

# BIEN - Basic Income Earth Network

## NEWSFLASH 46 July 2007

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[www.basicincome.org](http://www.basicincome.org)

The Basic Income Earth Network was founded in 1986 as the Basic Income European Network. It expanded its scope from Europe to the Earth in 2004. It serves as a link between individuals and groups committed to or interested in basic income, and fosters informed discussion on this topic throughout the world.

The present NewsFlash has been prepared with the help of Paul Nollen, Simon Birnbaum, David Casassas, Jurgen De Wispelaere, Seàn Healy, Michael Howard, Jim Mulvale, Philippe Van Parijs, Karl Widerquist, and Pablo Yanes.

This NewsFlash can be downloaded as a PDF document on our website [www.basicincome.org](http://www.basicincome.org)

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## 1. EDITORIAL

The 12th BIEN Congress will be held on 20-21 June 2008 in Dublin, Ireland. Following a full-day meeting of members of BIEN EC and the Dublin Congress Organising Committee on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007, it has been decided that the theme of this World Congress will be: "Inequality and Development in a Globalised Economy - The Basic Income Alternative". Further information in section 2 below.

*The Executive Committee*

## 2. 12th BIEN CONGRESS, June 2008, Dublin (Ireland)

**The 12th International Congress of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) will be held on 20-21 June 2008 in Dublin, Ireland.** The theme of this World Congress is: **Inequality and Development in a Globalised Economy - The Basic Income Option.** This two-day event involving participants from all the continents of the world will be preceded by a one-day event (June 19, 2008) which will focus on Basic Income in Ireland and will be open to all participants in the World Congress.

This Congress will combine plenary sessions featuring invited speakers and parallel workshops with volunteered papers. Major themes to be addressed include:

- o Why Basic Income provides a key part of the answer to the challenges posed on issues such as inequality and development in the emerging globalised world.
- o How a Basic Income system can be operationalised and achieved - politically, institutionally and technically.
- o The way forward if Basic Income approaches and systems are to become a reality in the foreseeable future.

**Call for papers and panel coordinators.** A Call for Papers will be issued on September 1st 2007. There will be capacity for a large number of parallel sessions each lasting 90 minutes and with a maximum of three presentations per session. To create more coherence, a substantial proportion of the sessions will take the form of panels, i.e. pre-organised workshops on a common issue.

The Organising Committee for Congress 2008 would welcome proposals from panel coordinators. Proposals for workshops are also welcome. The Organising Committee would also welcome proposals from individuals independent of the panels. Civil society organisations are also encouraged to participate.

The topics on which individual papers and/or panel proposals would be welcome include

*Basic Income and:*

- § Work
- § Environment
- § Poverty
- § Justice
- § Progress
- § Development
- § Inequality
- § Globalisation
- § Compassion
- § Social Sustainability
- § Gender
- § Pensions
- § Children
- § Marginalised groups
- § People with Disabilities
- § People of employment age
- § Business
- § Economic Growth
- § Consumption
- § Costings (of various approaches to introducing Basic Income)
- § Pathways to Basic Income
- § Africa
- § South and Central America
- § USA
- § Europe
- § Asia/Pacific

- § Particular countries
- § Population
- § Happiness
- § Citizenship
- § Social Capital
- § Civil Society
- § Wellbeing
- § Caring
- § Participation
- § Economic sustainability
- § Culture

Individual papers and/or panel proposals could also look at issues such as

- § Justification(s) for Basic Income
- § Basic Income and current welfare arrangements
- § Political strategies in moving towards the introduction of a Basic Income system
- § Technical issues to be addressed in moving towards a Basic Income system.

Papers may be written in any language but the abstract must be submitted in English and the working language of the Congress will be English.

Full details will be available in the Call for Papers on September 1. The organizing team looks forward to receiving proposals as soon as possible after that date. Full details will be available on the Congress website via [www.basicincome.org](http://www.basicincome.org)

Proposals should reach the organising committee of the Congress as soon as possible and no later than February 1st, 2008. Acceptance of panel and workshop proposals will be confirmed by the Organising Committee by March 1st, 2008 at the latest. [This confirmation of acceptance will be provided earlier to those who submit proposals earlier.]

Proposals for papers, presentations or contributions (by individuals or as part of a panel or workshop) should include the following information:

1. Name
2. Affiliation (if applicable) including job title and organisation
3. Address
4. Telephone number (including international access code)
5. email address
6. Title of the presentation/contribution
7. Abstract (summary of 50 to 150 words)

These should be emailed to [papers@basicincomeireland.com](mailto:papers@basicincomeireland.com)

Details concerning registration for the conference, accommodation, etc. will be available on the Congress website [www.basicincomeireland.com](http://www.basicincomeireland.com) and will be emailed in due course to all those whose papers are accepted for presentation at the Congress.

### **3. NEW ISSUE OF BASIC INCOME STUDIES**

Basic Income Studies is pleased to announce the publication of BIS Vol. 2, Issue 1 (June 2007). This issue features a debate, guest-edited by Rubèn Lo Vuolo (CIEPP, Buenos Aires), on the prospects of basic income for improving employment opportunities in developing countries. BIS is the first academic journal on basic income. It has a free guest access policy so that everyone can access its content free by filling out a form requesting a library or an institution to subscribe.

BIS back issues are available for free sampling at <http://www.bepress.com/bis>. Click the required article and follow the instructions to get free guest access to all BIS publications.

CONTENTS OF VOL. 1, ISSUE 2:

“From the Editors”.

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art2>

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Michael W. Howard "A NAFTA Dividend: A Guaranteed Minimum Income for North America".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art4>

José A. Noguera "Why Left Reciprocity Theories Are Inconsistent".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art5>

Tony Fitzpatrick "Streams, Grants and Pools: Stakeholding, Asset-Based Welfare and Convertibility".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art6>

RESEARCH NOTES

Almaz Zelleke "Targeting Benefit Levels to Individuals or Families?".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art7>

Tero Auvinen "A Monetary Reformist Road to Universal Basic Income".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art8>

DEBATE: “BASIC INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES”

Corina Rodríguez Enríquez "Basic Income and Labour Market Conditions: Insights from Argentina".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art9>

Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy "Basic Income and Employment in Brazil".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art10>

Claudia Haarmann and Dirk Haarmann "From Survival to Decent Employment: Basic Income Security in Namibia".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art11>

Jeremy Seekings "The Inconsequentiality of Employment Disincentives: Basic Income in South Africa".

<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art12>

Louise Haagh "Basic Income, Occupational Freedom and Antipoverty Policy".  
<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art13>

#### BOOK REVIEWS

Stephen Winter "Review of John W. Hughes, Major Douglas: The Policy of a Philosophy".  
<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art14>

Athina Vlachantoni "Review of Keith Dowding, Jurgen De Wispelaere, and Stuart White, The Ethics of Stakeholding".  
<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art15>

Mònica Clua Losada "Review of Guy Standing, Income Security as a Right: Europe and North America".  
<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art16>

Cristian Pérez Muñoz "Review of Stuart White, The Civic Minimum: On the Rights and Obligations of Economic Citizenship".  
<http://www.bepress.com/bis/vol2/iss1/art17>

To submit your next paper to Basic Income Studies, visit <http://www.bepress.com/bis>, and click "Submit Article". If you like to discuss your contribution informally, contact editors Jurgen De Wispelaere or Karl Widerquist at [bis-editors@bepress.com](mailto:bis-editors@bepress.com).

BIS is published by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress), sponsored by Red Renta Básica (RRB) and BIEN, and supported by USBIG.

#### 4. EVENTS

**\*REGINA (CA)**, 6-8 June 2007: "Economic Security for All in Saskatchewan: Weaving an Unbreakable Social Fabric".

This well-attended conference was organized by the Department of Justice Studies of the University of Regina (Saskatchewan, Canada) and the Regina Anti-Poverty Network. Basic income was discussed during the plenary sessions (with presentations by Rob Rainer, Executive Director of the National Anti-Poverty Organization, and Yannick Vanderborght, Newsletter Editor of BIEN), as well as in the framework of parallel workshops. The Conference attracted some media attention from local Newspapers (Leader-Post) and the French-speaking "Radio Canada" (CBC).

A lively debate about Economic Security has already been launched in Saskatchewan in the wake of the conference. See these two pieces:

Guaranteed annual income - Wolf in sheep's clothing?

<http://www.actupinsask.org/content/view/324/56/>

Daring to think big (and creatively) about economic security

<http://www.actupinsask.org/content/view/327/1/>

For further information on the conference: <http://www.uregina.ca/arts/justice-studies/esc/index.html>, or contact the Conference chairman Jim Mulvale:  
[Jim.Mulvale@uregina.ca](mailto:Jim.Mulvale@uregina.ca)

See also one of the Leader-Post's articles:

[http://www.canada.com/reginaleaderpost/news/city\\_province/story.html?id=effd044b-cd2d-4b5b-aa06-154864bd29b0](http://www.canada.com/reginaleaderpost/news/city_province/story.html?id=effd044b-cd2d-4b5b-aa06-154864bd29b0)

\* **BRUSSELS (BE)**, 3 July 2007: Basic Income at the EU Parliament

This seminar was organized at the initiative of Sepp Kusstatscher, member of the European Parliament for The Greens – European Free Alliance, with the participation of a.o. Michael Opielka and Benedictus Hardrop (Germany), Lieselotte Wohlgenannt (Austria), Brigit Reynolds (Ireland), Loek Groot (Netherlands) and Philippe Van Parijs (Belgium). The material of the conference and the video interviews to the speakers are now available on the Greens/EFA website:

[http://www.greens-efa.org/cms/default/dok/191/191134.homepage\\_conference\\_on\\_basic\\_income@en.htm](http://www.greens-efa.org/cms/default/dok/191/191134.homepage_conference_on_basic_income@en.htm)

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[www.sepp.kusstatscher.net](http://www.sepp.kusstatscher.net)

\* **MANCHESTER (UK)**, 3-5 September 2007: Workshop on 'Ethics, Work and Emancipation'

A workshop on 'Ethics, Work and Emancipation' is planned as part of the 'Workshops in Political Theory' Fourth Annual Conference that will be held at Manchester Metropolitan University, 3-5 September 2007.

The goal of this specific workshop is to explore the possibility of, and the difficulties associated with realizing, emancipatory or meaningful forms of work in contemporary capitalist societies. Papers are welcomed from researchers working in the disciplines of political, social, and economic philosophy/theory.

Key themes and areas of focus include:

- \* Basic income and work: What is the relation between meaningful work and the basic income literature? Is the call for a basic citizen income at odds with, indifferent to, or, instead, a support to the demand for meaningful modes of human productivity?
- \* The concept of emancipatory/meaningful work
- \* The historical genesis of the concept of work
- \* The ethics and morality of meaningful work
- \* The politics of meaningful work
- \* Work and the economy

Organizers: Keith Breen (Queen's University Belfast), Ruth Chenoweth (Royal Holloway College). If you are interested in presenting a paper in this workshop, please contact Keith Breen ([k.breen@qub.ac.uk](mailto:k.breen@qub.ac.uk)).

For further information, see [www.hlss.mmu.ac.uk/pap/events/wpt](http://www.hlss.mmu.ac.uk/pap/events/wpt)

**BASEL (CH)**, 5-7 October 2007, Second German-speaking Basic income Congress

"Unconditional and securing everyone's needs! Basic Income as a human right" is the title of the second German speaking congress to be held on October 5-7, 2007, in the Swiss city of

Basel. Several panels as well as various workshops will take place, dealing with the following questions:

- Basic Income as a human right
- Concept(s) of „labor“/„work“ and the „idea of man“
- Social security system - Labour as the centre of traditional models
- How European social security systems could be changed with regard to BI
- Workfare / atypical work / Working poor – which impact do this new forms of work have on the idea of BI
- How to finance a BI

All workshops and discussions will pay attention to the Gender dimension.

Among the experts invited are Anne Alex, Margit Appel, Ronald Blaschke, Alex Demirovic, Wolfgang Engler, Andreas Exner, Maria Hintersteiner, Nicole Lieger, Ueli Maeder, Dagmar Paternoga, André Presse, Harald Rein, Klaus Sambor, Franz Segbers, Aji Sirmoglu, Peter Ulrich, Mag Wompel.

This international congress is organized by the BI-networks of Switzerland, Austria and Germany together with “Attac Deutschland”, “Inhaltsgruppe Grundeinkommen - Attac Österreich” and “Attac Schweiz”.

For further details: [www.grundeinkommen2007.org](http://www.grundeinkommen2007.org)

**\*OXFORD (UK)**, 26-27 October 2007, Conference: Towards a 'Basic Income Society'?

The Centre for the Study of Social Justice at the University of Oxford, along with the Department of Politics and International Relations, Oxford's Public Policy Unit, and the Association for Legal and Social Philosophy (ALSP), will be hosting a two-day conference entitled 'Towards a Basic Income Society?'

For further information visit the conference website at <http://social-justice.politics.ox.ac.uk/events/basicincome>, or contact the organizers David Casassas (University of Oxford) and Jurgen De Wispelaere (Trinity College Dublin) at [basic.income@politics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:basic.income@politics.ox.ac.uk).

The past two decades have witnessed a remarkable revival in both academic and policy circles of the idea that every citizen should be granted an unconditional basic income by right, without a means test or work requirement. Nevertheless, many questions remain before this idea could be turned into a workable policy. Prominent among these are questions about the very shape of a basic income society: what would a society in which an unconditional basic income takes a central place look like in terms of its broader policies and institutions? Relatedly, there are important debates about the normative justification and political feasibility of a basic income society. The conference reflects on these questions, aiming to chart both promising avenues and pitfalls in the current debate.

Participants include Simon Birnbaum, David Casassas, Jurgen De Wispelaere, Antoni Domènech, Tony Fitzpatrick, Louise Haagh, Bill Jordan, José Antonio Noguera, Michael Opielka, Carole Pateman, David Purdy, Daniel Raventós, Yannick Vanderborght, Stuart White and Karl Widerquist.

**\* BARCELONA (ES)**, 22-23 November 2007: 7th Symposium of Red Renta Básica and Third Seminar of Emerging Human Rights

Convenors: Red Renta Básica (RRB-XRB) & Institut de Drets Humans de Catalunya (IDHC)  
Apart from opening and closing plenary sessions (definitive programme will be published in due course), the Symposium will include 8 panels on the following issues:

- 1) Human Rights and Basic Income
- 2) Women and Basic Income
- 3) Labour Market, Right to Work, and Basic Income
- 4) Basic Income: Financial and Economic Issues
- 5) Rights of Immigrants and Basic Income
- 6) Normative Justifications of Basic Income
- 7) Basic Income and Social and Political Actors
- 8) Right to Basic Assets Security (water, food and energy) and Basic Income

Languages of the Symposium: Spanish and Catalan

A provisional list of the papers that will be given can be found at  
<http://www.nodo50.org/redrentabasica/textos/index.php?x=612>

More information can be found at  
<http://www.nodo50.org/redrentabasica/textos/index.php?x=564>

\* **BOSTON (US)**, 7-9 March 2008, Seventh USBIG Congress

The USBIG Network will hold its Seventh Congress at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel on March 7-9, 2008. The Keynote Speaker will be Philippe Van Parijs, of Harvard University and Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium), Author of *Real Freedom for All* (1995). Featured Speakers include Sean Healy and Brigid Reynolds of the Council of the Religious of Ireland. The Congress will be based on the theme: "What Next: Framing a BIG Discussion for the Next Election and Beyond".

Scholars, activists, and others are invited to propose papers, and organize panel discussions. Proposals and panel discussions are welcome on BIG or topics related to the distribution of wealth and income. All points of view are welcome. Submissions from any academic discipline are invited and non-academics are invited to submit as well. Anyone interested in presenting a paper or organizing a panel should submit either an abstract of their paper or a panel proposal to the chair of the organizing committee, Michael A. Lewis:  
[mlewis@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:mlewis@notes.cc.sunysb.edu)

Please include the following information with your abstract and/or panel proposal:

1. Name
2. Affiliation
3. Address
4. City, State, Zip, and Country
5. Telephone, FAX
6. Email Address
7. Paper or Presentation Title
8. Abstract of 50-150 words

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: October 29th, 2007

Proposals for panel discussions should include a title, topic, and description of the panel and the information above for each participant. If the participants are not presenting formal papers, the title of the paper and abstract may be omitted. Panels with formal paper



presentations should be limited to four presentations, although discussions without formal papers can include more.

## 5. GLIMPSES OF NATIONAL DEBATES

### \* **CANADA:** ANTI-POVERTY ORGANIZATION LAUNCHES BASIC INCOME CAMPAIGN

Under the impulse of its President Debbie Frost and its new Executive Director Rob Rainer, the Canadian National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO) has launched a nation-wide campaign in favour of a "guaranteed adequate income", or basic income. NAPO had already been in favour of basic income since the early eighties, and saw it as one crucial component of any coherent anti-poverty strategy. "Looking at the big picture", Rainer writes in a recent issue of *NAPO NEWS* (Spring 2007), "one may conclude that over the past few decades Canada has made little progress in combating poverty in this country. This is not a case of seeing the glass half empty. It is a case of seeing the glass for what it is, or rather the number of food banks and the number of homeless for what they reflect about the state of the country (...) Against this backdrop, the option of a guaranteed (or "basic") income is re-emerging for policy makers to consider". Rainer gave a talk on this issue during a Conference at the University of Regina, Saskatchewan in June 2007. On July 6, 2007, NAPO organized a workshop on "Guaranteed Adequate Income" at the Cartier Place Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario.

For further information, see <http://www.napo-onap.ca/>, or contact Rob Rainer at [rrainer@napo-onap.ca](mailto:rrainer@napo-onap.ca)

### \* **GERMANY:** NOBEL PRIZE YUNUS DISCUSSES BASIC INCOME WITH SUPLICY

During a meeting convened by Prime Minister Dieter Althaus on June 6, Nobel Laureate Yunus discussed the proposed policy of guaranteed basic income for the state of Thuringen with Gotz Werner of Karlsruhe University and co-chair of BIEN Eduardo Suplicy (Brazil). Gotz and Senator Suplicy, both proponents of guaranteed basic income, have been working with the Government of Thuringen on adopting this policy for the state. Yunus, the founder of Grameen Bank, argued that welfare systems were important for those in distress, but these should be designed in a way that gives incentives. He said traditional welfare kept people trapped, as if in a zoo. Yunus made it clear that he was against any kind of handout programme, and advised that the issue for the state government should not be providing guaranteed basic income; rather it should be to consider a programme of guaranteed employment for the unemployed. He proposed that the unemployed people should be given a choice between receiving guaranteed employment or micro-credit, or receiving both.

Source: The Financial Express (<http://www.financialexpress-bd.com/>)  
See also Suplicy's story in Section 6 of this NewsFlash (see below).

### \* **FINLAND:** PARTY LEADERS AGAINST BASIC INCOME

According to the Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE.FI, the chairmen of Finland's larger political parties say that they would not support a proposal to provide all citizens a guaranteed basic income because it would "not promote the work ethic". On August 13, 2007, the website "Newsroom Finland" reported that almost all the party leaders interviewed by YLE were quoted as saying by the public broadcaster that they had reservations about a proposal to

introduce a basic income. Jari Koskinen, the deputy chair of the National Coalition party; Piia Viitanen, the deputy chair of the Social Democratic party, and Päivi Räsänen, chair of the Christian Democrats, told YLE that a basic income would encourage passivity in the ranks of long-term jobless people and especially among the young. Even Timo Soini, the chairman of the True Finns who is known as a proponent of basic income, said he would not grant it to the "very young", while Martti Korhonen, the head of the pro-basic income Left Alliance, said he harboured doubts about the impact of basic income on the activity of jobseekers. YLE did not reach Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen (centre) for comment but quoted him as saying earlier that "basic income is a wage for those interested more in partying than working". The Finnish Greens have of late promoted a basic income, saying it would encourage unemployed people to accept short-term work.

For further information, see <http://www.yle.fi/news/id67106.html> and <http://newsroom.finland.fi/stt/showarticle.asp?intNWSAID=16445&group=Politics>

#### \* **MEXICO: BASIC INCOME ON THE AGENDA?**

Political prospects of Basic Income in Mexico are advancing by leaps and bounds. On June 6 and 7, Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México (UACM) and the Department for Social Development of the Government of Mexico City organised the First International Conference on Basic Income ever held in Mexico. A great number of academics, politicians and practitioners both from Mexico and other countries like Argentina, Brazil, Spain and United Kingdom attended the Conference and engaged into very vivid discussions with its more than 100 delegates.

Speakers included Martí Batres (Social Development Secretary of the Government of Ciudad de México), María Julia Bertomeu (Universidad de la Plata, Argentina & Argentine Section of BIEN), Julio Boltvinik (El Colegio de México), David Casassas (University of Oxford & Secretary of BIEN), Oscar Conde (Seminario Universitario de la Cuestión Social), Pedro Moreno (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana), Manuel Pérez Rocha (Rector of Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México), Daniel Raventós (Universitat de Barcelona & Red Renta Básica), Eduardo Suplicy (Senator of the Republic of Brazil & Co-chair of BIEN), Enrique del Val Blanco (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), and Pablo Yanes Rizo (Social Development Secretariat of the Government of Ciudad de México). The organisers also arranged a great number of meetings with local politicians and practitioners as well as seminar sessions at both the Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México (UACM) and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM).

The Conference was the result of the effort to foster the study of Basic Income made by an active and plural local group of people who will now constitute a network called "Red Mexicana del Ingreso Ciudadano Universal" (Mexican Network for the Universal Basic Income). This new network will submit an application to BIEN's Dublin General Assembly asking for official recognition.

The participants in the Conference underlined the importance of the Universal Citizen Pension (for those above 70) that has already been implemented in Mexico City as an opportunity to open the debate on Basic Income and make crucial moves towards its introduction on a national level.

On this matter, the most important news is that on July 4, PRD (Partido de la Revolución Democrática), which is exploring the possibility of including Basic Income into its programme, put a bill for a Basic Income in Mexico before the Permanent Commission of the Mexican Congress (the text of that bill can be found at <http://www.nodo50.org/redrentabasica/index.php>).

It is a bill that suggests the introduction of a fully universal and unconditional Basic Income aiming to fight urban and rural poverty, large inequalities and social exclusion, and to grant everybody the necessary socioeconomic security that is needed to access the sphere of work without having to accept degrading labour conditions. The text of the bill establishes that full universality must be reached within a three-year period. It also points out that existing conditional cash transfer schemes have proved to be inefficient, costly, and a source of corruption. The proponents of the bill assert that in a political context in which the possibility of a reform of the taxation system is being discussed, the introduction of a Basic Income pretending to build social policies from a rights-based perspective and to enhance the freedom of the vast majority of the population makes the best of the senses.

Another left-wing party, Alternativa Socialdemócrata, which organised a public lecture with Daniel Raventós, has also endorsed Basic Income by including it into its programme.

As a result of all these events, a great number of articles on Basic Income were published in important newspapers like *La Jornada*, *El Universal*, *La Crónica*, and *El Financiero*. Some of these articles can be found at:

<http://www.nodo50.org/redrentabasica/textos/index.php?x=628>

<http://www.nodo50.org/redrentabasica/textos/index.php?x=627>

<http://www.nodo50.org/redrentabasica/textos/index.php?x=625>

<http://www.nodo50.org/redrentabasica/textos/index.php?x=624>

For more information on the state of the Basic Income debate in Mexico, contact Pablo Yanes ([pyanes2007@gmail.com](mailto:pyanes2007@gmail.com)) or send an email to Ingreso Ciudadano Universal – México ([ingresociudadano@gmail.com](mailto:ingresociudadano@gmail.com)).

#### \* **NAMIBIA:** COALITION RAISING FUNDS FOR BASIC INCOME PILOT PROJECT

After failing to get Government to commit to their idea of an universal cash grant to its citizens, the Basic Income Grant (BIG) Coalition announced plans to independently launch a pilot project to test its feasibility, The Namibian (Windhoek) reported on July 4th, 2007. "The BIG Coalition in Namibia has decided that it is high time to introduce a BIG in Namibia. Therefore, the BIG Coalition is raising funds for the introduction of the BIG as a pilot in one specific area in Namibia for a limited period of time, but keeping the principles of the BIG," Bishop Zephania Kameeta said. The pilot project could be expected to start running at the start of 2008, Kameeta said, and was likely to run for two years.

On August 7, 2007, The New Era (Windhoek) reported that the proposed Basic Income Grant of N\$100 per month will come alive for the residents of Otjivero village in Omitara. The 1 005 residents below the age of 60 years, who were registered on July 31 this year, will start receiving the grant not later than January 2008 for two years. Omitara is located about 100 km from Windhoek.

Read the Namibian's story at <http://allafrica.com/stories/200707050100.html>

Read the New Era's story at <http://allafrica.com/stories/200708070628.html>

#### \* **SOUTH AFRICA:** GROWING SUPPORT FOR BASIC INCOME?

In its latest Newsletter, USBIG indicates that South African newspapers report continued support for basic income in progressive organizations and at least discussion of the idea within the ruling ANC government. Archbishop Desmond Tutu has repeated his call for a basic income grant. According to the Times, Tutu said, "I hope our government can re-think the need for a basic income grant," in his address at the South African Council of Churches' (SACC) triennial conference in Johannesburg. "Tutu said overseas research showed that once income grants were achieved, the health of children improved, their attendance at school rose

and so did their achievement level,” The Times reported. According to the Mail & Guardian, SACC general secretary Eddie Makue said, "Grants are meant for the elderly, children and people with disabilities. It is imperative that we look at the basic income grant. It will make a difference in the lives of poor people."

According to Business Report, the basic income grant was “high on the agenda” of delegates as the ANC policy conference debated the issue, but according to the Independent on Line, more delegates felt that if there was to be income support, it had to be linked to "work activity" to avoid creating dependency. According to Business Report, public works minister Thoko Didiza said a basic income should now be given consideration by the government, but she also emphasized that whatever system was finally forged should be associated with job creation, by linking it to either a public or private works program. Although it is unlikely that the ANC will endorse a full basic income, branches have recommended that child grants be increased to the age of 18, according to SABC News. Child grants are essentially a Basic Income Grant for children.

According to Donwald Pressly, writing about the ANC conference for Business Report, “There was much focus on the need for a social wage and the need for ‘targeted interventions’ to support able-bodied but unemployed young adults through providing subsidies and grants, but which should be linked to creating long employment for the marginalized. There appears to be growing support in the movement for a basic income grant.”

Links :

The Times Article on Tutu’s speech:

<http://www.thetimes.co.za/News/Article.aspx?id=517220>

Story on the ANC’s policy conference from the Independent on Line:

[http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set\\_id=1&click\\_id=124&art\\_id=nw20070629190540698C920371](http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=124&art_id=nw20070629190540698C920371)

Story on the ANC’s policy conference from Business Report:

<http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=3909249>

Story from SABC News:

[http://www.sabcnews.com/politics/the\\_parties/0,2172,151107,00.html](http://www.sabcnews.com/politics/the_parties/0,2172,151107,00.html)

Mail & Guardian Story:

[http://www.mg.co.za/articlepage.aspx?area=/breaking\\_news/breaking\\_news\\_\\_business/&articleid=311707](http://www.mg.co.za/articlepage.aspx?area=/breaking_news/breaking_news__business/&articleid=311707)

Donwald Pressly’s article in Business Report:

<http://www.busrep.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=3912273>

#### \* **SPAIN: YOUNG SOCIALISTS ENDORSE BASIC INCOME**

The Youth Section of Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE) aims to participate into the elaboration of the programme for the 2008 parliamentary election. “Juventudes Socialistas” stress the need to promote new proposals so as to “consolidate the political change” that began in 2004 and “raise young people hopes again”. For this reason, they have made public a document including 10 propositions to be analysed and discussed as possible measures to be put into practice during the next term of office in case PSOE wins the election. Among them, Young Socialists suggest the legalisation of euthanasia, the lowering of the right to vote to the age of 16 and the establishment of a “Renta Básica de Ciudadanía” (a Citizens’ Basic Income).

#### \* **UNITED KINGDOM: LABOUR MP AND LEADERSHIP CANDIDATE ENDORSES BASIC INCOME**

John McDonnell has been an MP for the British Labour Party since 1997. BIEN’s

NewsFlash 46 misidentified him as being Australian. The editor apologize for the error.

McDonnell led a campaign against Gordon Brown for leadership of the Labour Party after Tony Blair announced his resignation. McDonnell's campaign demanded a democratic election for the party leadership and an open debate about the policies that a Labour Government should implement. McDonnell is considered a more left-oriented member of the party who has resisted the party's rightward "New Labour" shift. His leadership campaign endorsed establishing social rights to a Citizen's Income (or BIG) along with affordable housing, free education, childcare, healthcare, and care in older age. McDonnell's website is on line at <http://www.john4leader.org.uk/>

**\* UNITED STATES: POLITICIANS DISCUSS THE MERITS OF BASIC INCOME WHILE ALASKA PERMANENT FUND HITS NEW HIGH**

USBIG reports: The National Summit on America's Children hosted by Nancy Pelosi on Capitol Hill (Washington, DC) included many academic papers documenting the role of poverty in the deteriorating physical, mental and emotional condition of an increasing number of US children, according to Sara Dustin who attended the event. Being younger than four years old is now the most significant risk factor for food insufficiency in the United States. Presenters discussed how food insecurity among pregnant women has been causing very tiny premature babies whom the medical profession is hard pressed to rescue and who grow up with physical and mental disabilities. As a solution, Professor J. Lawrence Aber, of the Institute for Human Development and Social Change, New York University, suggested the expansion of the EITC until it becomes a truly substantial refundable tax credit for all families with children who are under a certain income level whether the family has earnings or not. In other words, discussions focused on a basic income guarantee, although restricted so far to families with children.

On the west coast, Robert Reich, U.S. Secretary of Labor under President William Clinton, and Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley endorsed a basic income guarantee as part of a strategy to reduce global warming. According to Professor Reich's own blog, "The best idea I've heard so far to deal with global warming is not a carbon tax. ... The best idea I've heard is described as a carbon auction. Companies would have to bid for the right to pollute. And, most ingeniously, the money raised in the auction would be shared equally by all citizens in the form of yearly dividend checks – just like the residents of Alaska now get yearly dividends for their share of the state's oil revenues. I mean, it's our atmosphere, right? Think of a national park or a national forest. No company is simply allowed to take what they want from it, free of charge. Why should the atmosphere be any different?" Reich's blog comments and be found at <http://robertreich.blogspot.com/2007/06/best-way-to-reduce-global-warming.html>. Reich also mentioned the plan in a commentary, which aired on National Public Radio on June 20, 2007. It can be found on line at: <http://www.robertreich.org/reich/20070620.asp>

In the meanwhile, USBIG reports, Alaskan state officials confirmed that the Alaska Permanent Fund (APF) topped 40 billion dollars in total assets on July 13, 2007, according to Wesley Loy of the *Anchorage Daily News*. The APF funds Alaska's basic income guarantee, the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD). The APF is invested in a wide range of assets, but the recent increase in its value is mostly attributable to recent stock market gains.

The size of the PFD is also estimated to rise this year to about \$1,575 per person or \$6,300 for a family of four, also according to Wesley Loy. Official figures for the size of the PFD will not be released until mid-September, but the estimate represents an increase of \$468 over last year's dividend of \$1,106.96. However it is still substantially below the largest PFD of \$1,963.86 in 2000.

A record size of the fund does not directly translate into a record-size dividend because the dividend is determined by five-year average earnings of the fund rather than its total value. The total value of the fund is determined not only by its earnings, but also by new investments in the fund out of the state's oil revenues. Recent oil revenue windfalls do not directly determine the dividend, but they are likely to lead to continued high dividends in the future.

According to Loy, "The big reason for this year's jump is that a relatively poor year, 2002, is falling out of the equation to make room for this past year, which was a strong one for profits. Next year's dividend is likely to be even bigger as another weak year, 2003, will fall out of the equation." If investment returns remain high as the state begins to make returns on recent oil revenues, Alaskans could see record-size dividends within a few years.

## 6. PUBLICATIONS

### \*ENGLISH

DE WISPELAERE, Jurgen & STIRTON, Lindsay (2007), 'The Public Administration Case against Participation Income', *Social Service Review*, 81 (3), pp. 523-549, available at <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/resolve?SSR810306>  
First author's address : jurgen.dewispelaere@tcd.ie

Anthony Atkinson's proposal for a participation income (PI) has been acclaimed as a workable compromise between the aspirations of unconditional basic income proposals and the political acceptability of the workfare model. This article argues that PI functions poorly in terms of a number of essential administrative tasks that any welfare scheme must perform. This leads to a trilemma of participation income, which suggests that PI can only retain its apparent ability to satisfy the requirements of universalist and client-activation approaches to welfare at the cost of imposing a substantial burden on administrators and welfare clients alike. Consequently, the main apparent strength of PI, its capacity to garner support across different factions within welfare reform debates, is shown to be illusory.

SUPLICY Eduardo Matarazzo (2007), *Citizen's basic income*, Washington: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, March 2007, 27pp.

Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy was a Woodrow Wilson Center Public Policy Scholar in 2005. He is currently the co-chair of BIEN, and a Brazilian Senator for the State of São Paulo. Suplicy is also a professor of Economics at the School of Business Administration of the Fundação Getúlio Vargas in São Paulo. He is the author of "The Effects of Mini devaluations in the Brazilian Economy", his 1973 Ph.D thesis, published in 1974, by Fundação Getúlio Vargas; "International and Brazilian Economic Policies", 1979; "Citizen's Income. The exit through the Door", 2002; and "Citizen's Basic Income: The Answer is Blowin' in the Wind", 2006. This special report is an updated and synthesized version in English of these two last books. It can be downloaded at [http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/LAP\\_CitizensBasicIncome.pdf](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/LAP_CitizensBasicIncome.pdf)

TOMLINSON, John (2006), ' "The self-made man: admiring his creator": Basic Income beats targeted welfare', *New Community Quarterly*, 4 (4), Summer 2006, pp. 52-55, <http://www.borderlands.org.au/ncq/>

This article looks at some of the reasons why Australia perseveres with income maintenance policies which are targeted, categorical, means-tested, piecemeal and lacking in generosity. The author suggests that the introduction of a universal Basic Income would go some considerable way to providing increased income security for all permanent residents, removing stigma, and ending our centuries old preoccupation with a poor law system of welfare assistance. He reflects upon the current debate about "social inclusion" arguing that the mechanisms enforced by governments' to facilitate "social inclusion" actually result in the marginalisation and social exclusion of many poor people. The article concludes with a brief summary of the advantages of a Basic Income over other forms of income maintenance.

TOMLINSON, John (2007), 'Australia: Basic Income and Decency', *New Community Quarterly*, 5 (1), Autumn 2007, pp.33-41, <http://www.borderlands.org.au/ncq/>

Some have attempted to argue the case for the introduction of a Basic Income because of the ease with which it could be allocated to citizens. Others recognise its capacity to invigorate the economy. Amongst these writers, some believe the economy would expand following the introduction of a Basic Income because it would free up entrepreneurial imagining, provide opportunities for workers to engage in new occupations and remove many obstacles to further production. Others argue that the economy would contract if a Basic Income was introduced because many people would choose to live more sustainably and would work fewer hours. Some writers suggest that the presence of a Basic Income would lead to more people joining the labour force because of the greater flexibility in the work place and because a Basic Income removes welfare benefit poverty traps. While others contend that many employees would leave work because they would no longer experience the economic necessity which forces them to seek employment. This article discusses these different positions in the Australian context.

#### \* FRENCH

CENTRE D'ANALYSE STRATEGIQUE (2007), *Les dotations en capital pour les jeunes*, Paris: La Documentation française, ISBN : 978-2-11-006754-8.

This new report by the "Centre d'analyse stratégique" of the French government (a research centre directly attached to the Prime Minister) focuses on "capital grants", and includes references to Paine, Ackerman & Alstott, and Nissan & Le Grand. It explores three scenarios for the implementation of such grants in the French context.

The report can be downloaded at:

[http://www.strategie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Rapport\\_no9\\_Web.pdf](http://www.strategie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Rapport_no9_Web.pdf)

MEYER, Joseph (2007), *Penser autrement. Le revenu de base inconditionnel*, Ed. Fraction VIVANT au Parlement de la Communauté germanophone en Belgique, ISBN (of the original German version) 978-3-86712-013-5, 67 p.

This short essay by Joseph Meyer, a member of the small basic income focused political party Vivant (founded by BIEN Life-member Roland Duchâtelet) and political actor in the German-speaking region of Belgium, includes a presentation of a basic income model with a "new monetary system", partly inspired by the writings of Joseph Huber. Also available in German (see NewsFlash 45, May 2007). Author's address: [j-meyer@gmx.net](mailto:j-meyer@gmx.net)

#### \* SWEDISH

BIRNBAUM, Simon (2005), 'Universell grundinkomst och den svenska välfärdsstaten: Mot en ny generation av inkomsträttigheter?' ("Universal Basic Income and the Swedish Welfare State: Towards a New Generation of Income Rights?"), *Statsvetenskaplig tidskrift*, 107 (4), 2005, 323-350. Author's address: [simon.birnbaum@statsvet.su.se](mailto:simon.birnbaum@statsvet.su.se)

This article discusses the political relevance of recent proposals on universal basic income to the Swedish welfare state. The author explores powerful arguments in favour of such proposals in this particular institutional context and confront them with two dimensions of the objection from political unfeasibility: (a) that basic income implies more fundamental normative and institutional discontinuity that sustainable implementation allows and (b) than an adequate basic income would be unaffordable. Birnbaum argues that this objection does not apply to all meaningful basic income schemes. Partial basic income and time-limited basic income promise to bring many advantages of a full basic income without implying a brutal clash with either (a) or (b).

REINIKAINEN, Jouni (2005), 'Social rättvisa per medborgarlön? Den egalitära liberalismerna i miljöpartiets distributiva ideal' ("Social Justice by Basic Income"), *Statsvetenskaplig tidskrift*, 107 (4), 2005, 351-375.

The article investigates the conception of social justice endorsed by the Swedish Green party. It is argued that the *prime mover* in the relations of the party's vision of social justice is the introduction of a universal basic income, a reform that has been advocated by the party since 2001. The conception of justice implied by the party's version of a basic income is best understood against the backdrop of the ideas of social justice of the contemporary Brian Barry. Just as Barry, the Green party embraces basic income out of concern for the safety of the least well off groups in society *and* out of concern for equality of opportunity. For both Barry and the Swedish Green party, moreover, the latter ideal not only implicates justice for all inhabitants in society, but also justice in global and intergenerational terms.

## **7. Spreading the Basic Income Idea, by Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy**

Eduardo M. Suplicy, Co-chair of the Basic Income Earth Network and Brazilian Senator has written a report for this "Summer Edition" of BIEN's NewsFlash, on the travels that he made recently, spreading the word about the Citizen's Basic Income. During these travels, he met with Nobel Prize Muhammad Yunus.

"Last April, when President Horst Köeller, from the Federal Republic of Germany, visited the Brazilian Senate and I was introduced to him, he immediately said that he would like to introduce me to Professor Götz W. Werner, a member of his delegation, who had just published a book, *Einkommen für Alle*, (An Income for All, Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 2007). He came to my office, where we exchanged our books and enthusiastically spoke about the merits of a basic income. I found out that he came to the conclusion about the rationality of the basic income not only as a professor, but also as a successful entrepreneur. He is the main owner of the largest drugstore chain in Germany, DM Drogerie Markt, with more than 900 stores all over the country. His chain has also many units in the eight countries around Germany, such as Austria and Slovenia. He is known as a very progressive entrepreneur, who provides special educational opportunities to his employees, as I had the chance to know in my visit to one of the drugstore units in Berlin.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Professor Götz W. Werner invited me to participate in two conferences, in Berlin and in Karlsruhe, where he is a professor and president of EHI Retail Institute e.V. of the University of Karlsruhe, together with Professor Muhammad Yunus, the



Peace Nobel Prize Winner, creator of the formidable Grameen Bank experience in Bangladesh. We were both invited to speak on “The Microcredit and the Citizen’s Basic Income as instruments to eradicate absolute poverty and promote entrepreneurship and development”. Professors Götz W. Werner and Muhammad Yunus, among others, received the 2007 Vision Award in a ceremony in Berlin before more than 1,000 people. When called to the stage to receive his prize, Professor Werner had the kind attitude to invite me to be with him because he wanted to share the prize with me. He had twenty minutes to speak on his proposal on why all 80 million inhabitants of Germany should receive an unconditional income and was so kind as to share his time equally with me to also speak on why all 189 million inhabitants of Brazil should receive a Citizen’s Basic Income. On the following day, at the University of Karlsruhe, again more than 1,000 people attended the conference where Professor Muhammad Yunus, Götz W. Werner and myself discussed the microcredit and the basic income. Of course, many people came to listen and applaud enthusiastically a man with so much merit as Professor Yunus and his faith on how the microcredit may contribute effectively for the eradication of poverty everywhere.

Professor Götz W. Werner’s book, *Einkommen für Alle*, is today’s second in Germany’s list of best sellers. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, he was invited by the Austrian Parliament to speak on “An Income for everyone”. He has been on many TV talk shows in Germany defending the Basic Income.

The events in Germany became a very good opportunity to better know Professor Muhammad Yunus, as well as to explain the relevance of the Basic Income to him. I had once attended his lecture, when he visited Brazil in the year 2000 at the invitation of Ruth Cardoso, President Fernando Henrique Cardoso’s wife, and of the National Social and Development Bank, BNDES. He usually emphasizes his strong belief on the importance of lending money to a person, trusting in his/her responsibility of using that resource to develop an activity that will produce enough for him to pay that money back and to live better than before; this rather than simply giving the money to no matter whom. He also asserts that we should trust people even when they don’t have any wealth or collateral to offer as a guarantee. From my part I have tried to show that we may harmonize both instruments and that the basic income should always be seen not as charity, but as a right also argued by Thomas Paine and the founders of BIEN.

Anyway, I told Professor Yunus that I would like very much to visit Bangladesh to know personally the Grameen experience. That’s why in July 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> I went to Dacca, with Mônica Dallari, to visit him and his team, the directors and coordinators of the Grameen Bank. On our first day, Professor Yunus came to our hotel to welcome us and to have a more than one-hour conversation, both on the microcredit and the development of the basic income. I told him about the history of BIEN, and I encouraged him to read some of the books written by Philippe Van Parijs, Guy Standing and others that appear in the bibliography of my own books. I also took the liberty to invite him to be in our XII International Congress in Dublin, on June 2008. Of course, this must be confirmed by the BIEN’s Executive Board. But I would like to tell you how sure I am that the dialogue between BIEN and Professor Yunus will enrich us all.

Professor Yunus has been telling people how confident he is that eradicating absolute poverty is possible. That, within a reasonable amount of time, we will be able to inaugurate the Museum of Poverty in each one of our nations, so as to show the young people how poverty was when it existed. He told me that he was invited to be in Copenhagen, Denmark, on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007, for the inauguration of the first Museum of Poverty.

In that same morning, Professor Yunus went to the airport to fly to Johannesburg, where he joined the Group of Elders on Nelson Mandela's 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The directors of the Grameen Bank were so kind to take us to several meetings, including in villages one hour away from Dacca, to get acquainted with the positive effects of the small credits in changing the life of the people. We attended a typical regular meeting of about 70 women who were debating their personal experiences. They told us how microcredit had allowed them, for example, to buy an extra cow, or more than one, or chickens, or work tools, and afterwards even to build their new simple houses, much better than what they had before. We also had conversations with a group of young people who had borrowed small sums to pay for their studies, and with ladies who used to be beggars and were able to raise small amounts of money to pay back, without interest, whenever they are able to do so. On the third day, the main directors and coordinators of the Grameen Bank, a group of about 30 people, asked me to explain the fundamentals and the story of the basic income. I could feel that they considered that they have much to do with our cause and objectives.

Let me return in time a little bit since, after Germany, on June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, I went to Mexico City to participate on the First International Conference on the Basic Income, held both in the Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México, as well as in the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. We had very encouraging discussions with the participation of BIEN's David Casassas, from Oxford University, Daniel Raventós, from the University of Barcelona, and President of the Red Renta Básica of Spain, Maria Julia Bertomeu, from the University of La Plata, and of the Red Argentina de Ingreso Ciudadano, Ministros Maestro Pablo Yanes Rizo, Martí Batres, Secretario de Desarrollo Social del Distrito Federal, and Óscar Conde, Rocío Mejía and Julio Boltvinik. In our debates, it was emphasized how relevant it is for the comprehension of the basic income in Mexico the experience of the universal payment of a pension to all people with 70 years or more, the *adultos mayores*, in the Federal District of Mexico. More and more, according to surveys made when that initiative started in the early 2000's and, more recently, people that first used to see that pension as a gift given by the local government are now seeing it as a right.

From Bangladesh, on July 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, Mônica and I went to Seoul. At their invitation, I went to exchange ideas with the members of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. I was received by the General Secretary of the Uri Party, the government's party, and President of the Budget Commission as well as of the Korea-Brazil Parliamentarian's Friendship Association, Representative Won Hye Young, who invited me to give lectures on the Basic Income to the National Assembly Budget Office, NABO, as well as to the Institute of Economic Policy, where groups of economists do research to assist the National Assembly of Korea. Since the 60's, when Korea had an income per capita lower than that of Brazil, Korea has had a very successful rate of economic development, thanks very much to the emphasis given to education. The country's income per capita evolved from US\$ 85, in 1962, to around US\$ 17,000 today. But one of their main concerns, similar to ours in Brazil, is with the high degree of inequality and eradication of poverty that still prevails in several areas. They explained to me how South Korea has recently, adopted the National Basic Livelihood Security Program and the Welfare Expenditure. Since last year, Korea instituted an Earned Income Tax Credit, similar to the one that exists in the US. I told them that this was an interesting step since we, from the developing countries, must be aware that the income transfers of the developed countries make their economies more competitive towards ours if we don't do the same or even better. But I also pointed out that in the US there is the demonstration that an even better solution than the EITC is the basic income. The proof is the positive experience of the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend experience of the past 25 years that has made Alaska the most equal of the 50 American States.

I have made two suggestions to the Koreans for them to attend a very important objective: the unification of North and South Korea and the pacification of the Nation. The first one, since the Koreans have praised so much the Brazilians that won the World Soccer Championship for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in 2002 in Korea and Japan, is that they may invite the Brazilian National team to play two games with the united National teams of North and South Korea. One game would be played in Seoul and the other in Pyongyang.

(...)

The other suggestion is that they seriously consider the implementation of a Citizen's Basic Income as soon as the two Koreas are united. This will contribute a lot for the whole people to have a sense of solidarity being applied in Korea. I have also spoken about the two proposals in my audience with the Korean Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Song Min Soon. He seriously considered both of them. In this audience, he also explained the importance of the support of the Brazilian government to the realization of the 2012 World EXPO in Yeosu, the main attention of which will be the Living Coast and the Ocean, related to the objective of sustainable development and environmental protection. I could see how the Koreans are dedicating efforts for the success of this event. Minister Vera Campetti, of the Brazilian Embassy accompanied me in these events.

From Seoul we flew to Maputo, at the invitation of the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank, with a group of 11 members of the National Assemblies of several countries, where we participated in a Field Visit to Mozambique. From July 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, we visited local, provincial and Mozambique authorities, and several projects that are receiving the support of the World Bank and related Financial Agencies, such as the International Development Association, IDA, to follow the development of several programs to eradicate absolute poverty, improve educational and health conditions, infrastructure and economic growth. The program included visits to Beira, the second largest city, to the works to improve and expand its port, to the large plant of Mozal that produces Aluminium, to Songo, in Tete Province, to the Hidroelectric Project of Cahorra Bassa, to Chimoio, to the Gorongosa Park, including a drive through the Gorongosa game reserve, to Nhamatanda, Dondo, where we saw the district Planning and HIV projects, as well as the rail project, to Bazaruto, to Vilankulos, and, finally, back to Maputo, where we were received by the President of the National Assembly and by several members of the Economic Affairs Commission. We also had meetings with members of the Civil Society Group.

We have learnt how Mozambique, after five centuries of Portuguese administration and, becoming independent in 1975, suffered a 16-year long civil war that finally ended in 1992. The country is still in transition today, although making much progress, with a large number of social and economic challenges, that includes high unemployment rates, low agriculture production, limited infrastructure and social services, an income per capita of around US\$ 390 per year in 2007, the prevalence of AIDS around of 16.2 % (very high in Beira, of around 35%) and infant mortality of 101 per 1,000 in 2003-2005.

In all of our visits I have told the local and national authorities about the relevance of a Citizen's Basic Income. Although Mozambique is still a very poor country, I have encouraged them to think seriously about the possibility of introducing a modest basic income in the near future, taking into account that, from any kind of wealth that it is created by a society, we may always separate part of the result to build a fund that will be able to attain that objective.

In my last two days in Maputo, together with the Brazilian Ambassador Leda Lúcia Camargo, I had two very encouraging meetings. First, a very productive conversation, at his home, with the Ex-President Joaquim Chissano, who succeeded President Samora Machel. He was much interested in the concept of an unconditional basic income and said that his

foundation will organize meetings on the theme. The same happened when I visited Mrs. Graça Machel in her office. She is ex-President Samora Machel's widow, and today's wife of President Nelson Mandela. She also said she would like to promote debates on the basic income organized by the Foundation of Social Development that she presides, inviting the members of BIEN for that purpose.

Finally, from July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup>, I went to Caracas at the invitation of the Latin American Parliament. We had a two-day intense dialogue where about 50 members of National Assemblies debated several themes, including ways to eradicate absolute poverty and promote development. I was invited to give one of the main lectures on the Citizen's Basic Income, explaining the perspective of the transition from the Bolsa Família Program to the day when more than 190 million Brazilians will have the inalienable right to participate in the wealth of the nation through a modest but sufficient income to attain his or her vital needs.

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, I had the opportunity to give my books on the Citizen's Basic Income to President Hugo Chávez, of Venezuela. While giving a three-hour speech on his Housing Programs and other political issues at the Military Civic Center of Caracas, before a large audience transmitted by the Venezuela TV, he asked me about my views. Brazilian Ambassador João Carlos de Souza Gomes was with me. I said that I considered very important that both the Brazilian and Venezuelan Constitutions state that we have the integration of Latin America as an objective. That, as a Brazilian Senator I am in favor that Venezuela enters the Mercosul. That when President George W. Bush was to start the armed action in Iraq I spoke in the Brazilian Senate urging him to follow Martin Luther King Jr.'s advice to always confront physic force with soul's force. That I would seriously study the gasoduct from Venezuela to Southern America. That I would like him to consider the institution of a citizen's basic income in Venezuela. He answered in a very assertive way, thanking me for the visit and saying that he would like the see my book on the theme translated into Spanish."

Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy

## **8. NEW LINKS**

### **\* THE DILTHEY-MODEL**

The Diltthey-Model describes a scenario for an emancipating unconditional basic income in industrialized countries. For further information:

<http://www.iovialis.org/index.php?id=2&lang=en>

### **\* BASIC INCOME IN JAPAN**

OZAWA, Shuji: Radical tax overhaul would help the working poor, May 18, 2007, Asahi Simbun (Weekly)

<http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200705180089.html>

The author, a professor of social policy at Kyoto Prefectural University, makes the case that a basic income would eliminate the problem of the working poor who fall through the cracks of Japan's social welfare system.

(From USBIG)

### **\* INTERVIEW WITH GERMAN SOCIOLOGIST GUNTER VOSS**

**“BASIC INCOME CREATES TRUST”**

Would an unconditional basic income lead to many doing nothing? No, work sociologist Gunter Voss says. An unconditional basic income would be the basis for a meaningful life of

personal responsibility. This interview was published in: "die tageszeitung", 12/2/2006, and is now available in English at <http://www.indymedia.org.uk/en/2007/06/373974.html>

#### \* FEMINISTS AND BASIC INCOME

A post by Ingrid Robeyns on "Crooked Timber" about "Should Feminists Support Basic Income" triggered various reactions off. See:

<http://crookedtimber.org/2007/07/10/should-feminists-support-basic-income/>

## 9. ABOUT THE BASIC INCOME EARTH NETWORK

Co-chair:

Eduardo SUPLICY, Federal Senator, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Guy STANDING, Professor of Economic Security, University of Bath, and Professor of Labour Economics, Monash University

Further details about BIEN's Executive Committee and International Board can be found on our website, as well as further details about the Recognised National Networks.

### MEMBERSHIP

All life members of the Basic Income European Network, many of whom were non-Europeans, have automatically become life members of the Basic Income Earth Network.

To join them, just send your name and address (postal and electronic) to David Casassas <[dcasassas@ub.edu](mailto:dcasassas@ub.edu)> Secretary of BIEN, and transfer EUR 100 to BIEN's account 001 2204356 10 at FORTIS BANK (IBAN: BE41 0012 2043 5610), 10 Rond-Point Schuman, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. An acknowledgement will be sent upon receipt.

BIEN Life-members can become "B(I)ENEFACTORS" by giving another 100 Euros or more to the Network. The funds collected will facilitate the participation of promising BI advocates coming from developing countries or from disadvantaged groups.

#### **B(I)ENEFACTORS:**

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