



*Illuminating the work of the world's CSOs*

**Dear Colleagues,**

Public trust is hard to come by in today's economic climate. However, one can argue as evident by the [2009 Edelman Trust Barometer](#) that in most countries today charities and NGOs are trusted more than government, big business or the media. On the other hand, one cannot help but fear the knock on effect of this shattered trust on the civil society sector. As a result it is key that all nonprofits demonstrate more transparency and accountability to maintain and build confidence not only in their individual institutions but in the work of the sector as a whole.

We encourage you to have a look at the latest updates from our country partners, including an interview with Benoit Fontaine (KBF) who is working with Socialware (Techsoup, Belgium) on developing GuideStar in Belgium. You can also find a selection of key articles on philanthropy, information and NGO laws as well as ICT development news.

**Keisha Taylor**  
*Editor*

## **In this Issue**

**GSI Interviews Benoit Fontaine, Advisor King Baudoin Foundation**

## **GuideStar Updates**

### **South Africa**

- [GSI and Sangonet partner for GuideStar Directory](#)
- [South African NGOs offer feedback on Directory](#)

### **Israel**

- [Israeli Ministry of Justice Signs Agreement to take GuideStar forward](#)

### **Korea**

- [Internet Accounts Disclosure system launched in Korea](#)

### **United Kingdom**

- [GuideStar UK recommended by money.co.uk](#)
- [GuideStar UK data underpins Government research](#)
- [NCVO Almanac utilises GuideStar UK data](#)

### **United States**

- [The state of nonprofit transparency report](#)
- [Charity review debut on GuideStar \(US\)](#)

### **GuideStar Writes**

- [The Value of public access to CSO information](#)
- [New Legal Framework for Public Benefit Corporations in Japan](#)

### **In Other News**

- [How Bedclothes will affect crossborder giving in Europe](#)
- [Patterns and Structures of NGO Self-regulation in Africa](#)
- [Learning from the farmers market](#)
- [The Googlization of Philanthropy](#)
- [Global Trends in NGO Law](#)

## Interview with Benoît Fontaine (Advisor, King Baudouin Foundation)

### Interview with Benoît Fontaine (KBF)

In this issue we interview Benoît Fontaine (Advisor with the [King Baudouin Foundation](#)) who is working on developing GuideStar in Belgium. In the interview he talks about:

- The civil society sector in Belgium
- The reason for GuideStar interest in Belgium
- The main partners for the initiative
- Where the data for GuideStar Belgium will come from

[Read the interview ...](#)

[back to the top](#)

## Country Updates

### South Africa

#### GSI and SANGOnet Partner for GuideStar/Prodder NGO Directory

GSI and [The Southern African NGO Network](#) (SANGOnet) have established a strategic partnership to increase the functionality and value of the current [Prodder NGO Directory](#). The project will develop the systems, operating strategies, underlying data, sector-engagement protocols and other attributes necessary for a successful public launch of the service. [Read more about this partnership and the NGO directory ...](#)

#### South African NGOs offer feedback on directory

In broadening the scope of Prodder to facilitate sector reporting on a new GSI platform, SANGOnet consulted Prodder directory users via a series of focus group discussions. The objective of the meetings was to generate feedback on the system from potential users, assist with change management and prepare an implementation plan for the new Prodder/GuideStar system. [Read about the NGO feedback ...](#)

### Israel

#### Israeli Ministry of Justice Signs Agreement to take GuideStar forward

An agreement between the Israeli Ministry of Justice, JDC Israel (the Joint) and Yad Hanadiv (the Rothschild Foundation) on the creation of the GuideStar site was signed on 18 March 2009, following two years of negotiations. [Read more about the agreement ...](#)



## Korea

### **Korean National Tax Service launches Online Accounts Disclosure system for PBCs**

The [National Tax Service](#) (similar to [HM Revenue and Customs](#) in UK) launched an [Internet Accounts Disclosure System](#) for Korean Public Service Corporations (PSCs) whose gross assets amount to more than 1 billion won (about £ 500,000) according to the Inheritance Tax and Gift Tax Act. GuideStar Korea aims to put these PBCs on the GuideStar website. [Find out more about the new system ...](#)

## United Kingdom

### **GuideStar UK recommended by money.co.uk**

How To Make Sure Your Money Goes to a Legitimate Charity

*Money.co.uk, Sally Darby, 13 Mar 2009*

GuideStar UK has been recommended by money.co.uk as the place to go to when giving to charities.

[Read the review ...](#)

### **GuideStar data underpins major Government research**

The GuideStar Third Sector Database underpins a major report on the third sector in England. The first findings from the recently released National Survey of Third Sector Organisations (NSTSO) measures the environment for a thriving third sector across all 149 upper tier authorities in England. [Read about the research ...](#)

### **NCVO Almanac utilises GuideStar data**

Released this month, the [NCVO's UK Civil Society](#)

[Almanac 2009](#) provides not only an insight into the dimensions of the wider civil society but also in depth analysis of the voluntary and community sector utilising data from GuideStar. [Read the executive summary of the Almanac ...](#)

## United States

### **The State of Nonprofit Transparency, 2008: Voluntary Disclosure Practices**

This report published by GuideStar (US) highlights some of the ways that nonprofits are using the Internet to level the informational playing field and build trust through accountability and transparency. [Read the report published by GuideStar \(US\) ...](#)

### **Charity Reviews Debut on GuideStar**

GuideStar and GreatNonprofits have partnered to add reviews to the GuideStar Web site. [Read more about this initiative ...](#)

### **Learning from the Farmer's Market**

*Jacob Harold, Alliance magazine, 1 March 2009*

In light of the financial crisis, this article attempts to answer the question, "If markets fail the private sector, why should they work for civil society?" It highlights concepts which CSOs and businesses alike can learn from the community farmer's market.

[Read the article ...](#)

### GuideStar Writes

#### **The Value Of Public Access To Civil Society Information**

*Laura Ellis, April 2009*

This paper argues that citizens not only have a right to access information on organisations that impact their lives and communities but that there is also a significant value in them being able to do so. It argues that public provision of civil society organisation information, both regulatory and voluntary is essential. [Read more ...](#)

#### **New Legal Framework for Public Benefit Corporations (PBCs) in Japan**

This article by Mr. Tatsuo Ohta the CEO of the Japanese Association for Charitable Organisations (a GuideStar country partner), talks about the effect new legal frameworks will have on Public Benefit Corporations in Japan. [Read more ...](#)

### In Other News

#### **How Bed clothes will influence cross-border giving in Europe**

On the 27th January 2009 The European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that tax laws which discriminate against donations to public-benefit organisations based in other EU Member States are against the EC Treaty, as long as the recipient organisations based in other Member States are to be considered "equivalent" to resident public benefit organisations. [Read more about the Perche case on the Giving in Europe website ...](#)

#### **Patterns and Structures of NGO Self-Regulation in Africa**

*Mary Kay Gugerty, International Journal of Civil Society Law*

This article describes the challenges being faced by governments, NGOs and donors as the NGO sector continues to grow in Africa. It examines this within the context of issues like illiberal democratic governance, weak regulatory oversight, and the development of civil societies. [Read the article ...](#)

#### **The Googlization of Philanthropy**

*Sean Stannard-Stockton, Tactical Philanthropy, April 23rd 2009*

This article examines the way in which the organisation of information online is revolutionising the way people give. [Read this article ...](#)

#### **Global Trends in NGO Law**

#### **A quarterly review of NGO legal trends around the world**

The inaugural issue of **Global Trends in Nonprofit Law** has been published by the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) . It examines 5 major law related themes that affected NGOs in the past 2 years.

[Read the report ...](#)

## 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.

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).

Please add add this email address to your safe senders list to ensure that images are not blocked in the future.

If you received this message directly, you are on our mailing list. To [Subscribe](#) to the GuideStar International Newsletter, click here. To [Unsubscribe](#) click here.

© GuideStar International 2008, Address: Queens House, 55-56 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A3LJ. Tel: +44 (0) 207 2696549, Fax: +44 08701123846: Email: [info@guidestarinternational.org](mailto:info@guidestarinternational.org)

[back to the top](#)