

November 23, 2011

Dear Friends,

We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

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(Call for Nominations and Entries) Ashoka Changemakers and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Pioneer Portfolio invite Entries for Innovations for Health Competition

Ashoka Changemakers, in association with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Pioneer Portfolio, invites entries around the world in the form of innovative health care solutions having potential to improve health care situation in other countries and regions. The contest is entitled as Innovations for Health: Solutions that Cross Borders. You can either submit the solution or nominate a project. The organizers are especially looking for the entries that have displayed positive impact in helping populations at risk.

Eligibility Criteria

- Innovations for Health: Solutions that Cross Borders is open to all individuals, teams, and organizations (public or private entities). This global competition welcomes entries that:
 - Reflect the theme of the challenge: Innovations for Health: Solutions that Cross Borders. The aim of the competition is to identify health care innovations that have the potential to be adapted and applied in different countries experiencing similar barriers to health.
 - Have a proven success on some level, with the potential to scale; or

indicate a path for growth beyond the conceptual stage and have already demonstrated impact and sustainability.

- Are submitted in English, French, Spanish, or Portuguese.

Assessment Criteria

• Changemakers and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Pioneer Portfolio are interested in a variety of approaches that address the challenge of Innovations for Health. The winning entries will best meet the following criteria:

• Innovation: This is the knock-out test. Does the innovation clearly reflect the ability to systemically transform health and health care by focusing on greater simplicity, lower cost, easier access, higher quality, efficiency, or enhanced convenience of services to more empowered and informed consumers? Your entry should describe a new approach to solving a particular problem.

• Innovations for Health especially seeks solutions that can be applied in other countries to improve health and health care. The organizers seek innovative answers to global challenges.

• Social Impact: The competition is looking for breakthrough innovations that have the potential to catalyse exponential change in health and health care.

• Sustainability: For an innovation to be truly effective, it must have both a model of sustainable impact and a viable organization. Innovations will be judged on their long-term vision for increasing impact and creating lasting change.

Entrants should describe the current environment in which they are operating and the challenges and opportunities present within it.

Prize

• One of three US \$10,000 cash prizes in unrestricted funding to boost your project.

• One of two US \$500 cash prizes in addition to a private consulting session with industry experts (if you enter before December 12, 2011 and are chosen as one of the two early entry prize winners).

Last date for submission: February 13, 2012

For more go to: <http://www.changemakers.com/innovations4health>

(Call for Nominations) Nominations invited for Dubai International Award for Best Practices aimed at improving the living environment

Nominations are currently being invited for 2012 Dubai International Award for Best Practices.

The Dubai International Award for Best Practices (DIABP) was started during the United Nations International Conference that was held in Dubai in 1995. Late

Sheikh Maktoum Bin Rashid Al Maktoum played an important role in establishing this award, which reflects the commitment of the Dubai Government and the United Arab Emirates towards sustainable development of human settlements through mutual international cooperation. This award aims to recognize the best practices with positive impact on improving the living environment. The governments of Dubai and UAE administer the award jointly with UN-HABITAT.

About the Award

The purpose of DIABP is to recognise and enhance awareness of outstanding and sustainable achievements in improving the living environment as per the basic criteria established by the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the Dubai Declaration.

Every two years, 12 award winners are selected from a large number of applicants (500+). Two of the 12 awards are reserved for best practice transfers. The total amount of the Award is US\$ 360,000 (Three hundred and sixty thousand US Dollars). This amount will be divided as follows:

- US\$ 240,000 (Two hundred and forty thousand US Dollars) divided between six Best Practices and two Best Practices Transfers. Each of these winners will also receive a trophy and commemorative certificate designed for the award.

- US\$ 120,000 (One hundred and twenty thousand US Dollars) towards management expenses including travel and accommodation for a delegation of up to two people for each award winning practice.

- Starting in 2012, two private sector entities and one individual will be awarded with a trophy and commemorative certificate especially designed for the award.

Eligibility Criteria

The following are eligible for the award:

- Government organizations or agencies; including bilateral aid agencies, e.g. DFID, SIDA, USAID etc.

- National Habitat committees or Focal Points;
- Multilateral Agencies (United Nations Agencies, World Bank, etc.)
- Cities, local authorities or their associations;
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- Community-based organizations (CBOs);
- Private Sector;
- Research and academic institutions;
- Media;

- Public or Private foundations;
- Individuals are eligible for the Dubai International Award provided that they are submitting a specific initiative or project that meets the Best Practice criteria.

Last date for submission: March 30, 2012.

For more go to: <http://www.dubaiaward.ae/web/default.aspx>

(Call for Proposals) EC seeks Grant Proposals in Policy-Making on Food Security and Nutrition in Developing Countries

European Commission has issued a restricted call seeking concept notes for projects that would help in strengthening the capacities of specific groups (like farmers', pastoralists', fishermen' organisations) and encourage their participation in policy-making related to food security and nutrition in developing countries. This call is being issued under broader Food Security Thematic Programme (FSTP) of European Commission.

Global Objective of this Call for Proposals

Increasing the participation of key stakeholders in developing countries to decision-making processes related to food security and nutrition.

Specific Objective of this Call for Proposals

Strengthening the capacities of specific groups (farmers', pastoralists', fishermen' organisations) to reinforce their participation in policy-making, having an impact on food security and nutrition.

The call for proposals is divided into two lots according to the following results:

Result 1 (Lot 1): Capacities of organisations of farmers, of pastoralists, of fishermen and of aquaculture farmers are reinforced in order for them to network and to engage in effective dialogue with public authorities and development partners.

Result 2 (Lot 2): Networks (or platforms) of organisations of farmers, of pastoralists, of fishermen and of aquaculture farmers at regional, continental or global level are set up or reinforced in order to actively participate in decision making processes related to food security and nutrition.

Priority Areas

- Supporting the poor, vulnerable and marginalized.

- Looking for territorial coherence and regional dimension

Location

Actions must take place at the multinational, (sub-) continental or global level, across several developing countries. They must take place in at least 3 DCI eligible partner countries or territories. Activities do not need to be of the same extent in all countries involved. Effective transfers of experience to bor from other countries are considered as relevant to establish the multi-national character of an action.

Sectors/ Themes

- Farmers', pastoralists' and fishermen's organisations can be supported both separately and together in order to provide ample space for the specific needs of each group.
- Both existing networks and new networks of farmers', pastoralists' and fishermen's organisations will be supported at multi-country, (sub-) continental and global level.
- Whenever possible the support will be direct, through the organisations themselves but the call for proposal will also accept indirect support through non-governmental organisations, public sector operators, local authorities, international organisations. When the support is indirect, special attention will be given to the past experiences of the applicants with the respective key group and to the participation of the key group in the elaboration of the proposal and the degree of participation in the implementation modalities.

Last date for submission: February 7, 2012.

For more go to: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?ADSSChck=1321466046211&do=publi.detPUB&searchtype=QS&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&nbPubliList=15&page=1&aoref=131792>

(Article) The Marange diamond fields of Zimbabwe: An overview

INTRODUCTION

The discovery of massive diamond deposits in Zimbabwe has led to hundreds of media reports exploring the abuse of human rights and grand scale corruption. It can be difficult to keep up to date with events as they unfold, or to tease out the key story as it unfolds. Sokwanele has produced a report that aims to synthesise this glut information into a single report providing readers with an accessible and wide ranging overview of events, meetings, human rights abuses, environmental degradation and the network of the people involved in the 'Marange story'.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The struggle for power in Zimbabwe is inextricably linked to the discovery of 'the richest diamond field ever seen by several orders of magnitude' [1] at Marange. What should have been a means of salvation for the virtually bankrupt country after ten years of chaos that saw world record inflation and the nation brought to its knees has led, instead, to greed, corruption and exploitation on a grand scale, the use of forced labour – both adults and children – horrifying human rights abuses, brutal killings, degradation of the environment and the massive enrichment of a select few.

'Every day millions of dollars' worth of diamonds leave Zimbabwe from the world's richest diamond field. But none of that money reaches the country's desperate poor...' [11]

Those who have benefited are: General Constantine Chiwenga, the ambitious army chief; Emmerson Mnangagwa, the wealthy defence minister; the late General Solomon Mujuru, former commander of the national army, and his wife, Joice; Gideon Gono, governor of the Reserve Bank and Augustine Chihuri, the powerful police chief. And, of course, the Mugabes themselves. [12]

Despite rampant corruption, smuggling and the looting of diamonds, The Times (SA) reported on 7 August 2011 that Zimbabwe had entered the top 10 league of the world's gem-producing countries... and could yet recover from a decade of economic ruin if good governance is restored.

Zimbabwe is now ranked as the seventh biggest diamond-producing nation in the world, according to the latest global rankings. It produced diamonds worth US\$334 million last year. [27]

Militarized diamond mining and trading at Marange has resulted in loss of life, human rights abuses, corrupt practices and the enrichment of a privileged and powerful political elite. As a result of the Zimbabwe government's actions, the world's diamond industry has been brought into disrepute.

For more go to: <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/features/77811>

(Article) Majority Of UK Sex Workers Not Forced Or Trafficked, Says Report

In a shocking revelation, the large majority of interviewed migrant workers in the British sex industry are not forced or trafficked, suggests a report. The International Union of Sex Workers warmly welcomes the publication of "Migrant Workers in the UK Sex Industry" by Dr. Nick Mai. This is the largest ever

qualitative research into the experience of migrants selling sexual services in London, and reports suggests that immigration status is by far the single most important factor restricting their ability to exercise their rights in their professional and private lives.

The study asserts that working in the sex industry is often a way for migrants to avoid the unrewarding and sometimes exploitative conditions they meet in non-sexual jobs. Also, by working in the sex industry, many interviewees are able to maintain dignified living standards in the UK while dramatically improving the living conditions of their families in the country of origin, it says.

The researchers say the stigmatisation of their work is the main problem interviewees experienced while working in the sex industry and this affected both their private and professional lives. A combination of this stigma and lack of legal immigration documentation makes interviewees more vulnerable to violence and crime.

Interviewees generally describe relations with their employers and clients as characterised by mutual consent and respect, although some reported difficult clients and employers, who were disrespectful, aggressive or abusive.

The impossibility of guaranteeing indefinite leave to remain to victims of trafficking undermines the efforts of the police and other authorities against criminal organisations.

Most interviewees feel that the criminalisation of clients will not stop the sex industry and that it would be pushed underground, making it more difficult for migrants working in the UK sex industry to assert their rights in relation to both clients and employers.

"We will only successfully target trafficking within the sex industry when we make policy based on evidence and in reality. There is currently a climate of fear amongst London sex workers due to police activity, that is driven by hype and misinformation promoted by NGOs with a financial vested interest in the anti-trafficking industry, who are ideologically opposed to commercial sex. It is time to set aside their ideology and emotion, and give people in the sex industry - whether from the UK or migrant - the same human rights and protection of the law as others," said Catherine Stephens of the IUSW in a statement.

Rosie Campbell, a board member of the UK Network of Sex Work Projects, said: 'UKNSWP member projects in London see thousands of sex workers a year, and these findings reflect what they see. We welcome this research and hope that local and national government will use it to inform policy. For some time we have been expressing concern about the under-reporting of violent and other crimes committed against sex workers in London. Clearly there is a need for the police to work pro-actively to increase trust and confidence in them amongst sex workers and to ensure they are fulfilling their duty to provide protection to sex workers.'"

For more go to: <http://www.awid.org/Library/Majority-of-UK-Sex-Workers-Not-Forced-or-Trafficked-Says-Report>

(Video Recording) Who Controls the Message? Producing and Distributing Media Content in the Digital Age

Drawing on research by the Open Society Foundations into the worldwide impact of new and digital media, this forum discusses the role that these evolving forms of media can play in the development and strengthening of democratic societies.

The discussion considers questions such as:

- Who owns today's media? Is ownership concentration harmful to diversity—or essential for creativity in a globalized marketplace?
- How can digital media help or harm public interest journalism?
- Is editorial independence being strengthened or undermined?
- Is the freedom of online media undermined by new gatekeepers?
- How are citizens responding? Is digital media increasing activism and participation? Or is it overwhelming and numbing people with a cascade of ever-more information?
- What is the overall impact of these changes and issues on democracy?

For more go to: http://www.soros.org/initiatives/media/events/who-controls-the-message-20110929?utm_source=Open+Society+Institute&utm_campaign=c25c98c6a7-news-20111108&utm_medium=email

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.php>.

We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.