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Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA

Join leaders in the NGO community and their partners at InterAction's annual Forum. Featuring thought-provoking plenary sessions and workshops with more than **100 experts** from around the world, Forum 2012 will bring together **1,000 professionals** from more than **350 organizations** representing the international nonprofit community, government, corporate and philanthropic sectors.

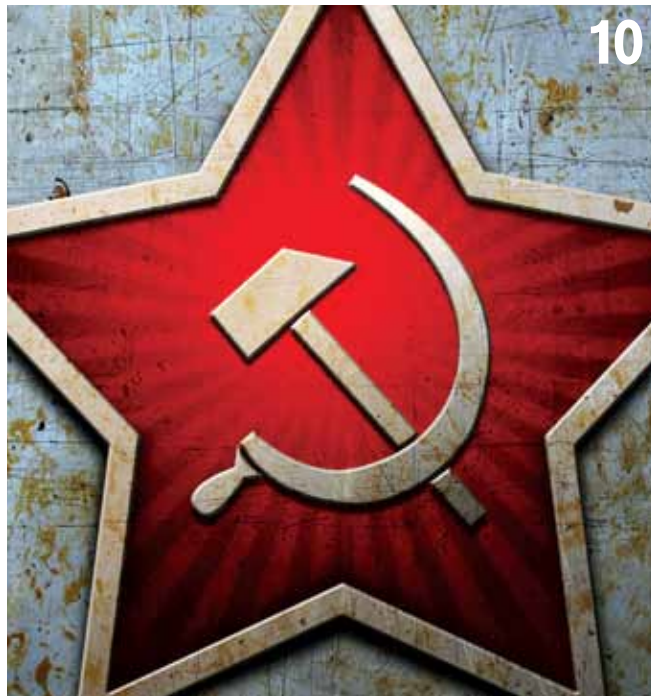
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This year InterAction has initiated a special fund to provide a limited number of scholarships for InterAction members staff from the global south, and young professionals (<30years) with a career interest in international development to attend InterAction Forum 2012. E-mail talexander@interaction.org for information on how to apply.

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Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
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Participants learn from each other, from knowledgeable trainers, from the resources of the Johns Hopkins University, and from the worldwide experience of the Center for Communication Programs.

The links below provide additional details.

**We will be celebrating the 25th LSHC
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For more information contact:

ammiller@jhuccp.org

<http://jhuccp.org/content/25th-leadership-strategic-health-communication-workshop-june-3-22-2011>

BUSAN

Meeting the Special Needs of Fragile and Conflict-Affected States: A “New Deal”

By Dayna Brown, Director, Listening Program, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects

The Busan Outcome Document (BOD) is a step forward in that it acknowledges that conflict-affected and fragile states need a lot more attention to begin reaching the Millennium Development Goals. The BOD welcomes the **New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States** (the New Deal), an important agreement in which the G7+ grouping of self-identified fragile states, donor governments and civil society have agreed on new ways of working to build peaceful states and societies. While it was only *welcomed*—rather than endorsed—by all who signed on to the BOD, those who have endorsed the New Deal will work to achieve the agreed Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs), which prioritize legitimate politics, people’s security, justice, economic foundations and revenues and fair services. This is a positive step in bringing peacebuilding and the PSGs into the mainstream development agenda.

Despite civil society concerns about the limited role of CSOs in the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding that created the New Deal, CSOs lobbied for the widest possible endorsement of the New Deal at Busan; and more than 30 countries and multilateral organizations endorsed it by the end of the HLF4. However, more progress is needed. Prior to and during Busan, CSOs delivered strong messages on the following points, which will remain key to its implementation:

- ensuring that state-society relations remains a central focus and driver, and that there is an enabling environment for CSOs and citizens to participate;
- inclusive processes for fragility assessments, indicator development and in-country implementation and monitoring;
- avoiding technocratic approaches, with a focus on results that matter to people; and
- the need for aid to be impartial and conflict-sensitive.

and inequality around the world. The text bears the imprint of this CSO engagement.

The original and basic purpose of this most recent HLF and the preceding three forums has been to examine ways to improve the effectiveness of aid provided to poor countries by donor governments that are members of the OECD/DAC. The first HLF in Rome in 2003 examined only the issue of how donors “harmonized” their aid so as to reduce the costs incurred by recipient countries in managing so many different donor systems of assistance. CSOs had no role in this first HLF.

CSOs began to be involved at the second forum in 2005, where the Paris Declaration was launched. There, 25 CSO representatives were asked to make remarks from the sidelines. CSOs went on to make gains at the third HLF in Accra in 2008, where they were acknowledged as “independent development actors in their own right.” They were urged to examine their own effectiveness, and governments committed to ensuring an enabling environment for CSO development work. Since Accra, CSOs have been full par-

ticipants in all activities of the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness with a representative on its executive committee. The Working Party was created by the OECD/DAC to deepen and monitor implementation of commitments from both Paris and Accra.

Through two coalitions, CSOs worked hard for three years to prepare for the Busan HLF. BetterAid, a global coalition of over 1,000 CSOs, worked nationally, regionally and globally to create a shared understanding of aid and development effectiveness and to help shape the agenda for Busan through a set of key asks to governments that was developed by its members. BetterAid representatives also lobbied at Working Party meetings at the OECD/DAC in Paris and participated in all of its clusters: work streams on ownership and accountability, use of country systems and procurement, South-South cooperation, aid conditionality, predictability, and transparency among others.

For its part, the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness answered the call put forward in Accra to examine CSO