

World Financial Crisis to be Address at the United Nations

The United Nations is convening a three-day summit of world leaders from 24 to 26 June 2009 at its New York Headquarters to address the worst global economic downturn since the Great Depression. The aim is to identify emergency and long-term responses to mitigate the impact of the crisis, especially on vulnerable populations, and to initiate much-needed dialogue on the transformation of the international financial architecture, taking into account the needs and concerns of all Member States. *The UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development* will provide a uniquely inclusive forum to address issues of urgent concern to all nations.

The situation in the world's developing countries – those who contributed least to the crisis and are most severely affected by it -- has led some economists to warn of “lost decades for development” which could have catastrophic consequences for rich and poor countries alike. To follow the Conference go to: www.un.org and click on conferences and events.

International Catholic Migration Commission contributes to new publication:

Guide to Ratification of the International Migrant Workers' Convention

Geneva, 30 April 2009 - The International Catholic Migration Commission has joined with the International Steering Committee for the Campaign for Ratification of the Migrant Rights Convention, launching a new, user-friendly Guide on Ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

With an estimated 90 million migrant workers currently living and working outside of their home countries, clear, rights-based labour and migration policies based upon the Migrant Workers' Convention allow for, among other benefits: enhanced protection of national workers (not only migrants), including in times of economic downturn; greater social cohesion between migrant and national communities; more robust economic development in host and home countries through migrant-generated jobs and businesses; improved rule of law, including payment of taxes, reduced irregularity in migration and employment; decreased incidence of human trafficking and strengthened inter-country cooperation on migration.

ICMC is proud to have engaged in the development and launch of this guide with partners including the UN Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR), International Labour Organization (ILO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), December 18 and the World Council of Churches. The full Guide may be found on the ICMC website, www.icmc.net.

Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Eradication Resources:

RESULTS (www.results.org) is a nonprofit, grassroots citizens' lobby working to create the political will to end hunger and the worst aspects of poverty, by helping individual citizens realize their own personal and political power.

POVERTY MAPPING (<http://povertymap.net>) This site offers access to:

- ◆ a comprehensive library of publications, newsletters, and articles related to poverty and the environment
- ◆ links to finding additional information

- ◆ specific information on food security, poverty, and the environment, including case studies from nine developing countries



The MDG Monitor (www.mdgmonitor.org) shows how countries are progressing in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). With the 2015 target date fast approaching, it is more important than ever to understand where the goals are on track, and where additional efforts and support are needed, both globally and at the country level.

www.freepoverty.com You can donate up to ten cups of water for each correct answer on this test of geographic skills.

www.freerice.com This quiz game enables you to donate 10 grains of rice to the UN world food program for each correct answer.

www.wcrp.org Religions for Peace is the largest international coalition of representatives from the world's great religions dedicated to promoting peace. Their website offers some excellent toolkits on "Faith in Action: Working Together Toward the Millennium Development Goals" in English, French and Spanish, a training manual on "Women of Faith Transforming Conflict: A Multi-Religious Training Manual" and other excellent resources.

The Real Cost of Bottled Water:

More and more resources are available on the real cost of drinking bottled water, both in terms of consumer costs and environmental impact. Please educate yourselves and then share that information with others. Here are two resources to get you started, an informative article and a challenging power point:

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/N10484560.htm>