

Save a Tree, Share This Copy



Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the Iraqi crisis. We support multilateral action for non-violent conflict resolution, human rights, ecological integrity for the planet and international law, through education and dialogue locally and globally. We encourage everyone's participation as we strive for peace and justice to build a better world for future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeace.20m.com

Boundary Peace Initiative meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7 pm in the Slavonic Seniors Center on 72nd Ave. & 7th Street. Due to health issues meetings are cancelled until further notice.

To Do
Sept. 21st is International Day of Peace. No event plans in Grand Forks but Castlegar will have one so contact the USCC office at 250 442 8252. A suggestion-- write a letter to the editor or your MP saying why you think peace, through non-violent means, is necessary and a good idea.

No end to poverty without better governance

By: Sri Mulyani Indrawati, World Bank
From AlertNet May 2013

In April the [World Bank](#) governors endorsed two [historic goals](#): to end extreme poverty by 2030 and to ensure that prosperity is shared. It will take a lot to end poverty: strong growth, more infrastructure investments, increased agricultural productivity, better business environments, jobs, good education, and quality health care. We have to do more of this in tough places, particularly those that are fragile and conflict-affected. But it also takes overcoming institutional weaknesses and zero tolerance for corruption. Without improving governance it will not be possible to lift the 1.2 billion people who still live on \$1.25 a day or less out of poverty and to ensure that economic growth will benefit all citizens.

Good governance and the role it plays in fighting poverty is complex. A finance minister from a resource rich but otherwise poor country told me recently that the fuel subsidies in that country, designed to protect the most vulnerable from high prices, are ultimately "anti-poor" because the rich benefit most, they are wasteful and ineffective. And another official from a middle income country described achieving shared prosperity as tough because a growing middle class has high expectations and becomes disillusioned by corruption and lack of services, making them less willing to support the state.

The first issue is a spending problem and trying to fix it comes often with high political costs. Yemen, Nigeria, Jordan and my country, Indonesia, have all experienced riots over fuel subsidy reforms. While limited public finances should leave no room for waste, blanket subsidies do exactly that: they squander spare resources, they are expensive and ineffective. [One World Bank](#) analysis notes that only an estimated 8 percent of the \$409 billion spent on fossil fuel subsidies throughout the developing world in 2010 went to the poorest 20 percent of the population. [In seven African countries](#) the richest 20 percent receive six times more in fuel subsidy benefits than the poorest because they consume more.

In some places fuel prices are kept so low, they promote a vibrant shadow economy. In one oil-producing country, for example, an estimated \$857 million is lost through fuel smuggling to higher priced

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(From last column)**No end to poverty** markets—over \$300 for every inhabitant.

The second is a trust issue, most poignant with the emerging middle class. At some level this is good news because when people are better off, they demand better services and they grow less tolerant of corruption and bad governance. But if their government isn't delivering, they are less willing to pay taxes, invest or play by the rules. Citizens with the means to do so use services outside the state system, reducing the pressure for improvements that could raise living standards for all. Some analysts have also seen a connection between lower trust in the state and patron-client relationships, in which favored groups are looked after and rewarded at the expense of the whole. It can breed a vicious cycle in which lack of trust and inclusion reinforce each other and undermine efforts to strengthen institutions and improve the quality of service delivery. In other words a state who does not deliver 'clean' services will choke its engine of growth – a strong middle class – and creates a major obstacle for achieving shared prosperity.

Yet there are examples that show that citizens can improve governance. The "[I paid a bribe](#)" initiative which started in India is now active in a number of other developing countries. Users expose corruption with the aim to strengthen public accountability posting on a website that serves as a public shaming tool. They now can also report when they encounter an honest public servant.

At the World Bank, I am privileged to chair the [Governance and Anticorruption Council](#)—which tackles governance obstacles in the way of development goals. Many developing countries have turned to the Bank for advice and assistance in reforms. For example, in [Mexico procurement](#) costs accounted for 40 percent of the federal budget, around 10 percent of GDP. Lack of transparency also caused corruption to flourish. With Bank support, the government implemented a set of innovations. Over three years bidding for contracts by small businesses went up by 36 percent and the government saved about US\$ 1 billion. The Bank has also worked on similarly innovative programs to make [extractive industries more transparent](#) or to use technology in [India to improve the quality of maternal health care](#).

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(From page 1) **No end to poverty**

Yet more can be done. Our governance work concentrates on ensuring compliance and the financial probity of our projects. And as an institution we'll continue to increase our focus on delivery on the ground, whether to the poorest or the middle class, whether through targeted safety nets or governance reforms. Because without results for all citizens delivered effectively and 'clean' we won't be able to end extreme poverty nor to promote shared prosperity.

Simple Transferable Ballot

By: Saul Zalik (from CCPA Monitor)

Contributed by Jack Blower

Patricia McGrail ascribes unwarranted, illogical arguments against the Simple Transferable Ballot, or STB ("Proportional representation," "Memos from our Members, CCPA Monitor Feb. 2014). STB is not a gussied-up version of first-past-the-post (FTPT); it corrects its defects, and includes the ability to prevent reversion to a two-party system. STB does not cause gerrymandering, robocalls and other electoral frauds. As most Canadians are aware, these are the tools of an autocratic party in power.

The STB is superior to FTTP because 1)The requirement that in every constituency the winning candidate must receive more than 50 per cent of the ballots cast ensures that all the ballots count; 2)This is achieved by transferring second choices from the ballots of candidates who receive the least number of first choices to those who receive more; 3)When the voters exercise their right to vote a second choice, all the voters count and can influence the outcome in the election directly, as occurred in this example from Australia; 4)Understanding the power of the STB, and with the knowledge that they will no longer be disenfranchised, many people who do not vote now may be encouraged to exercise that right.

The dictionary definition of democracy is, "A form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly, or indirectly, by a system of representation. " By adopting the Simple Transferable Ballot for elections, Canada would make a significant stride forward in achieving true democracy.

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

What Have We Done?

By: Alex Semenoff (July 2014)

A lonely swallow, in my yard, is working hard to
build her nest,
A yard that in the past held hundreds of her friends
"Where are they now?" she asks herself "where are
the rest?"
No answer comes to soothe her mind and give her
peace as her day ends.

And in my pond an eerie quiet claims the night,
Where songs of frogs once harmonized with music
played by wind and rain.
This silence chills my very heart which fills with
fright,
No tadpoles swim, we will not hear that symphony
again.

The bees that buzzed the flowers that provide our
food,
Are dying now from illnesses that no one can explain.
They've served us well throughout the years and did
us good,
Our greed has paid them back with pesticides that
brought them pain.

In sickness and in woe all living nature sadly cries,
It suffers so immensely from our selfishness and
greed,
On land and seas and even in the open skies,
To please ourselves, we've sown and reaped this
deadly seed.

Our Mother Earth is being pillaged, raped and torn,
By mindless men whose only goal is greed and gold.
They have no soul, no love for others only scorn,
They pray to God with hearts that run with blood
that's cold.

And when all living things but man have disappeared,
All beauty of Creation sight and sound have gone,
It will be much too late to mourn what was predicted
and war feared,
We'll only ask, what have we done? what have we
done? what have we done?"

Then man will hunt his kind for food whence all has
gone,
Their tortured spirits after death will seek a place to
rest,
But God's rebuke will signify these words to
everyone,
"Return to your creation, you've failed life's supreme
test!"
"Go back, and look at what you've done, at what
you've done, at what you've done!"

The Minamata Convention: 12 things it does (or doesn't do)

By Brian Bienkowski

From Environmental Health News October 2013

The Minamata Convention, a United Nations pact launched Thursday, is designed to limit mercury use and emissions internationally. Finalized after four years of negotiations and signed by delegates of about 140 nations, the treaty includes many exemptions. Here is what the treaty does – and doesn't do.

1. Coal-fired plants, boilers and smelters: Nations must require best available emission-control technologies on new power plants, boilers and smelters, but they do not have to require them on older plants. Instead, they can take other steps for existing plants, such as emissions targets.
2. Light bulbs: Compact fluorescent bulbs of 30 watts or less will be banned by 2020 if they exceed 5 milligrams of mercury. Certain other halophosphate and fluorescent lamps also will be banned by 2020.
3. Mercury mining: Primary mining for mercury will be banned. Mercury mines already in operation can continue for 15 years and then will be banned.
4. Gold mining: Mercury will be allowed in artisanal and small-scale gold mining, where it is used to separate gold from rocks and sediment. The treaty encourages nations to reduce or phase out its use, but no targets or dates are included. Recent studies have documented that people in communities near artisanal mining areas in Peru and Brazil are highly exposed to mercury.
5. Dental fillings: Dental fillings are exempt from the 2020 ban. Countries agree to a phase down of mercury in fillings by promoting alternatives, creating dental programs to minimize the need for fillings or taking other steps
6. Vaccines: Vaccines that use mercury compounds (thimerosal) as a preservative are exempt.
7. Batteries: Mercury-containing batteries will be banned by 2020. An exception is button-cell batteries used in implantable medical devices
8. Switches and relays: Switches and relays containing mercury will be banned by 2020.
9. Soaps and cosmetics: Soaps and cosmetics containing more than 1 part per million of mercury will be banned by 2020. Mascara and other eye-area cosmetics are exempt because of concerns that there are no safe substitutes.

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Book & Film Recommendations



Books

Flight Behavior

By: Barbara Kingsolver © 2012

Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers Ltd.

This novel bares the rich, tarnished humanity of the inhabitants and unearths the modern complexity of rural existence. Characters and reader alike are quickly carried beyond familiar territory here, into the unsettled ground of science, faith, and everyday truces between reason and conviction. Flight Behavior takes on one of the most contentious subjects of our time: climate change. With a deft and versatile empathy, Kingsolver dissects the motives that drive denial and belief in a precarious world.



Films

No new films at this time.

Ed. Note: If you have read a book or seen a film that you feel would be of interest or informative please let us know. Email the name of the book, the author and the publisher with a brief explanation of the book, and for the film the name, the producer and a brief explanation of the contents to Laura at l4peace@telus.net. Thank you.

The Minamata Convention

10. Medical devices: Certain medical and monitoring devices – including barometers, thermometers, hygrometers, manometers and blood pressure monitors – will be banned by 2020.

11. Religious, traditional activities: Mercury used in religious or traditional ceremonies are exempt from the treaty.

12. Manufacturing: Mercury will be banned from chlor-alkali production and acetaldehyde production in 2025 and 2018, respectively. Manufacturing of polyurethane, vinyl chloride monomer and sodium or potassium methylate or ethylate are exempt although emissions must be reduced.

The Minamata Convention will go into effect 90 days after it has been ratified by at least 50 nations, which is expected to take several years. To ratify it, the nations first must enact their own domestic laws.

Renewable Energy Provides 6.5 Million Jobs Globally

From: IRENA Press: May 11, 2014

Abu Dhabi, UAE, 11 May 2014: In 2013, approximately 6.5 million people were already employed in the renewable energy industry worldwide, a new study by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) reveals. ‘*Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2014*’ underlines the important role that renewables continue to play in employment creation and growth in the global economy.

The comprehensive annual review shows steady growth in the number of renewable energy jobs worldwide, which expanded from 5.7 million in 2012, according to IRENA.

“With 6.5 million people directly or indirectly employed in renewable energy, the sector is proving that it is no longer a niche, it has become a significant employer worldwide,” said IRENA Director-General Adnan Z. Amin. “The insights into shifts along segments of the value-chain revealed in the report are crucial to developing policy that strengthens job growth in this important sector of the economy.”

Renewable energy employment was shaped by regional shifts, industry realignments, growing competition and advances in technologies and manufacturing processes in 2013. The largest employers by country are China, Brazil, the United States, India, Germany, Spain and Bangladesh, while the largest employers by sector are solar photovoltaic, bio fuels, wind, modern biomass and biogas.

Among other updates, the 6.5 million figure published in the annual review reflects growth in Chinese numbers, which can be attributed to a significant increase in annual installation and manufacturing activity and differences in the way employment figures are estimated. IRENA estimates a five-fold increase of solar PV installations in China from 2011 to 2013.

“Surging demand for solar PV in China and Japan has increased employment in the installation sector and eased some PV module over-supply concerns,” said Rabia Ferroukhi, heading the Knowledge, Policy and Finance division at IRENA and lead author of the report. “Consequently some Chinese manufacturers are now adding capacity.”

In the wind industry, China and Canada provided positive impulses while the outlook for the United States remains somewhat mixed because of political uncertainty.

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(From last column) Renewable Energy

The offshore wind industry is still concentrated in Europe, particularly the United Kingdom and Germany.

The bio fuels value chain provides the second largest number of renewable energy jobs after solar PV. The United States remains the largest bio fuels producer, while Brazil remains the largest employer.

The review is being presented Monday at the Clean Energy Ministerial in Seoul, South Korea, a meeting of energy ministers and other high-level officials from 23 countries focused on assessing progress and identifying tangible steps toward accelerating the transition to a global clean energy economy.

‘*Renewable Energy and Jobs – Annual Review 2014*’ is the second annual jobs report published by IRENA. It is available to download at www.irena.org/REjobs

About the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA):

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) is mandated as the global hub for renewable energy cooperation and information exchange by 131 Members (130 States and the European Union). About 40 additional countries are in the accession process and actively engaged. IRENA supports countries in their transition to a sustainable energy future, and serves as the principal platform for international cooperation, a centre of excellence, and a repository of policy, technology, resource and financial knowledge on renewable energy. The Agency promotes the widespread adoption and sustainable use of all forms of renewable energy, including bio energy, geothermal, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind energy in the pursuit of sustainable development, energy access, energy security and low-carbon economic growth and prosperity.

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) welcomes articles. All articles are the responsibility of the author and may not be common consensus. To submit an article, contact **Laura** at **250-442-0434** or **L4peace@telus.net**. The BPI is a member of: Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, and Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and works with various local and global groups.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

Go to the Government of Canada website for emails of all MPs, Ministers at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>