

GLOBAL CONCEPTS



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G.A.M.E. NEWSLETTER

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MANNY'S CORNER

In Response to Disasters: The U.N. Emergency Relief Agency

The natural disasters of the past several months...the hurricanes and Tsunami... have been alarming and devastating. Regardless of whether the cause is due to environmental and climate change, or just a historical pattern of the event as some proclaim, its enormous economic loss estimated at billions in the United States alone. In addition, the health related impact on the human population, particularly children has been unimaginable. It is, however, worthy to note the significance of the relief effort to the disasters, especially the coordinated international emergency relief efforts and response to the disasters. Both in the case of Indian Ocean Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, the reality of coordination of emergency relief by the international community appeared to be inevitable. The pledges in support of relief came not only from the traditional rich industrial nations such as Japan and Western Europe, but also from many others who provided financial support, even if minimal, ranging from Czech Republic to Thailand and Palau.



What many are unaware is that the United Nations Emergency Relief agency offered the United States both financial and material

Preparing for Citizenship in the World

G.A.M.E was invited to provide a day workshop for Boy Scouts, on Citizenship in the World. as required for merit badge. On October 1, 2005 a group of over forty enthusiastic young Scouts filled the children's section of the Mid-Continent, Public Library on Colbern Road. The Boy Scout booklet's rationale for this badge recognizes that "interdependence" has increasingly resulted that "each person is no longer only a citizen of his or her country, but citizen of the world." The participating scouts were to read this pamphlet beforehand and be prepared as their motto indicates for the workshop. Although the materials for this training are clearly defined and organized in sections and chapters including question-answers, the five members of the G.A.M.E. instructional team also took several times to meet and refine their strategy and presentation to make the activities productive. Thanks to Marlana Boggs, Scout's leader, this was a new opportunity and in line with the G.A.M.E. mission. We came away satisfied with our performance and looking forward to the next presentation opportunity, tentatively scheduled for April 8, 2006.

With some 4.3 million children under five dying each year from preventable disease and malnutrition in Islamic countries, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Islamic States organized a three-day meeting in Rabat, Morocco, according to the November 8, 2005 report.

The conference focused on four major themes: health and HIV/AIDS; quality education and culture; protection against abuse, exploitation and violence; and mobilizing resources. Recommendations will be submitted to the next sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and the Islamic Summit.

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Recent Email News and Events Internationally Speaking



In a symbolic milestone, on 11/7/2005, Brazil become the 100th Party to the United Nations global convention to curb tobacco use, which currently causes 5 million mainly preventable deaths and a net loss of \$200 billion in treatment and lost productivity each year.



Brazil deposited its instrument of ratification late last week to the UN World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), which requires Parties to restrict tobacco advertising, sponsorship and promotion, set new labelling and indoor air standards, and strengthen laws against tobacco smuggling.

Although Brazil's action has no legal ramifications, since the pact entered into force last February after ratification by 40 countries, it is regarded as significant, in particular given the fact that it was adopted a mere two and a half years ago.

Tobacco is still the leading preventable cause of death in the world, killing nearly 5 million people every year, WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook said in a message. If current trends continue, this toll will double by 2020. Developing countries will suffer the highest burden with 70 per cent of the deaths.

The success of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control demonstrates that governments are determined to curb tobacco use and its impact on people's health, he added.

Parties to the treaty are bound to translate its general provisions into national laws and

regulations. They have, for example, three years to ensure that tobacco packaging has strong health warnings, and five years to establish comprehensive advertising, promotion and sponsorship bans.



UN University calls for Recognition of those Displaced by Gradual Environmental Change.

Marking the United Nations Day for Disaster Reduction, the UN University (UNU) in October called on the international community to recognize the plight of people who are displaced not by dramatic disasters but by gradual negative changes in the environment.

“This is a highly complex issue, with global organizations already overwhelmed by the demands of conventionally recognized refugees,” said UNU Rector Hans van Ginkel. “We should prepare now, however, to define, accept and accommodate this new breed of ‘refugee’ within international frameworks.

Unlike victims of political upheaval or violence who have access through governments and international organizations to such assistance as funding, food, tools, shelter, schools and clinics, “environmental refugees” are not yet recognized in world conventions, the UNU’s Institute for Environment and Human Security in Bonn, Germany, said in a statement.

“There are well-founded fears that the number of people fleeing untenable environmental conditions may grow exponentially as the world experiences the effects of climate change and other phenomena,” Institute Director Janos Bogardi said. “This new category of ‘refugee’ needs to find a place in international agreements. We need to better anticipate support requirements, similar to those of people fleeing other unviable situations.”

Upcoming Events Local and National



- November 25-December 10, 2005**, International Campaign, organized by Women's Global Leadership Institute: Activism Against Gender Violence.
- December 8, 2005**, 11:45:00 a.m Greater K.C. Urban League, 48th Annual Differenc Maker Award Luncheon. Hyatt Regency. Contact 816/471-0550.
- December 8, 2005**, 5:00 p.m., CRC/ CEDAW Steering Committee meeting, at UMKC Women's & Gender Studies.
- December 10, 2005**, International Human Rights Day.
- December 10, 2005**, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Annual Membership appreciaton and Yuleboeck. Contact Manny or Sara for more information.
- February 19, 2006**, 2:00 p.m., G.A.M.E. Board of Director's, 3009 Holmes.
- May 17-20, 2006**, Washington CRC Coalition Summit, American University, Washington, D.C. For more info, contact Manny Pedram at G.A.M.E. office.
- June-July, 2006**, Guatemalan Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad, for K-12 and Community College Teachers. Deadline for Application, Dec. 12, 2005. Contact. Adriana Natali-Sommerville, University of Kansas Center of Latin American Studies, 785/ 864-4213.
- November 17th, 2006**, G.A.M.E Biennial Conference on U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Especially important it is to realize that there can be no assured peace and tranquility for any one nation except as it is achieved for all. So long as want, frustration and sense of injustice prevail among significant sections of earth, no other section can be wholly released from fear.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

assistance. While the U.S. government declined to accept all the offers made, the U.S. FEMA Regional Coordination Center and the UN institutions jointly coordinated a series of valuable emergency relief efforts to the victims of Katrina. In the forefront of such aid were such international organizations as World Food Program, World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund. These U.N. agencies are assisting in areas such as housing, food, sanitation, disease prevention, and education. According to reports, this is the first time in the sixty year history of UNICEF that they have been involved in an "emergency response in America."



Invitation to the CRC Summit
May 17-20, 2006
American University
Washington, D.C.

If you have attended the Biennial conferences on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Kansas City, the Summit in Washington D.C. is for you. The Campaign for U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child's Summit is May 17-20, 2006 on the campus of American University. The conference promises to be "an historic Campaign to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child." Its focus is on "Educating and Mobilizing Communities for Ratification" of the Convention. Lodging and meals are at American University and are reasonably priced. Registration forms and conference rate and fees are available at <http://childrightscampaign.org> or you can contact Manny at G.A.M.E.

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The strength of any organization depends upon the level of support and financial resources provided by its members and friends. G.A.M.E. is no exception. Please use this form to join us today.

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Our Mission Statement: G.A.M.E. assists in the enhancement of knowledge of global interdependence and awareness and appreciation of our common humanity.