

## Dear Colleagues,

As we enter a new decade, philanthropy and civil society as we know it is not only growing but changing, due in large part to technological developments. The rate at which technology continues to [revolutionize](#) our day to day operations is quickening in pace and as '[digital natives](#)' come of age they will help to dictate this change. But change is never easy. Governments are struggling to align [freedom of information](#) with [national laws and security](#) as the convergence of technology brings even more people online. However, such change can increase the use and integration of information from various sources, to [propel development and measure results](#). Moreover, our environmentally fragile world will increasingly utilise technology to help victims of natural disasters, such as that deployed by [Ushahidi](#) to help those affected by the Haitian earthquake. It follows that civil society, donors and government alike must be able to respond quickly, and must also be well informed for [improved coordination and efficiency of development efforts](#).

We too recognise these and other related issues and intend to adapt as the environment in which we operate changes, confident in the knowledge that though some things change, others remain constant. The fact remains that there will always be those who are genuinely willing to help others in need. GSI remains steadfast in its desire to assist everyone in making wise philanthropic decisions through reliable information about CSOs, and by doing so hope to ensure that CSOs are given due recognition in all development processes.

Do have a look at recent news about our work and that of our partners. GuideStar India has been busy with their [Connect IT Workshops](#) and [GuideStar Korea](#) was featured on Korean TV where they spoke not only about philanthropy in Korea, but about GuideStar US. [Caroline Neligan visited Colombia](#) to introduce the GuideStar concept to civil society and Pushpa Aman Singh spoke about GuideStar India developments at a [Taiwanese conference](#) on NPO accountability. The need for information on CSOs was acknowledged in both countries. GSI has also provided information from our mapping work online via our [Google Map](#) and we welcome any information about CSOs in your country, which can be used to populate it. We also invite you to [subscribe to our blog](#) and look forward to receiving your comments.

Keisha Taylor  
Editor

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## Country Partners Update



### GuideStar India

#### GuideStar India's CEO gives presentation at Taiwan's International Conference on NPO Accountability

GuideStar India's CEO, Pushpa Aman Singh, gave a virtual presentation about NGO Accountability in India at the International conference on NPO Accountability in Taipei, Taiwan. Pushpa introduced the Indian voluntary sector and described the various initiatives being pursued to promote NGO transparency and accountability. Reacting to Pushpa's address, Professor Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao, Department of Sociology, NTU, expressed the desire to interact with Indian organisations as Taiwan takes steps towards the self-regulation of its voluntary sector. [Read more about the presentation.](#)



#### The British Asian Trust to support all its partners to register with GuideStar India

[The British Asian Trust](#) (a UK registered charity and the 20th member of the Prince's Charities) aims to serve as a 'social fund' in support of high impact charities within the areas of education, enterprise and health in South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan & Sri Lanka) and the UK. The British Asian Trust decided to support all its partners in India to register with GuideStar India with a view to enhancing their credibility through transparency and accountability.

Mr Pandurang Solanke from Action For Agricultural Renewal in Maharashtra-AFARM had this to share about the GuideStar workshop he attended:

*"Very helpful, learnt additional features, shortcuts which will save time, learnt additional Power Point features like power point video, hyperlinks, etc which will help in presentations, got to know about online tools and how to do marketing online, also shall spread the learnings to colleagues which will help them in their daily activities. I will ask other NGOs from our network to register for Nagpur and Sangli."*



#### GuideStar India hosts ConnectIT Workshops

235 participants from 157 NGOs attended IT training workshops (held in Pune, Nagpur, Sangli and Mumbai between November 2009 and January 2010) organised by the [NASSCOM Foundation](#) under the ConnectIT series. In the workshops, which were held in a lab format, participants picked tips and tricks to use MS Office more effectively in their day to day operations. Sessions on the use of social media, moviemaking and presentations were also a favourite with NGOs. GuideStar India reached out to more than 1700 NGOs across Maharashtra inviting them to take advantage of the free IT training workshops. [Read more on GuideStar India's Blog ...](#)



### GuideStar Korea

#### GuideStar Korea speaks about GuideStar (US) on Korean TV Programme

[GuideStar \(US\)](#) was featured on the [KBS](#) investigative program 'What Makes People Give'. The programme showed touching stories of charitable giving in Korea and the USA and discussed ways in which a donation culture could be encouraged in Korea. [GuideStar Korea](#) presented the GuideStar US website and the IRS Form 990 as an example of NPO information that is made available to the public. [Read more and watch the programme.](#)





### GuideStar (US)

#### Majority of Charities Report Increased Demand for Services Received yet Less Contributions

GuideStar (US) asked individuals associated with charitable organizations about the way in which contribution levels for January through September 2009 compared to those for the same period a year earlier. Some 51 percent reported decreased contributions. That figure is a significant increase from the 35 percent who reported reduced contributions in 2008. The latest results are consistent, however, with the 52 percent of respondents who reported decreased contributions in each of two previous GuideStar surveys, the first covering October 2008 through February 2009 and the second covering March through May 2009. [Read more and view tables of the survey results ...](#)



### GuideStar UK

#### A Balancing Act: Regulation and Reporting for Small Organisations

GuideStar UK has created an online filing facility in 'Update my charity' that allows 'sub £25k' charities to enter their financial statements as well as supply a wealth of other information, including photos and videos that help them describe their organisation and activities. This facility ensures that funders, potential supporters and members of the public have easy access to up-to-date information on a full range of charities, and not just the largest, household names. [Read more](#)

## GuideStar International News



### GuideStar Google Map

You can now learn about the progress of GuideStar programmes around the world through our [Google map](#). For each country, background information is provided on the context in which CSOs operate and the GuideStar programme is developing. This understanding is important as we promote reporting and transparency for CSOs. Through the development of GuideStar systems worldwide we are building a good picture of civil societies in different countries but there is much more to learn! Our aim is to fill this map out for many more countries but we need your help! Please complete the GSI Questionnaire or leave a comment to let us know what the civil society sector looks like in your country. [Have a look](#).



### Caroline Neligan presents GuideStar to Colombian Civil Society

At the invitation of [Conexion Colombia](#) Caroline travelled to Bogota, Colombia from the 16-19 November 2009 to present the GuideStar model to a group of over 200 NGO representatives. The meeting, entitled 'Fundraising and Innovation for NGOs' explored a range of initiatives that promote the work of NGOs and connect them to donors and other stakeholders at national and international levels. [Read more on our blog ...](#)

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## GuideStar International's Blog Update!

[GSI's blog](#) brings to the fore a range of reports, articles and comments on a number of issues related to the civil society sector in general. This includes discussions on philanthropy, ICT for development, access to information, aid effectiveness and civil society legislation and reporting. [Have a look at some entries](#). You can also [subscribe for email updates](#). Please feel free to comment on any of the blog entries!

- [UK Government launches free data site](#)
- [Civil Society and Social Outcomes: Towards Correlated Measurement](#)
- [Crowdsourcing and Text Messaging Reaches New Heights to Help Those in Haiti Affected by Earthquake](#)
- [2010: A year of Online Clouds, Crowds and Data Visualisations for CSOs](#)
- [Exploring the Non Profit Landscape](#)
- [The Growth of CSO Regulation](#)
- [Fix the Plumbing – The Need to Develop Civil Society and Philanthropy Infrastructure](#)
- [Disrupting Philanthropy?](#)
- [Steps Towards Crossborder Giving in Europe](#)
- [Can CSOs be Influential in Building Trust?](#)
- [Google Makes World Bank Data More Discoverable](#)

**Beyond the Gloom – Stepping Stones to Growing Philanthropy in Ireland**  
*Philanthropy Scope, Autumn 2009*  
The second of the series, this edition looks at The Role of Tax in Encouraging Philanthropy and other issues related to philanthropy in Ireland.  
[Read more ...](#)

## Related Articles

### **New and Emerging Technologies in Emergencies and Conflicts**

*United Nations and Vodaphone Foundation, December, 2009*

This report studies the way in which new and emerging technologies are being utilised by CSOs and Donors to address problems, which need immediate attention in conflict and emergency situations.

[Read more ...](#)

### **Responding to NGO Development Effectiveness Initiatives**

*Jeannet Lingán, Amy Cavender, Robert Lloyd and Beris Gwynne*

*One World Trust/World Vision Briefing Paper Number 122, November 2009*

This paper looks at the use and usefulness of various NGO self-regulation initiatives, in the development and humanitarian sectors. [Read more ...](#)

### **World Bank Civil Society Engagement**

*Review of Fiscal Years 2007 - 2009*

This report highlights the number of ways in which CSOs have been more involved in World Bank Projects and the Funds that they have received.

[Read the report ...](#)

### **The NGOs and Humanitarian Reform Project: Strengthening Partnership for Effective Humanitarian Response**

*International Rescue Committee: Ditchley Conference 2009*

The report examines NGO participation in humanitarian reform on the ground and recommends improvements in relation to issues like financing, accountability and coordination. [Read more ...](#)

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## Call for News Items

GuideStar International would like to promote the work of charitable and nonprofit organisations and act as an avenue of information. You can share resources, related news and information on civil society, accountability and transparency and nonprofit legislation etc, which may be of interest to our global audience. Please submit articles or weblinks for consideration.

Thanks for reading the GuideStar International Newsletter. We very much appreciate your feedback and suggestions. You can also [read previous newsletters](#) archived on our website.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with others and don't hesitate to let us know what you think! All comments and feedback can be sent to: [info@guidestarinternational.org](mailto:info@guidestarinternational.org).

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