Science and Human Rights Program Newsletter

Program News

**AAAS Symposium Explores Importance of Human Rights Role for Science Societies**

To commemorate International Human Rights Day, the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program hosted a symposium to explore the implications of international human rights principles and standards for scientists and the conduct of science. Three scientists and a prominent member of the human rights community spoke about why scientists and scientific societies should be concerned about international human rights norms, and the responsibilities that follow. Read [article](#) or listen to [audio](#) of the symposium.

**With Additional Funding, Geospatial Technologies for Human Rights Project Expands its Work**

In December 2007, SHRP was awarded a generous three-year
grant from the Oak Foundation to expand its Geospatial Technologies and Human Rights Project. This grant will allow increased collaborations with Amnesty International (AI) to counter mass violence, forced displacement, and secret detentions. SHRP will expand its geospatial research and development activities in this regard, and thus facilitate increased impact by AI on these issues.

**Geospatial Staff Assess the Scope of Internally Displaced Persons in Somalia**

SHRP Geospatial Technologies Human Rights Project staff are completing an assessment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Somalia using high-resolution satellite imagery. This work, requested by humanitarian relief groups, will confirm the presence and scope of IDP populations in a specific area of Somalia. Currently, these IDPs are subsisting without international assistance as regional governments impede access to their location. By rapidly acquiring and analyzing satellite imagery, project staff hope to share hard facts that facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid.

**Science and Human Rights Coalition**

**December Planning Meeting Report, Next Meeting: March 3, 2008**

The report on the Coalition's third planning meeting (December 10th) is now available. The next planning meeting is scheduled for March 3rd, 2008. You can register for the planning meeting online here.

**Learn about the Coalition at the AAAS Annual Meeting**

SHRP is hosting a special event during the AAAS Annual Meeting in Boston to introduce AAAS members to the

"This Manual offers practical insights into the contributions of human rights to efforts to extend access to water and sanitation."

*Health and Human Rights*
Edited by Rebecca J. Cook and Charles G. Ngwena (link)

"This volume draws together significant articles addressing challenges of applying human rights to promote health in settings ranging from the local to the global. Essays explore determinants of ill-health, including poverty, gender, violence and stigma, examine ways of promoting self-determination in health, and show how courts have applied rights to improve access to health services."
Coalition. The event will take place on Saturday, February 16th from 2:00 - 3:30pm (Room: Maverick A). For more information please visit the AAAS Annual Meeting website.

**Introducing our Members: American Physical Society on Human Rights**

The American Physical Society (APS) is committed to the human rights of physicists. Through its Committee on International Freedom of Scientists, the APS monitors and advocates for the rights of individual scientists in the United States and around the globe. The Society also awards the Andrei Sakharov Prize to scientists who uphold these rights and has acknowledged the rights of scientists through official APS statements. For more information please visit the APS website.

*For more information about the Coalition and how you or your organization can become involved, please visit our website. For the latest information about the Coalition, please sign-up for our Coalition Listserv.*

**Science as a Human Right**

*Experts’ Meeting on the Human Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress and its Applications*

The right of everyone to share in scientific advancement and its benefits was first recognized by the international community in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). From June 7-8, 2007, researchers, experts and representatives of UN Specialized Agencies met in Amsterdam, Netherlands to clarify the substance of the right and thereby facilitate its implementation. Despite its significance for all spheres of human activity, the right has been largely ignored by the scientific and human rights communities alike. The expert meeting was a promising step toward redressing this. The excellent report of the experts’ meeting can be found here.

**About the SHRP Newsletter**

The Science & Human Rights Newsletter is issued monthly by the AAAS Science and Human Rights
Program. Through the newsletter we strive to keep scientists and human rights practitioners informed with news items, program updates, new resources, and upcoming events at the intersection of science and human rights. Submissions to the newsletter are welcome and can be made via our online submission form.

Please visit our website to learn more about our programs as well as our past accomplishments.

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