Window on the World

This issue of Window on the World highlights organizations working on alternative development models around the world

Alai

<http://alainet.org>

The Latin American Information Agency (ALAI) is a communication organization which is committed to human rights, gender equity and citizen participation to the development of Latin America. Its aim is to democratize communication, as a precondition for democratic life and social justice. Since 1977, it has developed an alternative view of communication, which aims to create a new information sharing system, in line with the processes of social transformation. Its main activities are the production and dissemination of systematized information, the support to the development of social organizations' communication skills and the promotion of the right to communication.

Alternet

www.alternet.org

AlterNet is an award-winning news magazine and online community that creates original journalism, and amplifies the best of hundreds of other independent media sources. AlterNet's aim is to inspire action and advocacy on environment, human rights and civil liberties, social justice, media, health care issues, and more. Founded in 1998, it now provides free online content to millions of readers, serving as a reliable filter and providing an alternative to commercial media. AlterNet publishes grassroots success stories and inspirational narratives alongside hard-hitting critiques of policies, investigative reports and expert analysis. It emphasizes workable solutions to persistent social problems and its editorial mix underscores a commitment to fairness, equality and global stewardship, and to making connections across generational, ethnic and issue lines.

Choike.org

www.choike.org

Choike is a portal dedicated to improving the visibility of the work done by NGOs and social movements from the South. It serves as a platform where citizen groups can disseminate their work and at the same time enrich it with information from diverse sources, which is presented from the perspective of southern civil society. Choike offers

a directory of NGOs organized in categories and subcategories; a selection of materials produced by NGOs which contain information of relevance to civil society, including reports, news items and information resources; in-depth reports on key issues which highlight the position adopted by civil society; and dissemination of NGO actions and campaigns. Choike is the Mapuche name for the Southern Cross, the constellation that helps travellers find their way. It is a project of the Instituto del Tercer Mundo, an NGO based in Uruguay.

The Corner House

www.thecornerhouse.org.uk

Since its founding in 1997, The Corner House has aimed to support democratic and community movements for environmental and social justice. It is motivated by the concerns of such movements, whether they be locally-based struggles for land or water rights or better health care; campaigns against destructive mining, dam or forestry projects; or struggles against racial discrimination. It aims to pay constant attention to issues of social, economic and political power and practical strategy. It does this through a 'bottom-up' approach, by using examples to illustrate issues of global significance which are often handled in a more abstract way. The Corner House carries out analyses, research and advocacy with the aim of linking issues, of stimulating informed discussion and strategic thought on critical environmental and social concerns, and of encouraging broad alliances to tackle them.

Countercurrents.org

www.countercurrents.org

Countercurrents.org is a portal that came online in 2002, fully financed by voluntary reader subscriptions. In the truest spirit of independent internet journalism, it believes that whatever news, views and analysis being published should be independent and free of biases. Countercurrents.org is an alternative website that aims to bring out what the mainstream media fail to say. Its values are peace and justice and it stands together with all those who are engaged in struggles for

economic, political, social, cultural, gender and environmental justice.

Global Issues

www.globalissues.org

Global Issues is a portal on social, political, economic and environmental issues. This website looks into global issues that affect everyone and aims to show how most issues are inter-related. There are over 550 articles on the site, mostly written by its founder Anup Shah. The issues discussed range from trade, poverty and globalization, to human rights, geopolitics, the environment, and much more. Spread over these articles, there are over 7000 links to external articles, websites, reports and analysis to help provide credence to the arguments made in the articles.

Jubilee Research

http://www.neweconomics.org/gen/m2_i5_jubileeresearch.aspx

Jubilee research is one of the official successors to the Jubilee 2000 United Kingdom campaign, which mobilized 24 million people over a 5-year period to cancel the 'unpayable debts of the poorest countries by the year 2000'. Jubilee research, together with sister organization Jubilee Debt Campaign, continues to work to promote debt cancellation for the poorest countries and to promote a new, just, international insolvency framework for sovereign debtors. It does this by providing in-depth analysis, reports and data on third world debt, including the sovereign debts of HIPC – Heavily Indebted Poor Countries – as well as those of emerging markets, and rich debtor nations like the United States.

New Economic Foundation (NEF)

www.neweconomics.org

NEF is an independent think-and-do tank that inspires and demonstrates real economic well-being. It aims to improve quality of life by promoting innovative solutions that challenge mainstream thinking on economic, environmental and social issues. It works in partnership and puts people

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and the planet first. NEF was founded in 1986 by the leaders of The Other Economic Summit (TOES), which forced issues such as international debt onto the agenda of the G-7 and G-8 summits. The organization is unique in combining rigorous analysis and policy debate with practical solutions on the ground, often run and designed with the help of local people. It also creates new ways of measuring progress towards increased well-being and environmental sustainability. NEF works with all the sections of society in the United Kingdom and internationally – civil society, government, individuals, businesses and academia – to create more understanding and strategies for change.

openDemocracy

www.opendemocracy.net

openDemocracy is a current affairs forum that offers in-depth news analysis and commentary from a pro-Democracy, pro-Human Rights perspective. It aims to ensure that marginalized views, and voices are heard and it believes facilitating argument and understanding across geographical boundaries is vital to preventing injustice. openDemocracy also aims to build the open source model for news analysis and opinion. It also hosts online forums, where authors can be challenged and opinions are formed.

Pambazuka News

www.pambazuka.org

Pambazuka News is produced by a pan-African community of some 300 citizens and organizations – academics, policy makers, social activists, women's organizations, civil society organizations, writers, artists, poets, bloggers and commentators who together produce insightful, sharp and thoughtful analyses, and make it one of the largest and most innovative and influential web forums for social justice in Africa. Pambazuka News also publishes podcasts, videocasts and books. 'Pambazuka' in Kiswahili means 'the dawn' or 'to arise' as a verb.

The People Centered Development (PCD) Forum

www.pcdf.org

The PCD Forum is dedicated to nurturing the struggle for social justice and the alliance building that follows. It works in cooperation with civil society groups around the world to articulate and expose the causes of our collective crisis, and points to the possibility of creating a post-corporate, post-capitalist world of living democracies, mindful market economies and authentic cultures. It reaches out to a global constituency through its books, articles and public presentations. It envisions human societies in which three values serve as organizing principles of public policy: justice, inclusiveness and sustainability.

Policy Innovations

www.policyinnovations.org

The Global Policy Innovation (GPI) Programme provides a forum for pragmatic alternatives to the current global economic order. It aims to highlight the best new thinking on a fairer globalization through a series of activities such as daily publishing, regular convening and occasional research. The daily publishing includes the online magazine Policy Innovations, a companion blog, podcasts, videos and workshop summaries and analysis. GPI also convenes meetings with partners on best practices in civil society, operational dialogues between businesses and NGOs on applied ethics and strategic workshops with scholars, ethicists and practitioners on the international debate on globalization. Finally, GPI conducts occasional research projects on ethical issues in the global economy.

Rethinking Finance – Alternative voices for a new financial architecture

www.rethinkingfinance.org

Rethinking Finance is a website of several international civil society organizations and individuals who contribute to its content, keeping it a place of lively debate and up-to-date information. This website seeks to address the shortcomings of

policymakers in addressing the global crisis and in reforming the current global financial architecture. In the face of official reform proposals that are moderate at best and of decision processes that lack transparency and excludes many countries, Rethinking Finance puts forward alternative ideas and analyses, provides information about and comments on latest events, and gives an overview of civil society and other people's activities.

The Right Livelihood Award Foundation

www.rightlivelihood.org

The Right Livelihood Award Foundation was established in 1980 in Sweden by journalist Jacob von Uexkull who felt that the Nobel Prize categories were too narrow in scope and too concentrated on the interests of the industrialized countries to be an adequate answer to the challenges now facing humanity. Popularly known as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize', the Right Livelihood Award is widely recognized as the world's premier award for personal courage and social transformation. It honours and supports people who offer workable solutions to the most urgent challenges of our time. The Foundation also hosts the Right Livelihood College (RLC), a global capacity building initiative that aims to harness and spread the knowledge and experience of the Award's Laureates. It does this through promotion of education, research, public understanding and practical activities.

Small Planet

www.smallplanet.org

Small Planet creates media to express and share its core philosophy and the positive solutions stories that it uncovers in its research from rural Virginia

to rural Kenya and from Bengali villages to Brazilian favelas. These media include books, radio and television programming, internet videos, websites, magazine and newspaper articles and op-eds, public presentations and conferences. The Small Planet Institute was founded in 2011 by Frances Moore Lappé and Anna Lappé to further a worldwide shift from the dominant, failing notion of democracy – as something done to us or for us – towards democracy as a rewarding way of life: a culture in which citizens infuse the values of inclusion, fairness and mutual accountability into all dimensions of public life.

Social Watch

www.socialwatch.org

Social Watch is an international network made up of national citizens' groups aiming at following up the fulfilment of internationally agreed commitments on poverty eradication and equality. Social Watch reports on the progress – or regression – towards these commitments and goals. The Social Watch groups, organized on an *ad hoc* basis, have a focal point in each country that is responsible for promoting the initiative; submitting a national report for the yearly publication; undertaking lobbying initiatives before the national authorities to hold them accountable for the policies in place regarding the agreed commitments; promoting a dialogue about the national social development priorities and developing an active inclusive strategy to bring other groups into the national group. The international secretariat of Social Watch is hosted by the Third World Institute in Montevideo, Uruguay.

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