

## Groven Charlotte (GOVERNANCE)

---

**From:** Groven Charlotte (GOVERNANCE)  
**Sent:** donderdag 18 december 2008 16:51  
**Subject:** MGSOG E-Gazette: December 2008  
**Attachments:** image012.jpg; image014.jpg; image017.jpg; image019.jpg



December 2008 - In this E-Gazette:

- | 2nd Charity Ball big succes!
- | More Children Classified Poor in Vietnam (Keetie Roelen)
- | 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Annemarie Rima)
- | Nice to meet you ... (Luis Mejia Guinand)
- | From Africa with Love ... (Renée Speijcken)
- | Solutions for a Complex World: Research Conference

*Season's Greetings from all of us!*

*We send you our warmest wishes for a happy and successful 2009. We hope that you will find the peace in body and in mind to find rest and enjoyment with all who you care for during the coming holidays.*

*We thank all of you who contributed this year to our activities and we hope to welcome you again in the new year. Those who did not visit us last year we hope to welcome soon in Maastricht.*



*The new year will undoubtedly bring exciting and disturbing events and challenges. We, at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance, will keep on spreading an indestructible optimism paired with innovative academic and technical expertise.*

#### More Children Classified Poor in Vietnam

At the end of November, Chris de Neubourg and Keetie Roelen went to Hanoi to present the findings of a study on child poverty in Vietnam. The study was conducted for UNICEF Vietnam in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Invalids as well as the statistical office of Vietnam. A workshop was organized with participants from different ministries, provincial governments and international organizations to disseminate the findings with respect to child poverty and discuss next steps on how to include these in future policy making.



The numbers were higher than expected for many participants as the report indicates that about 35% of all children in Vietnam live in poverty, which amounts to 7 million children. Other poverty estimates are considerably lower, indicating that poverty among children amounts to about 20%. However, these

figures are based on a monetary measure of poverty, considering the percentage of children that live in households with an income below the national poverty line. The findings of the current child poverty report, however, are based on multidimensional measures that incorporate issues such as education, health and water and sanitation. This new way of looking at child poverty appealed to the Vice Minister of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, who suggested incorporating



multidimensional poverty measures as a regular poverty monitoring tool. The media also picked up on the findings of the child poverty study with a large piece in the Vietnam News on the report and its findings. And although this was the final mission within this project, extensions of the current work were already discussed with UNICEF. Hopefully the MGSOG team will be back in Hanoi soon!

*Keetie Roelen, Research Fellow*

### Second Charity Ball big succes!

This year the School can congratulate the fundraising committee with a successfull second Charity Ball. On saturday November 29th, seventy guests, including researchers and guests from the world of banking and the hotel industry, enjoyed a four-course dinner in our premises at the Kapoenstraat. Like last year, guests could participate in the silent auction where numerous vouchers for dinners, overnight stays, paintings and other services. Two current master's students from Uzbekistan and Nigeria emphasized the importance of the financial support of education and capacity building especially in developing and transition countries.



Proceeds from the dinner, silent auction and spontaneous gifts added up to 12,300 euros.

On behalf of the Fundraising Committee of the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (Maastricht University), we would once again like to thank you for our donors, sponsors and

guests for their contribution to a succesfull second Charity Ball and Silent Action. With their participation and enthusiasm they have shown their support to our scholarship fund which mission is to join the forces of talented students, the experiences and investments of the commercial partnership and the knowledge and skills from the academia. But most importantly, to be part of a unique partnership that invests in a fair chance for education for young academic talent globally.

Because of the big success of the Charity Ball I already would like to invite you to the next Charity Ball which will take place on the 28th of November in 2009.



60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: What's to celebrate? Amnesty International Maastricht wonders...

The second week of December was marked by the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the 10th of December, which sets down the basic principles at the very heart of the human rights movement. Together with Amnesty Maastricht and Studium Generale, the School of Governance used this memorable day to push forward the case of Al-Mansouri. Al-Mansouri is held in prison in Iran since two years.

To raise awareness for Abdoullah Al-Mansouri and celebrate the anniversary of the human rights declaration, Amnesty organized several activities for the Maastricht community titled Flames for Freedom. On Monday the Movie Series of the School of Governance focused on the genocide in Darfur in Sudan, followed by a lecture of Studium Generale on "Genocide: the Role of Bystanders" on Tuesday. Wednesday, the streets of Maastricht were covered in flames during the traditional torch parade ending at the School of Governance where the over 80 participants could enjoy a solidarity meal and the photo exhibition on 60th years of Human Rights. The day was concluded by a Studium Generale lecture on Human Rights and Regional Conflicts. The week of activities ended with a seminar of the seminar series of the School on International Trade and Human Rights.



Nice to meet you ... Luis Mejia Guinand (PhD Fellow, PhD Programme Public Policy and Policy Analysis)

Hi, My name is Luis Mejia and I am one of the new PHD fellows at the school. I studied political science and anthropology in my natal Colombia, and I did a master program in public policy in the US. During the last ten years I worked in my country's public sector, both as a practitioner and as a consultant, mainly in issues related with policy evaluation. In 2006 I decided to make a turn in my professional life towards the academy;

I started working as a researcher in the

Political Science department of one of the most important universities of Bogotá. Last year I decided to continue pursuing an academic career and therefore opted for conducting the PHD. I chose Maastricht School of Governance not only because I wanted to come to Europe in order to explore a different perspective from Latin America and US, but also because I was attracted by the program that the school offered. For my dissertation I am planning on focusing on the area of public organization's settings. In particular, I plan to analyze the evolving role of the central planning offices in Latin America. I hope to finish my PHD program and return to my country and contribute to the consolidation of the academic community in Colombia. Living in Maastricht has been an interesting and new experience for my wife, my three years old daughter and myself. We will never forget the smell of waffles in the street and our rides in the bike, also our Friday visits to the ducks,

goats and geese at the park.

From Africa with Love ...

Is Dutch Democracy Assistance effectively contributing to the institutionalization and effectiveness of Centres for Multiparty Democracy in Kenya and Malawi (CMD), particularly with regard to their functioning around elections? And what lessons can we draw from the roles of the Kenyan Centre in the violent aftermath of the 2007 elections in Kenya to prevent this situation in Malawi in 2009?

These are the challenging research questions that Renée Speijcken, one of MGSOGs research fellows together with a South African researcher Shaun Mackay, addressed during an intensive and interesting fieldtrip to Kenya and Malawi this November.



In young multiparty democracies like Kenya and Malawi, stable democratic institutions, and particularly stable and trustworthy political institutions like political parties and parliament are often lacking, due to, among other factors, inadequate formal

rules and regulations, counterproductive informal practices, high levels of mistrust among political parties, limited or ineffective use of democratic space for debate and capacity problems. Parliaments for example often do not fulfill their role as platform for open and constructive debate and holding governments to account. Political parties are often highly fluid and strongly centered around individuals and specific interests.

The Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, funded by Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs tries to address these problems by launching and supporting increasingly formalized and institutionalized platforms (now Centres for Multiparty Democracy) in which parliamentary political parties meet regularly with the aim to engage in open debate and dialogue on issues challenging the national agenda, to build trust, strengthen political capacity and accountability and improve internal party structure and accountability. The question is to what extent and under what conditions this is a successful endeavor particularly related to election years.



By interviewing a wide range of stakeholders like party leadership, parliamentarians, electoral committees, women

politicians, radio, TV and newspaper journalists, academic researchers, ministers of different ministries, donor organizations and a variety of non governmental and civil society organizations active around elections like human rights watch organizations, faith based organizations and women organizations, the researchers were able to gain valuable insights in the underlying realities and practices of politics in these two countries, the positive and negative effects of aid and the conditions under which that happens. The first findings and policy implications were presented to the African regional meeting of CMD Board- and management representatives in The Hague on December 2nd leading to lively discussions about political (formal and informal) incentive structures for good governance and accountability and the effects of development aid on these structures as well as about conflict management and political leadership and political will. All of this will be addressed in much more detail in a report, as well as in an academic paper, that will be available around March 2009.

*Renée Speijcken, Research Fellow*

#### Solutions for a Complex World: Research Conference

On November 24-25, 2008, the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSOG) hosted a conference on "Solutions for a Complex World: Governance, Conflict and Crisis and Aid Effectiveness", as part of the European Social Protection Policy (ESPP) PhD Programme and the Dual Career PhD Programme in Governance and Policy Analysis (GPAC2). In total 40 participants enrolled in this event, of which 27 external and 13 MGSOG research fellows. The aim of the conference was to bring together scholars in the field of conflict, crisis, aid effectiveness and governance. On Monday morning the focus of the conference was on governance in general and the afternoon session aid effectiveness was discussed. Tuesday, specific areas of discussion focused on the causes and consequences of conflict, with particular emphasis on theoretical concepts and practical applications related measurement as well as case-study examples of reconstruction activities in various post conflict environments. These diverse ideas were effectively captured and systematically analysed in the keynote address by Professor Frerks from the Centre for Conflict Studies, Faculty of Humanities, Utrecht University and CERES Research School. The conference proved to be a success with scholars coming from prestigious universities and institutions such as Oxford University, Institute of Strategic Studies, Free University of Berlin, Bocconi University and UNDP. Research fellows from MGSOG also participated extensively in all the panel sessions, underlying the high caliber of research being conducted in the field within the school.

Based on the success of this conference, we are happy to announce our next research conference, 25 and 26 May 2009, with an emphasize on health policy. More information on this conference will be available from January 15th onwards.

#### Upcoming events:

19 January: The Yes-Man (MGSOG Movie Series)

20 January: New Year's Lunch

21-22 January: Advanced Academic Update: Governance Indicators

and Assessments: Impact and Future Trends  
29 January: Graduation Ceremony Master's students  
For more upcoming events, please [click here](#)

Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter via [info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl](mailto:info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl). Also we would appreciate your comments and recommendations.

© Photography by Jonathan Vos and Joey Roberts

Maastricht Graduate School of Governance Universiteit Maastricht  
P.O. Box 616, 6200 MD Maastricht, The Netherlands Phone: +31 43  
3884650, Fax: +31 43 3884864 E-mail [info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl](mailto:info-gov@governance.unimaas.nl) Website [www.governance.unimaas.nl](http://www.governance.unimaas.nl)

2008 | Maastricht University - Maastricht Graduate School of Governance