Activity Report for the Period from April to October 2011
ABOUT US

Since 1998, the ICHRP has generated important knowledge in over 30 key areas of global public policy. Our aim is to strengthen human rights advocacy through producing applied policy research. We blend the bold and change-driven concerns of human rights activists, the pragmatic preoccupations of policy-makers, and the analytical rigour of scholars. Our approach is multi-disciplinary and international, characterised by our ability to convene, as equals, actors with differing viewpoints and geo-political orientations.

In choosing our priorities, we are not solely reactive, taking the easy path or picking low-hanging fruit. We ask questions, pursue lines of enquiry and make connections that others occupying the human rights space cannot or do not do. Underlying our global approach is grounded analysis that captures cross-cutting concerns, posing challenges across contexts.

A lean and agile Secretariat with staff from different regions of the world leads the operationalisation of our strategic priorities through building global teams and translating findings into effective policy advocacy. Our commitment to diversity is institutionalised within the governing body, the International Council, whose members are leading lights in human rights activism, policy-making, academia, media, social movements, inter-governmental organisations and other communities of practice. We therefore have a unique ability to convene an invaluable network of geo-political and multi-disciplinary expertise.

We aim to strengthen human rights knowledge and policy by working closely with human rights advocates and others who can influence people in power. To an extent, our audience is project-specific, as we aim to engage different actors, organisations and communities with each project, often taking human rights knowledge to new audiences.
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INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PUTTING PLANS TO ACTION

The period from April to October 2011 began with the elaboration of the ICHRP Strategic Plan 2011–2014.

The Strategic Plan builds upon our organisational guiding principles, focusing our current efforts, as discussed in meetings of the International Council and the Board, into a sustainable research and action agenda that expresses our thematic priorities and outlines our multi-dimensional projects. The Strategic Plan leverages our strengths, especially our convening power, intellectual autonomy and the long-term value of our work while also outlining diverse outputs and dynamic communications that enhance our impact on policy. Finally, the Strategic Plan provides specifics on our efforts to reconfigure our institutional capacities to increase our research agility and external engagement.

Throughout the period from April to October 2011, the ICHRP Strategic Plan 2011–2014 has been a blueprint that anchors our day-to-day activities to our larger long-term organisational priorities.


LOOKING FORWARD

Moving beyond our planning period, this activity report touches upon the main outputs produced in accordance with the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, particularly by listing our recent publications and events, as well as those presently under development. These products feed our slightly less tangible but more lasting and impactful research, partnerships and policy analyses.

Vijay K. Nagaraj, Executive Director
RECENT ICHRP PUBLICATIONS

**CONFLICT, MEDIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH ASIA: REPORT FROM A ROUNDTABLE**

*Status: Published electronically in May 2011.*

In November 2010, the ICHRP co-convened (with the Centre for Media and Cultural Studies of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and PANOS South Asia) the Kathmandu Roundtable on Conflict, the Media and Human Rights in South Asia, bringing together senior media professionals, social scientists, peace and human rights advocates, and security analysts to consider how conflict, peace and human rights questions are discussed in the public domain, especially in the media, in South Asia. In May 2011, the ICHRP published a report presenting the main themes and outcomes of the discussions. A summary of the report is also available.

**NAVIGATING THE DATaverse: PRIVACY, TECHNOLOGY, HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Status: Published electronically, June 2011.*

This ICHRP Discussion Paper examines the human rights implications of the immense diffusion of data-gathering technologies across the world in recent years. It starts from the premise that the relevant issues, while much discussed, are not yet well understood and are evolving rapidly, both of which contribute to widespread anxiety. The Discussion Paper explores the roots of this anxiety and attempts to determine its sources and effects. It queries the degree to which data-gathering technologies pose problems that represent (or are analogous to) human rights threats and asks whether and how human rights law may help to assess or address those problems.

The purpose of the Discussion Paper is to open up a set of issues for consideration by human rights groups and scholars and also to encourage those in the privacy field to think about human rights. It is intended as a platform for further investigation and research into the full implications of current trends in information technology for human rights and to determine how those concerned by these impacts might orient themselves in the future.
Governing Poverty: Risking Rights: A dialogue on openDemocracy.net

Status: Launched in partnership with openDemocracy, August 2011.

The well-known current affairs website openDemocracy.net and the ICHRP are hosting an online dialogue for discussion and analysis of issues surrounding the penalisation of poverty. Governing Poverty, Risking Rights went live on 1 August 2011 and to date nine articles have been published. This space was created not only to raise awareness about the human rights impact of policy measures that penalise the poor but also to promote rights-based responses to practices that disproportionately impact the rights and dignity of the poor. The ICHRP collects and edits the articles from among its network of contacts, many of them established or consolidated at the March expert meeting it hosted in Geneva, as well as from other actors in the field. The contributions illustrate and investigate diverse aspects of this widespread problem; topics so far have included drug policy, urban militarism and welfare governance. The articles have been regularly featured as among the ‘most read’ or ‘featured’ on the site.

ICHRP Human Rights Policy Blog

Status: Launched July 2011.

The ICHRP Blog provides an informal platform for commentary and critical thinking on human rights challenges relating to government policies, NGOs and international organisations. It is designed as a collective exploration of the themes and issues on which ICHRP is currently concentrated, connecting our cutting-edge research to current human rights developments and challenges. Launched in July 2011, the blog has so far featured 24 posts (usually 2–3 a week) on a variety of topics, including corruption, the London riots, gender identity and the intervention in Libya, by ICHRP staff, interns, consultants, Council Members and guest writers. In the near future, our aim is to update the blog’s design, layout and structure to increase the accessibility of our work, opinions and discussions. The blog forms part of a more agile communications strategy, which includes better engagement with social media and a redesigned, more accessible website.
Beyond Technology Transfer: Protecting Human Rights in a Climate-Constrained World
(Summary and Recommendations)

Status: Published electronically and with limited print run, September 2011.

This executive summary was released on 13 September 2011 at a high-level Human Rights Council side-event with a panel that included Mary Robinson, the President of the Maldives, the Deputy High-Commissioner for Human Rights and Stephen Humphreys, ICHRP Consultant and the author of the report. The summary includes the report’s recommendations, addressed separately to all governments, Annex 2 country governments, non-Annex 1 country governments, and UN and other international agencies respectively. See further details of the full report and the event below.

Corruption and Human Rights: Integrating Human Rights in the Anti-Corruption Agenda
(ICHRP Translations in Spanish and Armenian)

Status: Published in June and July 2011, respectively.

The second ICHRP corruption report was translated into Spanish in collaboration with FUNDAR, a public policy think-tank based in Mexico City. For details on the launch events in Mexico, see below.

The report was translated into Armenian in partnership with the Mobilising Action Against Corruption (MAAC) programme, and launched in Yerevan with representation from the ICHRP (see further details below).
FORTHCOMING ICHRPM PUBLICATIONS

BEYOND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN A CLIMATE-CONstrained WORLD (ICHRM REPORT)

Publication Date: November 2011.

The report aims to bridge the divide between the language and concerns of environmental activists and those of human rights advocates so that common principles might be found and a common position forged. Climate technology policy has generally been conceived as a means to address a central injustice associated with climate change – that activities that have primarily benefited the inhabitants of the world’s richest states will disproportionately affect those living in the world’s poorest states. As a result, ‘technology transfer’ has long been recognised as an indispensable element of a stable future and a global deal, both practically and politically. The ICHRPM report shows that technology transfer is more than this, however: it is also a principal means by which basic human rights standards can be reached for the world’s most vulnerable people in a climate-constrained future.

GENDER AND CORRUPTION (ICHRM POLICY BRIEF)
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS: HOW THEY CAN BETTER ADDRESS CORRUPTION (ICHRM POLICY BRIEF)

Publication Date: Autumn 2011.

Two policy briefs building upon ICHRPM work and partnerships in the field of anti-corruption policy are planned for publication in Autumn 2011.

WELFARE GOVERNANCE (ICHRM POLICY BRIEF)

Publication Date: Autumn 2011.

Co-authored by academics and activists from Australia, Canada and the UK, this policy brief will explore contemporary patterns in governance and policing of welfare and associated human rights concerns, as well as outline an agenda for policy change and advocacy and issues/areas that need further research. This policy brief will come under the auspices of the ICHRPM ‘Penalising Poverty’ project.
Sexuality, Health and Human Rights: Law and Jurisprudence from the European Region (Collaborative Report with the World Health Organisation)

Publication Date: Winter 2011.

The report constitutes the European section of a sizeable global project on sexual health and human rights and is the result of a collaboration with the Department of Reproductive Health and Research of the World Health Organisation (WHO). It contributes to the recognition, understanding and application of human rights standards related to sexuality and sexual health and seeks to provide normative guidance for states, activists, policy-makers and other human rights practitioners through a legal and jurisprudential analysis of regional data.

The report, written by Johanna Westeson, European Regional Director for the Center for Reproductive Rights, has recently been edited and updated by the ICHRP. The WHO regional office for Europe are currently considering a co-publication. The ICHRP is developing plans to house the (long) report and the accompanying database of case summaries on a fully indexed and searchable micro-site.

We are also in talks with other regional actors working on the topic regarding the editing, translation and co-publication of the other regional reports.

The Human Rights Implications of Contemporary Patterns of Social Control (ICHRP Article)

Publication Date: To be published in the Journal of Human Rights Practice, November 2011.

An article based on the ICHRP’s social control and penalisation of poverty projects will be published in the November issue of the Journal of Human Rights Practice. The article was written by ICHRP consultants and staff.
RECENT ICHRPI EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THEANTI-CORRUPTION AGENDA
(SPANISH TRANSLATION LAUNCH EVENTS)


This translation was launched at the National Human Rights Institution of Mexico City (CDHDF). The launch initiated a high-level discussion around the issues covered in the report. The book was presented by Luis Armando González Placencia, President of CDHDF; Irma Eréndida Sandoval Ballesteros, Director of the Observatory against Corruption and Transparency of the University Nacional Autonoma de Mexico; Magdalena Sepúlveda, ICHRPI Research Director; and Christian Gruenberg, ICHRPI consultant. The event was well attended by civil society organizations, staff of the Ombudsman office, academics and the general public. Copies of the report were distributed at the event and several others were sent to all federal national human rights institutions in Mexico.

This event marked the culmination of a series of activities undertaken by the ICHRPI in Mexico. Two public meetings were held, at the Comision Nacional Derechos Humanos del Distrito Federal and at FUNDAR (Centro de Análisis e Investigación). The aim of the meetings were to strategize with several human rights and anti corruption organizations as well as with the Office of the Ombudsman how to implement the recommendations of the report and how to move forward on integrating human rights in governance, with particular emphasis on National Human Rights Institutions and local government, as included in the ICHRPI Strategic Plan.

INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THEANTI-CORRUPTION AGENDA
(ARMENIAN TRANSLATION LAUNCH EVENTS)

Event Date: 26 July 2011.

At the invitation of Mobilising Action Against Corruption Armenia (MAAC), the ICHRPI presented the report in a meeting with civil society actors (including the local chapter of Transparency International) in Yerevan, and to staff of the Armenian Human Rights Ombud.

The contents of the two ICHRPI corruption reports were also used in a
day of training on the links between corruption and human rights, and a human rights approach to tackling corruption, delivered to the lawyers who staff the MAAC legal advice centres around the country.

**Land and Human Rights: A Day of Reflection and Debate**

*Event Date: 15 September 2011.*

Coordinated in collaboration with ESCR-NET and hosted by FES, panel discussions highlighted some of the principle legal/normative, institutional and political challenges in strengthening an international recognition of the human rights in relation to land. The day culminated in a strategy session aiming to define more clearly some key opportunities for advocacy and the potential for closer collaboration between interested organizations. The meeting gathered a number of activists and researchers working with key organisations and institutions including FIAN, to engage in a joint reflection and strategy session on topics of common concern.


*Event Date: 21 September 2011.*

In collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the ICHRMP moderated a panel discussing possible avenues for incorporating human rights considerations into the international trading system. The discussions centred specifically around incorporating human rights considerations through the WTO dispute settlement and trade policy review mechanisms, with a view to ensuring policy coherence and synergy between international trade law and international human rights law and the World Trade Organization.

The panel featured Sanya Reid Smith of the Third World Network, Dr. James Harrison of the Centre for Human Rights Practice at the University of Warwick, Hunter Nottage from the Advisory Centre on WTO law, and Dr. Andrew Lang of the LSE, all contributing significant expertise in human rights practice, WTO law, and legal theory on the possibilities for an international trade regime that better respects human rights. The event brought together a large audience composed of trade delegations, lawyers, human rights actors, academics, and interested members of the public.
LEGAL PLURALISM, CONFLICT AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE, SIDE-EVENT AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Event Date: 23 September 2011.

In partnership with the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO), the ICHRP moderated a panel at a side-event at the Human Rights Council. The contexts in which people claim rights and voice justice claims are almost always characterized by a plurality of values. The panel specifically addressed questions raised in the context of development, post-conflict justice and rule of law in general with regard to pluralism in law.

Building on our work on legal pluralism and the work of the IDLO on customary justice, this side-event focused on the human rights concerns raised by legal pluralism in the context of development, post-conflict justice and the rule of law in general. The panellists were: Robert Husbands, Rule of Law Unit, UN OHCHR; Caitlin Reiger, Policy Director, International Centre for Transitional Justice; and H.E. Ambassador Slimane Chikh, Permanent Observer, Organisation for Islamic Cooperation.
FORTHCOMING ICHRIP EVENTS

TOWARDS REDEFINING APPROACHES TO ASSESSING AND EVALUATING HUMAN RIGHTS WORK: A PRACTICE AND RESEARCH WORKSHOP

Event Date: 3–4 October 2011.

The workshop, hosted by the ICHRIP, will focus on the challenges of understanding, describing and assessing what are variously described as the contributions, impacts, outcomes, results, or value of human rights work. It will bring together advocates, researchers, evaluation practitioners and theorists, and other relevant experts to reflect on the challenges faced, to examine the adequacy of existing methodologies and approaches, and to understand how these various approaches are themselves affecting human rights theory and practice.

Confirmed participants include representatives from the Open Society Foundation, Amnesty International, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, HURIDOCS, the International Commission of Jurists, the International Development Research Centre and Conectas.

The outputs of the meeting will include a series of short Policy Briefs and a report tracing important insights and possible ways forward.

DONOR ROUNDTABLE

Event Date: 4 October 2011.

Participants will include the Ford Foundation (co-conveners), the Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundation and the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs.

SIDE EVENT ON THE PENALISATION OF POVERTY AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DONOR ROUNDTABLE

Event Date: 25 October 2011 (New York).

Participants will include the Ford Foundation (co-conveners), the Oak Foundation, Open Society Foundation and the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs.
EVENTS AT WHICH THE ICHRP WAS REPRESENTED

REENGINEERING THE CORPORATION:
HUMAN RIGHTS, THE CORPORATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
(CONFERENCE AT QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY BELFAST SCHOOL OF LAW)

Event Date: June 2011 (Belfast, Northern Ireland).

The ICHRP participated in the conference, which examined new approaches to corporate accountability, especially in terms of environmental impact. The conference inspired some new approaches to our work on business and human rights and forged some new collaborations with academics and activists working on the issue.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ASIAN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS CONSORTIUM

Event Date: August 2011 (Chiang Mai, Thailand).

ICHRP executive director, Vijay Nagaraj travelled to Thailand to speak on questions of culture and rights at the General Assembly of the Asian Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Consortium. Originally a UNDP-initiated network, an array of representatives from NGOs, legal networks, National Human Rights Institutions and judicial bodies attended from across Asia. ICHRP involvement was in connection with its work on legal pluralism and participation in last year’s meeting on non-state justice hosted by the UNDP.

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (AWID)
INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY MEETING ON RESISTING AND CHALLENGING RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISMS

Event Date: 7–9 September 2011 (Istanbul, Turkey).

Vijay Nagaraj attended this consultative strategy meeting convened by AWID on religious fundamentalisms and the impact they are having on rights agendas across regions, sectors and constituencies. The conference brought together 25–30 rights activists from different regions, generations, sectors and key networks. This engagement flowed from ICHRP work on legal pluralism and engagement with MUSAWAH last year, as well as co-hosting a side-event with AWID at the Human Rights Council in February of this year.
CLIMATE CHANGE SIDE-EVENT AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (SPONSORED BY THE MISSIONS OF IRELAND AND THE MALDIVES)

Event Date: 13 September 2011 (Geneva, Switzerland).

Stephen Humphreys, ICHRP consultant and author of the forthcoming (October) climate technology transfer report, spoke on a panel that included the President of the Maldives, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Mary Robinson. Copies of the executive summary of the forthcoming (October 2011) ICHRP report on climate technology transfer were distributed.

SEMINAR ON WOMEN, CORRUPTION AND CAPITAL FLIGHT

Event Date: 22 September 2011 (Oslo, Norway).

The ICHRP spoke at this event, organized by JURK – Legal advice for women – and Publish what you Pay, Norway.

EXTRATERRITORIAL OBLIGATIONS CONSORTIUM

Event Date: 26 – 27 September 2011 (Maastricht).

The ICHRP is a member of the ETO Consortium, a network of over 30 NGOS, university institutes and individuals who work on extraterritorial states obligations for economic, social and cultural rights. During the session, the Consortium worked on developing guidelines for Extraterritorial Obligations, expected to be an important contribution to international law. Forthcoming Events attended by the ICHRP.
This period also saw the recruitment of new council members, as indicated below (new members are listed in the right column):

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<tr>
<td>Devendra Raj Panday (Nepal)</td>
<td>Monica Aleman (Nicaragua)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fateh Azzam* (Palestine)</td>
<td>Magda M A Ali (Sudan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marco Sassoli* (Switzerland)</td>
<td>Radhika Balakrishnan (India)</td>
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<td>Hina Jilani (Pakistan)</td>
<td>Santiago A. Canton (Argentina)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jelena Pejic (Serbia)</td>
<td>Pablo de Greiff (Colombia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fouad Abdelmoumni* (Morocco)</td>
<td>Dina Haynes (United States)</td>
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<td>Juan E. Mendez (Argentina)</td>
<td>Sara Hossain (Bangladesh)</td>
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<td>Chidi Anselm Odinkalu* (Nigeria)</td>
<td>Douglas Mendes (Trinidad &amp; Tobago)</td>
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<td>Maggie Beirne* (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>Tessa Morris-Suzuki (Australia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Usha Ramanathan (India)</td>
<td>Sorpong Peou (Canada/Cambodia)</td>
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<td>Cynthia Brown (United States)</td>
<td>Abbas Rashid (Pakistan)</td>
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<td>Ghanim Al-Najjar (Kuwait)</td>
<td>Joseph Schechla (United States)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emma Playfair* (United Kingdom)</td>
<td>Tamar Tomashvili (Georgia)</td>
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*Board Member.