



Making Citizenship and Rights Matter for the Poor Newsletter #2 January 2004

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1. RECENT DRC ACTIVITIES

'Realising Rights and Claiming Accountabilities' planning workshop took place in Oaxaca, Mexico - September 2003

Citizenship DRC researchers came together in September to develop a common research framework and activities for the next two years. Discussions centred around how accountability has evolved alongside increasing emphasis on a 'rights-based approach to development.

Centre Advisory Review Group (CARG) endorses Citizenship DRC's work - October 2003

External academics and development practitioners came together to review the Citizenship DRC's intellectual development, its capacity building and partnership processes, and its efforts at linking research concepts with practical on-the-ground work and policy influence.

'Inclusion and Voice' workshop took place in Brighton - October 2003

Citizenship DRC researchers were brought together to share proposals for research, discuss papers from the last phase of work and to develop a new common set of reference points and questions for the next years. A common focus was agreed surrounding issues of participation in intermediary institutions and issues of inclusion, particularly of marginalised groups or interests.

'Rights and power' workshop took place in Brighton, UK - November 2003

This workshop was organised for staff of international agencies that were interested in the challenges of implementing a rights-based approaches to development, with a particular focus on practice at the country level.

Theatre for Development Centre (TFDC), the Citizenship DRC Nigerian partner, organised events at the Commonwealth Peoples' Forum in Abuja, Nigeria - December 2003

Events included a workshop with speakers from India, Nigeria, and the UK, and an interactive drama exploring expressions and perceptions of citizenship in Nigeria. Other activities included a field visit, book launch and press release.

2. UPCOMING EVENTS

Citizenship DRC in collaboration with PRIA, Citizenship DRC's Indian partner, will organise a workshop and informational stall at the 'World Social Forum', Mumbai.

Launch of participation.net, a collaborative initiative between Citizenship DRC, LogoLink, Participation Resource Centre and Eldis, which aims at being a global, online space for sharing ideas about the participation of people in development, citizenship, governance and rights. Website: www.pnet.ids.ac.uk

Citizenship DRC will hold several research workshops, a steering committee meeting and other events in Brazil in March 2004

3. NEWSLETTER FEATURE

IIS-UNAM and CODESUYER, Citizenship DRC's Mexican partners, build rural-urban linkages to promote the sustainable management of regional watershed, making the rights to water real.

The urban-industrial municipalities of Coatzacoalcos, Minatitlán and Cosoleacaque - one of the most important industrial zones in Mexico - obtain their water from a biosphere reserve which includes the indigenous municipality of Tatahuicapan de Juárez. Citizenship DRC Mexican researchers are working towards constructing an accountable and responsive relationship between these municipalities. New spaces for participation have to be built to negotiate forest conservation, ecological restoration as well as monitoring and certification of these processes. Over the last several months, the Citizenship DRC Mexican researchers have made important progress in their role of advising local government and social organizations. After six months of exchanges and dialogues with local government leaders over these issues, together with the National Forestry Commission, a new local institution is being developed: the Fiduciary. This institution will include technical and consultative councils that will play an important role in defining and monitoring the areas of forest to be protected and subsidized by the Mexican Forestry Fund and also by the industrial cities of the region. Furthermore, last month, the DRC's Mexican partners organised training and exchanges between poor urban users and indigenous communities, so as to promote a better understanding of their interdependence and needs. When urban citizens visit and meet upstream communities whose ecological activities ensure the sustainable provision of their drinking water, they learn about their water source and are better positioned to pressure their municipal governments to be more transparent about the water, to support sustainable development and watershed conservation in poor upstream indigenous communities. Trying to bridge a gap between the rural water providers and the urban water users is creating new and unlikely alliances and relationships. As more accountable relations are built, so too is awareness of citizenship rights to development and to water, and awareness of the

importance of citizen responsibilities to ensuring a healthy environment. For more information, contact the DRC at drcinfo@ids.ac.uk.

4. NEW AND UPCOMING DRC DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Edited volume: '*Geographies of citizenship in Nigeria*' by Abah, Oga Steve (ed.), 2003, Tamaza Publishing Company Limited, Wusasa-Zaria, Nigeria

TFDC Policy Briefing in partnership with Citizenship DRC: '*Nigeria: In search of citizens?*' by Abah, Oga Steve and Okwori, Jenks, Issue 1, December 2003

Research findings from the Citizenship DRC's 'Spaces, places and dynamics of participation' phase II working group will be published in an upcoming IDS Bulletin in February 2004. Articles will explore the dynamics and effectiveness of participatory spaces in policy processes and will be available from IDS.

5. TO RECEIVE OR STOP RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER

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