

PARTNERS

f o r D e m o c r a t i c C h a n g e

July 2009 Update

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Partners for Democratic Change is proud to share the growth of the Partners network with updates from the newest Centers and announcements of the progress made toward the establishment of three more Centers in the coming year. In addition to these exciting developments, Partners launched a new website at www.partnersglobal.org in April and is preparing for its 20th anniversary celebration in November. As we continue to assist the global community in finding effective tools for change management, peaceful and inclusive problem solving, and better relationships between those who disagree, we thank you for your continued support and interest in our work!

Partners Remembers Board Member Wayne L. Horvitz

Wayne L. Horvitz, an active, long standing, and esteemed Member of Partners for Democratic Change's Board of Directors died from cancer on June 17. As Chair of Partners' Board from 2002-2006, Wayne led the organization's transformation from a regional to a global organization. A renowned labor mediator and former Director of the U.S. Federal Mediation and Arbitration Service, Wayne mediated some of the nation's major labor disputes during his 50-year professional career. Wayne's counsel, humor, and wonderful "inside the Beltway" stories will be missed by all who had the benefit of knowing him.

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Special Announcements

Partners Plans 20th Anniversary "Innovations for Tomorrow" November 9-13, 2009

Reflecting on 20 years of building 17 national, independent Centers and their contribution to peaceful change and conflict management, Partners with organizations in Washington, D.C., will co-host a week of seminars and co-sponsor with Johns Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies an "Innovations for Tomorrow" Conference on November 13. Looking at the coming 2010-decade, the seminars will highlight the thematic program innovations and change and conflict management methodologies ranging from anti-corruption to women's empowerment. The November 13 capstone conference will highlight "social investing" and technology as major vehicles for development in the coming



Teresa Zabala/The New York Times
Wayne L. Horvitz in 1979

decade. *Please hold November 9-13 on your calendar!*

Partners Launches New Website

Partners has a new website at www.partnersglobal.org. The new public face of Partners features ongoing Partners global news, program and training updates from the Centers, improved search and navigation, and better accessibility for Center colleagues connecting from distant locations. The site was built on open-source technology in partnership with Innovation for People-www.ifpeople.net- a company that specializes in creating collaboration platforms for non-profit organizations.

UPDATES FROM PARTNERS 2009 CENTERS FOR CHANGE AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

Earlier this year Partners welcomed its first group of fellows from **Colombia, Serbia, and Yemen** into the *Partners for Sustainable Leadership Program*, a program funded by the General Electric Foundation. These three exceptional social entrepreneurs from very different parts of the globe met in February 2009 in Washington, D.C. to complete a three-week intensive training program on organizational leadership and development, applied conflict and change management methodologies, and business planning for their new Centers. Working with donors and partnering institutions, these new locally established Centers are promoting and disseminating participatory and mediating processes to address in-country needs.

COLOMBIA

Partners-Colombia has been working with the U.S. Embassy's Office of Public Affairs to help organize the 2009 Houston Series Conference in Cartagena in December 2009. Since 1998, the U.S. Embassy has held the Houston Series, drawing over 100 influential Colombian leaders from the government, Congress, higher education institutions, and the private sector to debate peace and conflict and themes related to U.S.-Colombia interests. *Partners-Colombia* will act as the technical secretariat for the conference as a part of the U.S. government strategy to transfer the coordination, sponsorship, monitoring, and implementation of the conference recommendations to Colombians.

Partners-Colombia is beginning an initiative to promote the advancement of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Colombia, an international effort to help improve governance in resource-rich developing countries by requiring that corporate payments and government revenues from oil, gas and mining be fully published and verified. *Partners-Colombia* will work with all stakeholders, including civil society and affected communities.

Before becoming a Fellow and Executive Director of *Partners-Colombia*, **Oscar Gaitan** was the Director of the European Commission's Justice Reform Project, where he coordinated a national effort to support community dispute resolution mechanisms and reforms in the Colombian criminal justice system. He is a university professor, attorney, expert in community mediation, arbitration, and NGO law, and experienced trainer.



SERBIA



Blazo Nedic
Executive Director, Partners-Serbia

Partners-Serbia is collaborating with the Canada-Serbia Judicial Reform Program (CS-JRP) to strengthen mediation efforts in the municipality of Kraljevo. Partners-Serbia is working with local judges and court staff to improve understanding of the mediation process and motivate parties and lawyers to participate in mediations at the municipal court. Partners-Serbia staff are supporting the CS-JRP's mediation training for judges, lawyers, and court staff. They also are working to establish a more functional mediation system, improve the quality of mediation, and generate support and participation through a broad public awareness and educational campaign.

Blazo Nedic, Director of Partners-Serbia, is a leader in the Rule of Law sector. Formerly Deputy Director of the American Bar Association's Program in Serbia, Mr. Nedic is an attorney and mediator who has actively promoted Alternative Dispute Resolution in Serbia. He also has extensive experience coordinating international donors, local government institutions, and NGOs.

YEMEN

Partners-Yemen is helping to build an anti-corruption CSO coalition to support the implementation of the Yemeni national strategy for fighting corruption. With the World Bank's support, Partners-Yemen is working to assist local CSOs establish, manage and sustain a coalition to increase awareness among citizens and corporations about the anti-corruption strategy and to promote good governance through greater accountability at the national and local levels.

In addition, Partners and Partners-Yemen have been awarded a grant by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Yemen to implement a 24-month program, entitled the *Yemeni Civil Society Strengthening and Participation Program (YCSP)*. The program's goal is to build the capacity of local civil society at the governorate level enabling it to identify, prioritize and strategize solutions for community problems, in partnership with local councils – resulting in increased capabilities to operate in the new decentralized system of governance.

Nadwa Al-Dawsari, Director of Partners-Yemen, is a seasoned professional dedicated to resolving conflict in Yemen. Her previous experience at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Yemen allowed her to work directly with government authorities to build conflict resolution capacities for tribal disputes. Today she leads efforts at Partners-Yemen to establish interventions that address a broad range of change and conflict management issues impeding Yemen's governance, civil society, and market sector reforms.



Nadwa Al-Dawsari
Executive Director, Partners-Yemen

SCHOLARS

Partners' Founder and President, Raymond Shonholtz, recently completed five months as a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars. Developing the theme of "Impact Investing for Sustainable Development," Shonholtz has actively promoted investing in local social entrepreneurs and organizations to implement and sustain major reform efforts in developing countries, moving away from "assistance" concepts and mechanisms. During his Fellowship, Shonholtz linked Impact Investing with "Crowd-Solving for Global Development," making knowledge and expertise available globally to donors and program decision-makers, such as the U.S. Department of State, military, and the Agency for International Development. Partners for Democratic Change recently won an IBM competition to develop a model for crowd-solving, linking the global "knowledge community" to development problems and providing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to in-country development issues and donor requests.

Brazil, Indonesia, and Senegal make up Partners' 2010 new Center countries. Partners is proud to announce the selection of *Gabriela Asmar* from **Brazil** who brings to the Partners' network extensive experience in mediation in the public and the private sectors. Partners-Brazil plans to develop programs on youth-violence prevention and advanced mediation and participatory policy processes for multi-stakeholder issues.

Partners is matching its GE Foundation funds with a grant from the Ford Foundation to establish a national center in **Indonesia**. This Center will largely focus on enhancing the governance and leadership skills of elected officials and indigenous peoples. Partners also plans to launch a Center in **Senegal**, which will focus on strengthening civil-military cooperation nationally and regionally. With these new Centers, the Partners global network will grow to 20 local Centers, all members of the Partners for Democratic Change International network based in Brussels.

CATALYSTS FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE IN THE AMERICAS

Partners increases civil society capacity to promote democracy

Partners for Democratic Change and Centers *Fundación Cambio Democrático* in Argentina, *Socios Perú – Centro de Colaboración Cívica*, and *Socios México--Centro de Colaboración Cívica* are implementing a 24-month program titled *Catalysts for Democratic Change in the Americas (CDCA)*. Designed to educate civil society about the Inter-American Democratic Charter and increase civil society capacity throughout the region to defend and promote democracy, CDCA is introducing a set of tools that includes a participatory design process for education curriculum, in-person training and distance learning courses, and advocacy methods to promote the Charter's provisions.

A program design workshop with civil society leaders from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela took place in Lima, Peru in April with the participation of the Organization of American States (OAS) Department of Education and Culture, enabling the group to build upon the OAS's previous educational efforts to promote the Charter. The week-long workshop prepared the training curriculum for civil society leaders throughout Latin America to understand the importance and relevance of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the Inter-American system in promoting democracy in the region.



Julia Roig, Executive Director of Partners for Democratic Change USA, with Pablo Lumerman of *Fundación Cambio Democrático* and Francine Jácome of INVESP during a working group session of the CDCA workshop at ICAR's Point of View Retreat Center.

A second workshop with other civil society leaders and government officials took place in June in partnership with George Mason University's Institute of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR) in the Washington, DC area. The workshop focused on the theoretical and practical application of facilitation



and conflict resolution skills to democratic dialogue in the region. CDCA will build on the results of the second workshop to prepare a toolkit for civil society leaders on practical advocacy strategies to promote democratic principles of the Inter-American Charter. The toolkit is based on Partners' **Cooperative Advocacy** methodology to empower stakeholders and facilitators to integrate dispute management, coalition-building and strategic planning into an advocacy strategy, enabling diverse organizations to cooperatively achieve beneficial outcomes.

Spotlight on a Center

Engaging Mexico's Congress in Dialogue about Climate Change and National Security



The **Centro de Colaboración Cívica (CCC)**, Partners-Mexico, is currently engaged in facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogue among key actors concerned about the implications of climate change in Mexico. CCC's ongoing training of members of the Mexican Congress in negotiation and consensus-building has expanded into a dialogue and consensus-building process called *Climate Change and National Security*, a program designed to address Mexico's risks to national security related to the effects of climate change.

APPLYING HUMAN SECURITY TO ENHANCE CIVILIAN-MILITARY, DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION BUILDING IN WEST AFRICA

With the generous support of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and in partnership with the United States National Defense University's Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), Partners is developing a unique program entitled *Applying Human Security to Enhance Civilian-Military, Democratic Institution Building in West Africa*. The program focuses on civilian-military institutional relationships in the field of human security. The first phase of the program externalizes Senegal's work in the thematic area through a Working Paper and a national conference. The second phase will share Senegalese knowledge, experience, and civilian-military relationship through a regional conference involving other West African countries.

Major Achievements of the *Climate Change and National Security* initiative thus far include:

- Subject is now on the legislative agenda;
- A signed political agreement by the political leadership of the lower Chamber, signaling their commitment to consensus on the issue;
- A coalition of prestigious convener organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Mario Molina Center, the Private Sector Studies Commission for Sustainable Development (CESPEDES), and the Mexican Center for Environmental Law (CEMDA);
- Increased trust and knowledge among the dialogue's 286 participants;
- Development and prioritization of 68 recommendations on national security and climate change;
- Identification of key laws, initiatives, and budget items to carry out recommended actions.



Mara Hernández, Director of Centro de Colaboración Cívica, leading a workshop with national congressmen and women.

Moving forward with these results, CCC is working to create a legislative agenda with the convener organizations, develop buy-in and build capacity among key legislators, and support convener organizations' advocacy efforts. With its expertise in democratic planning and decision-making and consensus facilitation, CCC has been an influential part of advancing efforts to formulate national legislation with all stakeholders to improve global climate security.

Partners for Democratic Change is an international organization that builds the platforms for communities, civil society, and business to resolve conflict and advance constructive change. **Partners Centers** are located in *Albania, Argentina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Jordan, Kosovo, Lithuania, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, the United States, and Yemen.*
For more information, please visit www.partnersglobal.org

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