government in attaining MDGs to Global partnership in promotion of health.

At this event, Mumbai Educational Trust (MET) championed the rights of meritorious students. Ms. Mezoui announced the 'MET- UN ELICA TECHINCAL MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP.' This fellowship will sponsor eligible candidates to pursue an internship at the UN for the Paperless Committee Project.

Mr. Joan Laporta, President of the Football Club, Barcelona sent his address, which was read out by Ms. Sur, as he was unable to come due to unforeseen circumstances. He pointed out that FC Barcelona has always been a staunch defender of universal values such as citizenship, freedom, solidarity and democracy, throughout the 107 years of its history. He illustrated his point by referring to how the Club had recently taken steps to strengthen its social commitment, by engaging itself in the fight against poverty and lack of opportunities for vulnerable children across the globe, by associating with the UN. He went on to state that FC Barcelona was the first professional sports club to join the UN's MDGs, by pledging to allocate 0.7 per cent of the club's ordinary income for setting up international programmes targeting children. He further stated that in September 2006, FC Barcelona and UNICEF had signed a revolutionary agreement, whereby the two would collaborate over the next five years to raise public awareness about the consequences of poverty on children, around the globe and presently, FC Barcelona's main football team was wearing a UNICEF emblem on the front of its jersey, a sign which showed solidarity towards the cause. He also said that despite being a professional club, FC Barcelona had rejected potential advertising revenue of approximately US \$ 25 million annually from large business houses in order to support a noble cause.

MET also instituted 4 Innovation awards during the AMR Innovation Fair at Mumbai. The winners of the awards were felicitated with a memento. Mr. Jagdish Samant from the Lok Nayak Jay Prakash Narayan Foundation received the award for the Best Presentation on Poverty Alleviation by an NGO, Ms. Shyamna Chona from Tamanna for the Best Presentation on Health by an NGO, Ms. Nandita Gurjar from Infosys for the Best Presentation on Poverty Alleviation by a Corporate House and Mr. Milind Sarwate from Marico Ltd. for the Best Presentation on Health by a Corporate House.





United Nations Regional AMR - Innovation Awards

2 min - Aug 2, 2007

United Nations Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) Innovation Fair held at MET League of Colleges on 24 & 25 June 2007 United Nations aims to eradicate poverty by 2015

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The success of the conference lay in the wide discussion and debate that took place between the presentations and the ideas that it threw up, as also the partnerships it fostered.

iii. AMR Regional Innovation Fair, Brazil

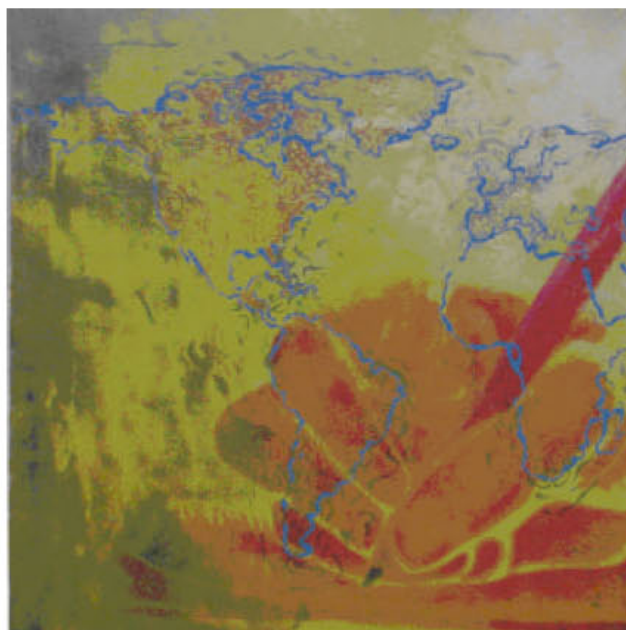
Contributing to the intergovernmental process of the United Nations, the Legion of Good Will - LGW, a Brazilian NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC, promoted, during four years consecutively, multistakeholder meetings with the participation of the Latin-American civil society, stimulating the integration of the various social actors.

From this practice emerged the 1st Solidarity Society Network Innovation Fair, an action of relationship and partnerships that mobilized hundreds of participants from all over the country. This initiative, with the support of the United Nations, has been helping to propitiate a permanent dialogue, besides sharing social technologies, in the search of solutions for the main challenges of the world, especially the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The 1st Solidary Society Network Innovation Fair, promoted by the Legion of Good Will, received the support of the NGO Section of UN/DESA and the United Nations Information Center in Brazil (UNIC-Rio), gathering hundreds of representatives of various sectors, integrating member states, private sector, non-governmental organizations, media, academia, class entities, youth movements, foundations, public and international organisms, with the objective of sharing good practices that can be replicated as new social technologies and stimulate strategic inter-sectorial bonds that optimize the impacts of transformation in society.

“Global partnerships for development– Strengthening efforts for the eradication of poverty and hunger” was the theme of the Fair, following the next ECOSOC High Level Segment theme.





The Legion of Good Will fostered a wide mobilization with multi-stakeholders divided in the three following actions:

- Phase 1: National research of innovative social technologies. On the first stage, an ample research in all the Brazilian States have raised, through a targeted questionnaire, the main stories of success among 930 NGOs. This took place in all the Brazilian States in the period of February/March 2007.
- Phase 2: Local Workshops for sharing of good practices. In different capital cities, it was held workshops and debates about the AMR Innovation Fair. A Video taped in the UN Headquarters in NY presented the intention of evaluating the advances of governments and society and, above all, encourage the exchange of well-succeeded experiences and that guarantee the accomplishment of the Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), proposed by the UN in 2000 and firmed in an agreement by its 191 member countries to be fulfilled until 2015. After watching the video, that had a special interview with Ms. Hanifa Mezoui – Chief of NGO Section, and discussing about the Innovation Fair in New York, the participants accepted the challenge of implementing this proposal of the United Nations in their regions. Those activities took place in 7 different Brazilian cities.
- Phase 3: 1st Solidarity Society Network Innovation Fair. In these main meetings, representative of multi-stakeholder leaderships from government, private sector, academia and civil society were able to promote a dialogue of the several social actors present and to share their experiences on fighting poverty and hunger. The Fair opened space for lectures, presentation of stories of success, cultural manifestations and exhibition of social technologies. The organizations exhibited in a very creative and dynamic manner and freely formed strategic alliances with the multi-stakeholders aiming partnerships and network.

- The LGW also provided for the Brazilian civil society a unique experience of interaction with the United Nations, fostering in the Fairs a workshop encouraging a greater participation of the civil society organizations in the UN. The representative of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Dr. Michele Bilant-Fedoroff, visited all the facilities of the LGW and had several talks directly with hundreds of organizations and one specifically with students from the course of International Relations of PUC (Pontifícia Universidade Católica). All this mobilization resulted in a statement of the Legion of Good Will registering the contribution of all the participant organizations of the Solidarity Society Network was submitted as recommendations of good practices to the High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council of the UN, which was held in July, in Geneva.

Please visit www.amrif.blogspot.com and send your comments to desangosection@un.org

The NGO Section extends thanks to all our partners, artists, volunteers, interns, Mr. Saad Amrani, Ms. Anisha Sud, Mumbai Education Trust, Legion of Good Will and Ms. Yogeeta Manglani