

Making Citizenship and Rights Matter  
Newsletter #7 April 2005

The Development Research Centre on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability, or Citizenship DRC, is an international research partnership exploring new forms of citizenship. It involves a network of researchers and practitioners working with research institutions and civil society organisations located in 7 different countries - Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Mexico, Nigeria, South Africa and the UK. The Citizenship DRC is coordinated from the Participation Group at the Institute of Development studies at IDS.

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For more information on any of these items visit [www.drc-citizenship.org](http://www.drc-citizenship.org)

#### 1. RECENT DRC ACTIVITIES

'Realising Rights and Claiming Accountabilities' research programme write-shop, Nigeria, February 2005

The 'Realising Rights and Claiming Accountabilities' research programme held a write-shop in Nigeria in February 2005. The purpose of this write-shop was to develop drafts for the forthcoming Zed Books volume 'Rights and Resources: the politics of accountability', edited by Peter Newell and Joanna Wheeler. At the meeting, authors and editors successfully reviewed and discussed the different drafts. The inclusion of a field visit to the work currently being carried out by TFDC, the Citizenship DRC Nigerian partner, in Karghi and Sab-Zuro, helped DRC partners gain insights into TFDC's work on citizenship and accountability in Nigeria.

#### Rights-Based Approaches to Development Conference, Manchester, February 2005

Joanna Wheeler, Research Officer of the Citizenship DRC along with Jethro Pettit from the participation Group at IDS, presented a paper on a panel on rights-based approaches to development in 'The Winners and Losers from Rights-Based Approaches to Development. What can be gained and what might be lost through adopting a rights-based approach to pro-poor development?', a conference hosted by the Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester, held at the University of Manchester, UK, on 21-22 February 2005. The paper was based on work done for the IDS Bulletin 'Developing Rights?' and can be accessed online at

<http://www.sed.manchester.ac.uk/idpm/research/events/february2005/rights-papers.htm>.

#### 2- UPCOMING EVENTS

DEMOS Launch of the Zed Book volume 'Science and Citizens: Globalization and the Challenge of Engagement', edited by Melissa Leach, Ian Scoones and Brian Wynne, Tuesday 12th April, London  
The launch, jointly hosted by the Institute of Development Studies, Demos and the ESRC's Science in Society programme, marks the launch of an important book on this theme: 'Science and Citizens: Globalization

and the Challenge of Engagement', one of five of the Zed Book series on Citizenship, Participation and Accountability.

The speakers will include:

\* Gordon Conway, Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for International Development

\* Melissa Leach, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex

\* Shiv Visvanathan, Dhirubhai Ambani Institute for Information and Communication Technology, Gujarat, India

The event will take place on Tuesday 12th April from 5.30pm to 7.30pm at the Institute of Materials, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1, and will be followed by a drinks reception. Discounted copies of the book will be available at the event, or can be ordered in advance from [www.zedbooks.co.uk](http://www.zedbooks.co.uk) (tel 0207 837 4014). Quote 'launch' to get the book at a reduced rate of £15. To reserve a place at the launch, please email [science@demos.co.uk](mailto:science@demos.co.uk).

Citizenship DRC launches 2005 Internship Programme

The Internship programme is an award scheme to support IDS students who wish to undertake research around the DRC's core themes in collaboration with DRC partners, or in Citizenship DRC future themes. The Citizenship DRC will organise a seminar presentation for students interested in the Citizenship DRC Internship Programme on April 20<sup>th</sup>. It will include a presentation by past interns, who will talk about their experiences and findings, as well as a Citizenship DRC presentation on the opportunities that will be available to interns, the support that the DRC can provide as well as on the process of application. For more information on the Internship Programme visit our website: [www.drc-citizenship.org](http://www.drc-citizenship.org)

3. NEWSLETTER FEATURE - Oil and Accountability in the Niger Delta, Nigeria

The Citizenship DRC Nigerian Partner, TFDC, is currently undertaking research on accountability in the Niger Delta. The oil from this region contributes 80% of budgetary revenues and constitutes around 50% of the country's GDP, including 95% of all foreign exchange earnings. However, the wealth accrued from oil seem not to have benefited the ordinary Nigerian, when 70% live on less than one dollar a day, and Nigeria has one of the highest indexes of inequality in the world. The research focuses on people's understandings and experiences of accountability with regards to their relationships with the Nigerian State, the oil companies, and authority at the local level. TFDC uses for their research a range of innovative methodologies, including participatory theatre and participatory rural appraisal tools and questionnaires. The research confirms the intertwined and complex map of accountability in the exploitation of oil. On the one hand, the research shows a general failure of accountability in Nigeria. On the other hand, it demonstrates a complexity that stems from the diversity of actors and actions. Given these complexities, demanding accountability is not as simple and straightforward as it may seem. The following are some the key suggestions to help improve accountability relations:

- To make oil companies and governments more accountable by implementing the right to information.
- To stimulate other export opportunities to lessen the dependence on oil
- To enforce environmental regulations to international standards through a joint partnership between government and oil producing communities.

For more information on this project, please visit our website: [www.drc-citizenship.org](http://www.drc-citizenship.org), or send an email to [drcinfo@ids.ac.uk](mailto:drcinfo@ids.ac.uk).

4. NEW AND UPCOMING DOCUMENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Book: 'Science and Citizens: Globalization and the Challenge of Engagement', edited by Melissa Leach, Ian Scoones and Brian Wynne, Zed Books, February 2005. Copies can be purchased at: [www.zedbooks.co.uk](http://www.zedbooks.co.uk), tel 0207 837 4014, quote 'launch' to get the book at a reduced rate of £15.

Policy Briefing: 'The paradox of plenty: Oil, the Niger Delta and Accountability', by Steve Oga Abah, Jenks Okwori, Mary Okpe and Keren Ghitis, Issue 2, February 2005, TFDC in partnership with the Citizenship DRC

IDS Bulletin: 'Developing Rights?', edited by Jethro Pettit and Joanna Wheeler, Volume 36, No.1, January 2005, available from the IDS Bookshop at: <http://www.ntd.co.uk/idsbookshop/details.asp?id=853>

Working paper: 'MMR mobilisation: Citizens and Science in a British Vaccine Controversy', by Melissa Leach, forthcoming

Working Paper: 'When Social Movements Bypass the Poor: Asbestos Pollution, International Litigation and Griqua Cultural Identity', by Linda Waldman, forthcoming

#### 5. TO RECEIVE OR STOP RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER

NOTE: If you are not on our mailing list but would like to receive this Newsletter, you can subscribe directly from our website: [www.drc-citizenship.org](http://www.drc-citizenship.org) or send an e-mail to [drcinfo@ids.ac.uk](mailto:drcinfo@ids.ac.uk) with 'subscribe' in the subject line. If you want to stop receiving this newsletter at any time, you can unsubscribe directly from our website: [www.drc-citizenship.org](http://www.drc-citizenship.org), or you can send an e-mail to [drcinfo@ids.ac.uk](mailto:drcinfo@ids.ac.uk) with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line and we will remove your name promptly. Do feel free to pass this Newsletter on to others if you find it interesting.