

GuideStar News & Views

A Quarterly Newsletter of GuideStar International



Strengthening Global Civil Society Through Information

GuideStar International Newsletter: April 2008

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Dear Friends,

In this edition, we bring you an update on what has been happening at GSI and around us recently. Other than GuideStar International news, the issue includes articles on improvement of aid distribution based on the Paris Declaration, a paper on the charity law reforms in Japan and features emphasizing the importance of the work that civil society organisations do. We also had an opportunity to interview Mr. Michael Hall, the Vice President of Research at Imagine Canada, about his efforts to help build a GuideStar system for Canadian nonprofits. Another interesting section (new to this edition), is a brief introduction about leaders from the nonprofit sector around the world. For this edition, Mr. Miklós Marschall, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Transparency International, has kindly shared his bio with us. To make the newsletter more interesting, we invite you to contribute any information/news that you may want to share with our global audience. We hope you enjoy this edition.

Ahmed Saleem,
Director of Communications
[GuideStar International](#)

GuideStar in the News

[Help with Giving](#), *Financial Times*, Andrew Jack, 27th Mar 2008

This article examines how the charitable sector provides assistance to business executives who work with the nonprofit sector, and looks at the ways in which charities are helping to maximise philanthropy within the business sector. GuideStar UK is mentioned as one of the organisations that help in this regard.

[NPC and NCVO Debate Charity Scrutiny](#), *Debate between Martin Brooks (Director of Research, New Capital Philanthropy) and Stuart Etherington (Chief Executive, National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)), Philanthropy UK Newsletter, Issue 32, March 2008*

This debate puts forward various means by which charities' performance should be better accessed and charity reporting encouraged. GuideStar UK is highlighted as already helping charities to report their activities.

[Review of Jamie Oliver's Charity, Fifteen, finds Training was as Raw as Recruits](#), *Times Online*, March 22nd 2008

This article investigates the reluctance of charities to make information publicly available about their performance, and examines how the performance criteria on GuideStar UK is being utilised by charities in the UK.

[Is he Leading Charities in the Right Direction](#), *The Guardian*, Anne Kelly, 20th Feb, 2008

In this article the author converses with David Brocklebank, CEO of GuideStar Data Services in the UK about GuideStar UK.

[The Age of Cyberspace Offers Aids for Giving](#), *Financial Times*, Sarah Murray, 12th Feb 2008

This article explores the ways in which various online systems, including GuideStar have been improving the way people give to charitable organisations.

[The Tough Business of Transparency - GuideStar Germany Project in the News](#), *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (FAZ)*, 22nd Feb, 2008

The article gives a brief introduction to the German GuideStar project, which aims to build a comprehensive database of non-profit organisations in a country with little transparency and a lack of reporting standards. The ongoing scandal involving the German branch of UNICEF, which lost its seal of approval (accredited by DZI) last week, could be the catalyst making it happen. Martin Vogelsang the Project Manager for the German GuideStar project expressed "We hope we are the next to go online." **[Read the article in German](#)** **[Read the article in English](#)**.

[Video of Interview with Buzz Schmidt, CEO of GuideStar International on the Heart to Heart Programme in South Korea](#)

In this interview Buzz talks about the work of GuideStar International, the possibilities of the GuideStar system and the ways in which South Korea has been working towards building a GuideStar. Click **[here](#)** to view the video.

GuideStar Update



GuideStar International (GSI) & European Foundation Centre (EFC) European Foundation Database Project

GSI has collaborated with the EFC to look at the possibility of developing a **European Foundation database**, which would allow you to search for foundations throughout Europe. The project will focus primarily on 10 countries, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, the Republic of Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, and the United Kingdom.



NCVO Civil Society Almanac

Dubbed "*The sector's most important reference book*" by Ed Miliband, MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office in the UK, this almanac produced by the NCVO utilises GuideStar UK data to help inform the public about civil society organisations in the UK.

The Voluntary Agencies Directory

This directory created by the NCVO includes information about libraries and other voluntary organisations and can be a useful research and reference tool about the voluntary sector. Updated from last year's edition it includes over 900 new entries and provides contact information, extensive organisational profiles and financial data, much of which was sourced from GuideStar UK.

NEW STAFF

GuideStar International has recruited 2 new members Staff to work on the Global Technology Platform.

Stephen Le Roux (Chief Technology Officer) Stephen is a former CEO, MD and highly visionary entrepreneur with over 15 years of in-depth experience within the Information Technology sector. Primarily focused on innovation, driving technology initiatives and mentoring organisations within the Government and Public sector internationally, Stephen has been a valued critique within the industry and is now the main driving force behind the GSI Global Common Technology Platform. Academically, his main area of direction and expertise lies in Artificial Intelligence and he will be using these principles to provide an intelligent platform for the benefit of Civil Society Organisations

Hiten Vaghela (Web Developer) Hiten has a BSc Hons degree in Software Engineering and specialises in both database and web application design and development. Previously, Hiten was involved in the development of significant web applications on behalf of a well known law enforcement agency for a number of prominent government agencies.

EVENTS

CIVICUS World Assembly

People, Participation & Power

Glasgow, Scotland

18th - 21st June 2008

This year the Assembly will focus on ways in which civil society can work with government, business, media and donor bodies to further the development of society.

Related News

[Why Civil Society is an Essential Part of a Truly Vital World](#), The Guardian, Stuart Etherington, 20th Feb 2008

This article looks at the disparities between charities in rich and poorer areas and postulates the need for civil society to work with government to improve communities in the UK.

[From Paris 2005 to Accra 2008: Will Aid Become More Accountable and Effective? A Critical Approach to the Aid Effectiveness Agenda](#), 16th Jan 2008

The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, agreed in March 2005, establishes global commitments for donor and recipient countries to support more effective aid in a context of a significant scaling up of aid. The document outlines recommendations to ensure that the declaration allows for better aid distribution in 2008 and calls for ideas from civil society at large.

[In the Name of 'Civil Society'](#), Helen Colwell Adams, Feb 16th, 2008

Here the author's thesis is that the private sector (e.g. individuals, businesses, nonprofits, congregations and a host of other private organizations) are eclipsing the government and performing where they have been unable to.

[Ask the Economists: Internet & Development - Towards a Wider World Web?](#), 21st Feb 2008

This is an online debate hosted by Sam Paltridge from the OECD's Science, Technology and Industry department. He seeks to answer questions, related to the advantages of the Internet in the developing world and examines the impact the arrival of billions more users on the system will have on the Internet in the future.

[The Charity Law Reform, Tatsuo Ohta, President and CEO, Japan Association for Charitable Organisations \(JACO\)](#)

In this article Mr. Tatsuo Ohta who is also working on the development of a GuideStar in Japan, reports on current legislation which is affecting the Public Benefit Corporations in Japan.

GuideStar Country Window - News & Information from Country Partners



"The nonprofit and charitable sector is a fundamental part of Canadian life with an economic contribution that far outstrips key economic players such as the finance and insurance, automotive and agricultural industries and a social contribution that really is immeasurable."

Michael Hall, Imagine Canada

This month we interviewed *Michael Hall, Vice President of Research at Imagine Canada.*

He has actively begun work on the development of a GuideStar system for Canadian non profit organisations. In the interview we discussed:

- The present and historical importance of the nonprofit sector in Canada with regard to delivering services to communities.
- The reason why the GuideStar system was identified as the most suitable for online reporting of Canadian nonprofits.
- The value a GuideStar system would bring to the country's nonprofit sector, and
- The need to have the system online to encourage stakeholders.

Click [here](#) to read the entire interview.

PEOPLE'S VOICE

"In fact, GuideStar (UK) has already become useful to us. I found the retired and senior volunteer programme by CSV through your website when looking for information on older volunteers and how we can start making the concept more public and attractive."

Eppu Mikkonen-Jeanneret, Regional Representative, Europe & Central Asia, Help Age International

GuideStar Personality: Meet nonprofit leaders around the world



This quarter GSI welcomed **Miklós Marschall** to the Board.

Job Title: *Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, Transparency International*

Location: *Germany*

Industry/Sector experience: *I am the director of the biannual International Anti-corruption Conference (IACC). Prior to this I was the founding executive director of CIVICUS and served as deputy mayor of Budapest, Hungary. I am also the chair of the Hungarian Nonprofit Information and Training Center (NIOK) and an advisory board member of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).*

Skills and Specialist skills: *Civil society, non-profit management, governance, anti-corruption, arts funding.*

I've been at Transparency International since: *Late 1999.*

When I'm not at work I'm likely to be: *At home reading a good book, in a concert hall enjoying a great concert, or in a wine-yard tasting some good wines in Hungary.*

It would surprise colleagues to know that: *I am the chair of the board of an internationally acclaimed orchestra: the Budapest Festival Orchestra.*

The best book I ever read: *Imre Kertész: Fatelessness.*

My favourite film: *Istvan Szabó: Sunshine.*

My motto in life is: *Suaviter in Modo Fortiter in Re ("Soft in style, firm on content").*

Website Window

The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries

This website shares knowledge and experience from practitioners, teachers, researchers and policy makers in the design, development, implementation, management and evaluation of information systems and technologies in developing countries.

ELDIS

This website shares best practice in development, policy, practice and research.

International Center for Civil Society Law

This organisation aims to improve legislation that affects freedom of belief, expression, association, assembly information and participation.

Call for News Items to be included in next issue

GuideStar International would like to promote the work of organisations that work in the charitable and nonprofit sector and act as an avenue of information. You can share resources and related news and information on issues like civil society, accountability and transparency among civil society organisations and nonprofit legislation etc, which may be of interest to our global audience. Please submit articles that are no longer than 1 to 2 paragraphs (with the option of attaching a document or a weblink for further information). This can include:

- News updates/Research results.
- Details of Events/Conferences with a weblink.
- Opinion articles written about civil society, philanthropy, accountability, transparency, CSO legislation and the information society (with a brief biography of the writer).
- A description about your organisation or related project or organisation for our website section.
- A brief description of websites which can be included in our 'website window' which introduces several organisations websites in each edition of our newsletter.
- A biography of someone you work with in the sector or someone you would like us to do a brief interview with about a related issue.

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.

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