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SUMMARY

Latin America

» Stage of definitions on the Southern Bank

by Maria Jose Romero

The Southern Bank is one of the three pillars of the new regional financial architecture in South America, together with a Southern Fund and a South American Monetary Unit. This fact was agreed upon by the presidents of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay and Venezuela in the Quito Declaration signed on May 3, 2007. This Bank is intended to be an expression of sovereignty and financial independence, as well as an entity which will finance another kind of integration with emphasis (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3615>

» Characteristics of the experiences underway in Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia

by Eric Toussaint

In Latin America, if we exclude Cuba, we can point to three general categories of governments. First, the governments of the right, the allies of Washington, that play an active role in the region and occupy a strategic position: these are the governments of Alvaro Uribe in Colombia, Alan Garcia in Peru and Felipe Calderon in Mexico. Second, we find supposed "left" governments that implement a neoliberal policy and support the national or regional bourgeoisies in their projects: Brazil, (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3514>

» Wayward Allies: President Rafael Correa and the Ecuadorian Left

by Daniel Denvir

Outside of Ecuador, most progressives consider President Rafael Correa to be a Leftist champion of social and economic justice. Inside the country, however, conflicts between Correa and the social movement Left, the indigenous movement, environmentalists and unions, among others have become increasingly heated. On June 23, Constituent Assembly President and long-time social movement ally Alberto Acosta resigned his post after high-profile disagreements with Correa over issues of procedural (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3586>

» Brazilian Public Debt: Who owes who?

by Gabriel Strautman

Gabriel Strautman is an economist of the Institute of Alternative Policies for the Southern Cone (PACS), member of the Brazilian Network on Multilateral Financial Institutions and of the Jubilee South Network. The recent announcement of Brazil's upgrade to the net external creditor position-when a country's external assets surpass its liabilities-was very welcome by the Brazilian Government's financial authorities as a triumph of our economic policy. According to the government, for the (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3596>

Morocco

» Solidarity with the people of Sidi Ifni

On 7 June 2008 ("Black Saturday"), the inhabitants of Sidi Ifni, a city located about 160 km south of Agadir, were victims of an operation to reprisals and widespread repression. Women and children were not spared. More than 4 000 police officers and auxiliary forces have violently repressed blocking the port, where militants were installed last week to defend their legitimate right to obtain work and the possibility of decent life. The forces of repression have also attacked and invested randomly selected homes, terrorizing the entire city. Then when torture, looting and arrests. Some even refer rape and murder[...]Signing the petition / See the video by Souad Guennoun and Attac Morocco(...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3607>

Odious Debt Doctrine

» Illegitimate Debt: The Topicality of the Odious Debt Doctrine CADTM Position

The odious debt doctrine is regularly called upon in debates around the debt issue in countries of the South. Yet the argument is just as regularly ignored or discredited by creditors and their partisans. The latest attempt in this line came from the World Bank when in its report Odious Debt: some considerations it questioned the validity and applicability of the doctrine and tried to bring the debate to (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3614>

» Topicality of the odious debt doctrine

The odious debt doctrine is not dead and buried, whatever some would like to believe. The US stampede retreat on Irak's odious debt in 2003, and more recently a WB report that vainly attempted to question its validity both show how significant a stake it is for both debtors and creditors. The present document aims at reopening the debate on odious debts, and more generally on illegitimate debts, so that governments can use these legal arguments to stop paying undue debts.

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3618>

» Odious debt roundtable report

The World Bank and Eurodad have published the outcome report of the recent round-table on odious debt and responsible lending. The round-table represented the first open dialogue on the issue of illegitimate debt between CSOs and the World Bank. It also involved inputs from creditor and debtor governments, academics and other experts. (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3602>

Debt Campaign

» 7th bulletin of international campaign on illegitimate debt

This is a publication that comes out every two months to summarise recent and forthcoming actions in the International Campaign on Illegitimate Debt carried out by activists across the world. It aims to publicise the actions and give opportunities for more people to get involved to challenge illegitimate debts and the structures which lead to them. The bulletin is produced by Jubilee South, Jubilee USA, Eurodad, and CADTM.

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3511>

World Bank, WTO, IMF, Doha Round, Natural Resources

» The Guardian uncovers a 'secret' World Bank biofuel report

by Tom Philpott

In a startling article published July 4, the Guardian reports that in a "secret" study, a World Bank senior economist concluded that the recent explosion in biofuels use has driven global food prices up by 75 percent-a number much higher than estimates from other major sources. The USDA-which has vigorously defended President Bush's seemingly bottomless support for crop-based fuels-claims biofuels account for only 3 percent of recent food price hikes. The World Bank study's author, (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3519>

» Wrong doctor, wrong remedies. WTO pushes for more trade liberalisation to solve food crisis: more fuel on the fire!

by Via Campesina

About 40 hand-selected trade ministers invited to Geneva do not have any mandate to decide on the future of millions of people. La Via Campesina demands an end to the WTO negotiations! The policies

of the WTO have de-regulated food and agricultural markets. They have pushed for privatisation of services and natural resources generating a speculative bubble out of control of national governments, increasing hunger to up to a billion people. The current world food crisis is a direct (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3580>

» The perils of a doha deal on services

by Walden Bello

Desperate to clinch a new global trade deal, World Trade Organization chief Pascal Lamy is planning to convene a "mini-ministerial" meeting in the third week of July. The aim of the meeting is to come up with agreements on trade in agriculture, industry, and services which have been the focus of the so-called Doha Round of WTO negotiations that have dragged on since 2001. Developing country governments have been rightly concerned about agreeing to texts which promise illusory reductions in (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3528>

» Natural Resources are the Common Goods of Humanity

by CADTM

Controlling the use of natural resources is one of the major concerns of all governments. However, large quantities of these natural resources are found in countries of the South (oil, metals, diamond, timber, etc.) and thus attract the great powers, such as the US, the EU or China, who have an imperative need for them to feed their economies. The consequences are often tragic for people in the Global South, who cannot benefit from their own resources. For instance the Democratic Republic (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3570>

» International Monetary Fund Programs and Tuberculosis Outcomes in Post-Communist Countries

by David Stuckler, Lawrence P. King, Sanjay Basu

Previous studies have indicated that International Monetary Fund (IMF) economic programs have influenced health-care infrastructure in recipient countries. The post-communist Eastern European and former Soviet Union countries experienced relatively similar political and economic changes over the past two decades, and participated in IMF programs of varying size and duration. We empirically examine how IMF programs related to changes in tuberculosis incidence, (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3589>

G8

» G8 Final Statement

The gathering of the most powerful countries of the world is an occasion for the people of the world to demand that this G8 Summit address the twin 'tsunamis' that plague humanity today-the food and climate crisis-and the continuing problem of Debt that has contributed significantly to these two crises and exacerbate their impacts.

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3524>

» Make use of G8 summit to ask for debt write-off

by Koalisi Anti Utang (KAU)/Anti Debt Coalition Indonesia

Jakarta-The Anti Debt Coalition (KAU) has called on the government to capitalize on the summit which will take place near Lake Toya Hokkaido, Japan, on July 7-9, 2008 to ask for the writing off of Indonesia's foreign debt. This had to be done by Indonesia on the ground that 91 percent of its bilateral foreign debt which now stood at Rp258.96 trillion was to G-8 countries, KAU Chairman Dani Setiawan said here on Thursday. The debt writting off was a form of responsibility of (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3525>

» Japan follows singapore in dealing with foreign activists

by Walden Bello

Trade, climate change, skyrocketing oil prices, and debt have been the topics of discussion in the parallel civil society events to the Group of Eight Summit, but the issue that has drawn the greatest attention is the Japanese authorities' heavy handed approach to security for the official gathering. 21,000 police personnel have been deployed to the island of Hokkaido, most of them to the city of Sapporo and nearby Toyako, where the meeting will take place next week. Large numbers of them, (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3529>

» Make the Hokkaido Summit the Last Summit of the G8!

Declaration of Participants in the International Solidarity Days of the G8 Action Network, July 8, 2008

The G8 Summit opened in Hokkaido yesterday with the usual rhetoric of concern about conditions in Africa. These are statements that few people in Africa and the rest of the world take seriously, given how far the G8 governments are from raising the \$20 billion they pledged for Africa at the Gleneagles Summit in 2005. Indeed, if there is anything that distinguishes this particular G8 (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3545>

» Open letter to the Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda

Hokkaido, Japan - 6 July 2008 We environmentalists, social movements, peasant farmers, workers and civil society organisations ? in solidarity with 23 Korean farmers and trade unionists who were denied entry to Japan denounce the authorities' unwillingness to allow their participation in civil society events taking place parallel to the G8 summit on 7th until 9th July. Among other issues, the unionists and farmers were to raise awareness about the millions of Koreans who have been (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3546>

» The G8 Communique on Climate: Regression not a Forward Movement

Statement of Organizations Affiliated with the G8 Action Network, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, July 9, 2006 The G8's communique regarding their action on climate is actually inaction being masked as movement. It is a great fraud being perpetrated on the global community that would significantly reduce the global community's capacity to contain climate change. We fully agree with the statement of the Government of South Africa that "[W]hile the Statement may appear as a movement forward, we are (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3547>

» Counter-summit against G8 at Japan and Peoples' Forum in Africa-No rest for the struggles!

by Pauline Imbach , Eric De Ruest , Eric Toussaint

Report prepared by Eric De Ruest, Pauline Imbach and Eric Toussaint on the basis of messages from Japan and Mali. For the CADTM international network the beginning of this summer resonates with the counter-summit ! Myriam BOURGY (CADTM-Belgium), Sushovan DHAR (VAK-India) and Yoko AKIMOTO (ATTAC Japan) attended the G8 counter summit at Hokkaido in Japan. A gathering of anti-globalisation activists under high security, numerous persons were prohibited from entering the islands, the streets (...)

<http://www.cadtm.org/spip.php?article3550>

AGENDA

September

- » 1 September => 2 September | Madrid, Spain | Social World Forum on Migrations 2008
- » 10 September => 15 September | Quito, Ecuador | World Meeting on Debt
With CADTM, Eurodad, Jubilee South, Jubilee USA, Latindadd, Afrodad, etc...
- » 17 September => 21 September | Malmo, Sweden | European Social Forum
- » 21 September => 23 September | Copenhagen, Denmark | WSF International Council

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THE OTHER VOICES OF THE PLANET

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