

PRESS RELEASE

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23 April: "New Voices in Development" conference

Aid agencies welcome growing number of Irish initiatives fighting global poverty

One of the big untold stories of recent years is the dramatic increase in the number of Irish people and organisations that work to end global poverty. In addition to the "traditional" work of missionaries and aid agencies, there now are hundreds of private companies, school projects and twinning programmes that seek to contribute to the global fight against poverty.

"At Dóchas, our aim is to ensure that Ireland's development efforts have the greatest possible impact on global poverty. We are keen to ensure that we address the multiple dimensions of poverty, and we think the diversity of approaches and philosophies represented by the "new voices" in global development is vital if we want to help end world poverty. At the same time, we think there is a great need for professionalism and quality standards, and we encourage cooperation and debate among the many organisations that are active in this field," said Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas, the organisation hosting the conference.

There are now over 150 Development NGOs in Ireland, and Irish colleges of education offer more than 25 higher-level graduate courses on international development. At the same time, many schools and local authorities have started linking programmes with similar institutions in the developing world, and many Irish firms have embraced the principles of fair trade and responsible enterprise.

On Friday 23 April, Dóchas will host a conference, '**New Voices in Development**', to bring together established and emerging development organisations with representatives of the private sector, philanthropists and academics. The conference is aimed at providing a forum for discussion between established NGOs and private sector actors in development.

This conference takes place at the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. It will be chaired by **Sarah Carey** from the Irish Times and will bring together a host of national and international experts on global development.

The speakers at the conference are:

- Renowned author of *The Bottom Billion*, **Paul Collier** (by video).
- **Lawrence Haddad**, Director of Institute of Development Studies, Brighton President of the UK and Ireland's Development Studies Association; Leader of 'Reimagining Development', a new initiative bringing together 34 research projects from around the world to identify new thoughts and ideas on international development.
- **Sara Kinsbergen**, Researcher, Radboud University Nijmegen; Author of '*The Anatomy of Private Development Initiatives*'.

- **Andy Sweeney**, Founder, SCOOP Foundation, on Emerging NGOs.
- **Philip Lee**, Co-Founder and Chairman, ConnectEthiopia and **Aidan Magner**, Supply Chain Manager, M/A Com Tech on Private Sector approaches to development.

The panelists are:

- **Dominic Loughran**, Director of Operations, Niall Mellon Irish Township Trust
- **Moore McDowell**, Economist and Journalist
- **Jim Corbett**, Managing Director, Bewleys
- **H.E. Zerihun Retta**, Ethiopian Ambassador to Ireland
- **Justin Kilcullen**, Director of Trócaire

The conference is organised in the context of Dóchas' work on "**development effectiveness**", and follows directly on the Annual General Meeting of Dóchas' 43 member organisations. Dóchas members adhere to a number of codes of conduct, which they feel are key mechanisms to ensure that the work of Ireland's NGOs is of the highest possible standard.

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NOTES:

- The conference takes place on **Friday 23 April from 2 to 5.30 pm** at the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8.
For more information about the conference, log on to <http://www.dochas.ie/newvoices/Default.aspx>

Dóchas is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its 43 members, and helps them speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: www.dochas.ie

Dóchas Member Agencies

1. ActionAid Ireland
2. Action from Ireland
3. Africa Centre
4. Aidlink
5. Amnesty International-Irish Section
6. Bóthar
7. Camara
8. Centre for Global Education
9. ChildFund Ireland

10. Children in Crossfire
11. Christian Aid Ireland
12. Christian Blind Mission Ireland
13. Church Mission Society Ireland
14. Comhlámh
15. Concern Worldwide
16. Friends of Londiani (Ireland)
17. Galway One World Centre
18. Gorta
19. International Service Ireland
20. Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation
21. Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs
22. Irish Council for International Students
23. Irish Family Planning Association
24. Irish Foundation for Cooperative Development
25. Irish Missionary Union
26. Irish Red Cross
27. Kerry Action for Development Education
28. National Youth Council of Ireland
29. Oxfam Ireland
30. Plan Ireland
31. Progressio Ireland
32. Self Help Africa
33. SightSavers International
34. Skillshare International Ireland
35. Suas Educational Development
36. The Hope Foundation
37. Trócaire
38. Vita
39. Voluntary Service International
40. Voluntary Service Overseas
41. Volunteer Missionary Movement
42. War on Want Northern Ireland
43. World Vision Ireland