Development's Futures

Photo By P. Sainath - Visible Work, Invisible Women - Women & Work in Rural India Exhibition

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th November 2007
at the National University of Ireland, Galway

For more information and registration go to http://www.conference.ie and follow the “Development’s Futures” link.

Hosted by NUI Galway

Irish Aid
Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha

National University of Ireland, Galway
Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
INTRODUCTION

Irish Aid’s Third Level Conference, hosted by the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI, Galway) will be held on the 24th and 25th November 2007 in NUI Galway.

Irish Aid is the Government of Ireland’s official programme of assistance to developing countries. As part of its commitment to promote development education in universities and other third-level institutions in Ireland, and to facilitate contacts and networking between both third-level development education practitioners and academics working in the field of international development, Irish Aid sponsors a conference on aspects of development. Papers reflecting the latest research and practice in development education (theory, practice, methodologies) and in international development issues are presented. Conferences in previous years have been held in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick (2002), University College Cork (2004) and Centre for International Studies at Dublin City University (2006).

This year’s conference entitled “Development’s Futures” aims to enhance the connections between development research and education and integrate dimensions of practice and activism. In doing so, the conference encourages scholars, practitioners and activists to come together to discuss the critical issues in development research and development education, and to share their responses to the challenges of development.

PROGRAMME & REGISTRATION

Saturday 24th November 2007
Conference registration opens at 9am. There will be three parallel sessions, to be followed by the official opening ceremony by Mr Michael Kitt T.D., Minister of State for Overseas Development. Mr Michael Edwards of the Ford Foundation will deliver the keynote address. There will be time for a question and answer session as well as for general discussion of the issues raised by Mr Edwards. The events will conclude with a wine reception, musical entertainment by Eithne Ni Chatháin and launch of Mr Palagummi Sainath’s photo exhibition: Visible Work, Invisible Women, Women and Work In Rural India.

Sunday 25th November 2007
After registration from 9 – 9.30 am, there will be a brief session on the Programme of Strategic Cooperation between Irish Aid and Higher Education and Research Institutes. The fourth parallel session will run from 10am – 12:30 pm and will be followed by a concluding Plenary Session led by Mr Palagummi Sainath, Rural Affairs Editor of India’s most serious English language daily, The Hindu, of Chennai. Lunch will be served at 1.30pm.

Registration
To register for the conference, please log on to http://www.conference.ie and follow the link for the ‘Development’s Futures’ Conference. Registration for the conference will close on the 9th November 2007.

Conference Fee:
Delegate Fee: €50
Student Fee: €25

OFFICIAL OPENING
MINISTER OF STATE FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT, MR MICHAEL KITT, T.D.

Michael P. Kitt, T.D., Minister of State for Overseas Development, was born in Tuam, County Galway in 1950 and lives in Castleblakeney, Ballinsloe, Galway where he is a public representative for Galway East.

Michael comes from a political family and his younger brother and sister are both members of the Dáil as was his father, Michael F. Kitt from 1948 until his death in 1975. Michael is married to Catherine Mannion and has three sons and one daughter. Prior to taking up office as Dáil Deputy in 1981 Michael trained and worked as a national school teacher. In 2002 he was appointed to the Senate by An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern. Prior to this appointment Michael chaired a sub-committee on overseas aid and was the Fianna Fáil spokesperson on Emigration and the Developing World.

Michael has also been a member of Joint Committees on Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Education and Science and has been a former Minister of State at the Department of An Taoiseach from 1991 -1992.

On a local basis, Michael has been a member of Galway County Council, Galway-Mayo Regional Development Board, County Vocational Educational Committee, Galway County Committee of Agriculture, Galway County Library along with Health & National Monuments Committees.

Michael has also been a member of the Western Health Board, Council of Europe, Observer Committee to the Western European Union and the Galway County Council Arts Committee as well as the Western Inter-County Railway Committee.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
MR MICHAEL EDWARDS, FORD FOUNDATION

Michael Edwards is the Director of the Governance and Civil Society Program at the Ford Foundation in New York, one of the world’s largest philanthropies with assets of approximately $10 billion.

Prior to joining the Foundation he was the Senior Civil Society Specialist at the World Bank in Washington DC, where he led a programme designed to improve the agency’s understanding of, and engagement with, a wide range of civic groups. Before moving to the Bank, Michael spent 15 years as a senior manager in international relief and development NGOs, including periods with Oxfam-UK (as Regional Director for Southern Africa), and Save the Children-UK (as Director of Research, Evaluation and Advocacy).

His many books and articles have helped to shape our thinking about NGOs, civil society and international cooperation. He is the author (most recently) of NGO Rights and Responsibilities: a new deal for global governance (Foreign Policy Center 2000), Global Citizen Action (Lynne Rienner 2001), the Earthscan Reader on NGO Management (Earthscan/Stylus 2002), Civil Society (Polity Press/Blackwell 2004), and Future Positive: International Cooperation in the 21st Century (revised edition, Earthscan/Stylus 2004). Michael graduated from Oxford University with a congratulatory double-first and was awarded a PhD by the University of London for his work on low-income housing in Latin America.

PLENARY SPEAKER
MR PALAGUMMI SAINATH - RURAL AFFAIRS EDITOR OF THE HINDU OF CHENNAI

Palagummi Sainath has worked as a journalist reporting on development and related issues in India for 26 years. He has won over 30 national and international journalism awards and fellowships, his most recent being the Ramon Magsaysay award in 2007 for journalism, literature, and creative communications arts. He has also won Amnesty International’s Global Human Rights Journalism prize (2000) and (with CNN’s Jim Clancy) the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization’s (FAO) Boerma prize for work of international importance in addressing the issues of hunger. In November 2002, he became the first print media journalist to win the ‘Inspiration Award’ at the Global Visions Film Festival in Edmonton, Canada (with film maker Joe Moulins). The first working journalist to win India’s Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship, Sainath is also a winner of the BD Goenka prize for Excellence in Journalism, and has also been an Eisenhower Fellow.

Sainath’s book, ‘Everybody Loves a Good Drought’ (1996), has gone into 19 printings and has been translated into a number of languages. In the last decade, he has spent on average three quarters of the year with village people, reporting extensively on agrarian crises due to neo-liberal policies, on the lack of sensitivity and efficiency by the government and the bureaucracy, on farmer suicides in Maharashtara, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala and also reported on the plight of the dalits.

Sainath’s strength lies in his energy as an investigator, the rigour of his research and the lucidity of his prose. A fine photographer and public speaker, he is currently the Rural Affairs Editor of India’s most serious English language daily, The Hindu, of Chennai. The eminent Indian journalist Nikhil Chakravarty once described Sainath’s work as “the conscience of the Indian nation.” His work on poverty, hunger and inequality has also won praise from the likes of Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen who once described him as one of the world’s great experts on hunger and famine.

Sainath is actively involved in the training of journalists in the poorest regions of India’s countryside. He has also been teaching journalism at the Sophia Polytechnic in Mumbai for 20 years. Many of Sainath’s students have themselves gone on to win major national awards.

EVENING ENTERTAINMENT
EITHNE NÍ CHATHÁIN

A performing artist whose singing, playing and songwriting is as unique and expressive as it is ancient and traditional. Hailing from Kilcock, Co. Kildare, Eithne is blessed with a rare and true voice. Her wonderful debut album, entitled simply ‘Eithne’ was released earlier this year. Be it through sean-nós singing, fiddle playing or through her own original compositions, Eithne’s gift lies in connecting with the listener and the heart. www.eithnemusic.com
CONFERENCE STRANDS

Sat 24th Nov 2007

Session 1 (10.15 - 11.45 am)
Gender Perspectives
Governance and policies
Understandings of Development
Dev Ed Resources and Methodologies (Centres)
Community Development
Migration

Sat 24th Nov 2007

Session 2 (12.00 - 1.30 pm)
Food Security
Volunteering
Politics of Land
Research Partnerships
Thinking about Development Education – Contexts
Crisis and Conflict

Poster Presentations
There will also be a number of poster presentations displayed in the lobby area, and time will be allocated for poster explanations.

PHOTO EXHIBITION

Visible Work, Invisible Women - Women & Work in Rural India by Palagummi Sainath

This exhibition consists of about 70 black and white photographs with text, on “Women & Work in Rural India.” The pictures, shot in the poorest regions of ten states across the country by journalist P. Sainath, show the astonishing labour that poor women put in every day of their lives and the gigantic - yet unacknowledged - contribution they make to the national economy. Each of ten panels deals with different kinds of work that women do. The text details the scope, significance and centrality of that labour to the Indian economy, particularly to agriculture. There are no clichéd hand-to-mouth, begging bowl photographs in this exhibition. Instead, these are pictures of enormous strength and dignity. Far more representative of the overwhelming majority of the poor, seeking employment and opportunity rather than pitty or charity, these are pictures placing women’s labour at the centre of the rural Indian family’s survival strategies.

This exhibition will be launched on the 24th Nov 2007 in NUI Galway.
For more information please view http://www.nuigalway.ie/arts_office/

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Ruth O Doherty, Development Education Unit, Irish Aid
Su-ming Khoo, Department of Sociology and Politics, NUI Galway
Carol Healy, Department of Health Promotion, NUI Galway
Patricia Walsh, Conference Office, NUI Galway
Chandana Mathur, Department of Anthropology, NUI Maynooth
Brendan Dineen, Department of General Practice, NUI Galway
Brenda Gallagher, Department of Geography, NUI Galway
Alice Mary Higgins, Comhlámh
Roland Tormey, University of Limerick
Heike Vornhagen, Galway One World Centre
Manuela Heinz, Department of Education, NUI Galway

Conference Convenor:
Dr Su-ming Khoo,
Department of Sociology and Political Science
Tel: 091 49 3643
Email: s.khoo@nuigalway.ie

Conference Organiser:
Carol Healy
Department of Health Promotion
Tel: 091 49 28 58
Email: carol.healy@nuigalway.ie