

## Poetry and Global Poverty:

### Irish NGOs launch poetry competition

29 June 2010

**Details of a new poetry competition were announced today.**

Dóchas – the network of Ireland’s overseas aid agencies - and the Irish Haiku Society have teamed up to launch the **IHS International Haiku Competition 2010**.

*“We are proud to announce a new Irish poetry competition. And we are especially proud to be associated with the Irish Haiku Society, which brings together leading poets from across the island”,* said Hans Zomer of Dóchas, the network of Irish aid agencies.

*“We are continuously looking to improve Ireland’s role in the global fight against extreme poverty. And we need to find new ways to express the importance of global solidarity for countries like our own. In the age of Twitter and 140 character messages, Haiku and Senryu present the ideal art form for those of us concerned with global justice and poverty”,* said Hans Zomer.

The winning haiku poems in the competition will be those that express best what it means to live in Ireland at the beginning of the 21st century, and how Ireland can play a role in shaping our global future, as part of a world-wide society of nations and peoples.

*“One of the dangers arising out of the current economic turmoil is that Ireland may be losing its sense of direction, and its sense of confidence. The economic recession has the risk of promoting ideas of isolationism and insularity, which are at odds with the global nature of the economic and political forces that are shaping our future, and at odds with the confident globalism that brought about the success of the Celtic Tiger. Through this competition we want to encourage outward looking attitudes in Ireland, and renew the spirit that has seen Ireland play such an important role on the world stage”* said Hans Zomer, whose organisation Dóchas is sponsoring the €100 prize money for the competition.

For competition details, simply log on to the Irish Haiku Society’s website, at <http://irishhaiku.webs.com/haikucompetition.htm>.

The competition deadline is 31 October 2010.

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**Dóchas** is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations. Dóchas provides a forum for consultation and co-operation between its members and helps them speak with a single voice on development issues. More information about the work of Dóchas is available on its website, [www.dochas.ie](http://www.dochas.ie)

The **Irish Haiku Society**, founded in September 2006, is an association of haiku poets. The Society organises haiku meetings, readings, book-launches, workshops, ginko and other haiku-related events.

For details, see <http://irishhaiku.webs.com/>