

# Hivos international *Hivos*

## ENERGY-FILLED HIVOS CELEBRATION

"Today I will reveal the secret of Hivos' eternal youth", Shailja Patel says to the hundreds of guests in the Amsterdam Convention Factory. Her voice resounds in the high-ceilinged room. "Never stop questioning, testing and believing in what you are doing." With this recipe against aging the Indian-Kenyan poet and performer opened Hivos' 40th anniversary celebration. ▶

There were plenty of questions that afternoon: the programme was in the form of a talk show, 'Hivos Live!', and could be followed directly on the Internet. A very wide range of guests pulled up a chair, from Frans Bieckmann, co-author of a historic work on Hivos ("Hivos was the first organisation in the Netherlands to embrace the idea of micro-credit"), to Hivos director Manuela Monteiro ("what we need is a global movement, one that is rooted in a local movement"). And from the Zimbabwean journalist Gugulethu Moyo to the Kenyan writer Binyavanga Wain, both of whose work is supported by Hivos. The former personally experienced how President Mugabe curtails freedom of the press in Zimbabwe. The latter is one of the co-founders of the first Kenyan literary magazine in years, and publisher of taboo-breaking and immensely popular books in pocket format. 'Hivos Live!' and a copious evening meal enjoyed at long tables were followed by the cultural evening programme. The audience enjoyed appearances by performers from the South who receive support from Hivos – including once again Shailja Patel, but also Indian dance formation Attakkalari and Colombian salsa band La 33. They wound up the anniversary celebration with the energy and vitality that still characterise Hivos after 40 years.

Watch the programme 'Hivos Live!' on the new Hivos website! Go to [hivos.nl/40](http://hivos.nl/40).

**We  
are  
Hivos**

### MYHIVOS COMMUNITY

Join the online MyHivos community! Create your own profile (account) on the new, interactive Hivos website. Go to [hivos.nl/eng/user/register](http://hivos.nl/eng/user/register). The web page is the meeting point for Hivos partners, alliances, staff, donors and other people involved. This new possibility is in line with the new media campaign 'We are Hivos', which was launched during the anniversary celebration by Hivos director Manuela Monteiro. The object of the campaign is to get more people involved in Hivos. Of course, Hivos will also continue to publish its international newsletter. This is the second and last edition of Hivos International for 2008. There will be three issues in 2009.

### SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Let's suppose that you are proud of a particular project or activity of your organisation and that you would very much like to put it in the limelight. For example, so that other Hivos partners can learn from it or because you would like their input on solving certain problems. Then you should get in touch with Hivos officer Kathelijnn Fenger (via [k.fenger@hivos.nl](mailto:k.fenger@hivos.nl) or her MyHivos account). Your project or activity could be featured in the next Hivos International!



## HIVOS AT AIDS MEETINGS IN MEXICO

**“The number of HIV infections among men who have sex with men (MSM) is disproportionately high and growing rapidly. If the discrimination, stigmatisation and homophobia facing MSM does not end, it will not be possible to reach these people. And then HIV/AIDS cannot be eliminated in this group.”**



This is the conclusion of Paul Jansen, coordinator of the Hivos programme for gay emancipation. He shares that observation with the other attendees of the Global Forum on MSM held on the weekend before the International AIDS conference in Mexico from 3 to 8 August. At this conference, 20,000 scientists and other experts exchanged the latest information on the struggle against HIV/AIDS. Hivos had an information booth at the meeting which it shared with the collaborative alliances of which it is a member, Alliance 2015 and StopAidsNow! There were also spectacular dance performances by Hivos partner Kenya Performing Arts Group (K-PAG) as part of the Virus Free Generation campaign of Alliance2015. Paul Jansen: “A breakthrough for me was that, for the first time in the last 17 conferences, MSM was included as a theme in a large-scale plenary session. The hall was filled, and it seems that the issues of MSM have finally gained a foothold on the international HIV/AIDS agenda.”

*At the International AIDS conference, Paul Jansen met a number of Hivos partners, including Global Forum on MSM and HIV, APCOM, Cepresi, Via Libre and CIPAC. One of his Hivos colleagues who also attended was Barbara Oosters, international coordinator of the Virus Free Generation campaign. Visit her MyHivos account and read the English blog she wrote about the visit.*

## HIV/AIDS AND MICRO-CREDIT

In the struggle against HIV/AIDS, Hivos concentrates on the rights of people who are infected and risk groups, such as men who have sex with men (MSM). They need to have access to medical treatment, be protected from discrimination and stigmatisation and retain as many chances as possible for a good life. It was on this basis that Hivos this year set up collaboration between HIV/AIDS partners and micro-financing institutions (MFIs) in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. The nearly twenty organisations joined forces, firstly to promote micro-credits and non-financial services among people with HIV; secondly to teach MFIs what they need to do if their employees or clients become HIV-infected; and thirdly to put a stop to stigmatisation of HIV/AIDS in their societies. In all three countries, the collaborative alliances are led and co-led by Hivos partners such as Kaderes, Pride, Kanco, K-Rep, Amfi and Amfiu.

*Learn more about this unique collaboration! Get in touch with Pieter Bas Schrieken, Programme Officer for the Hivos policy field Sustainable Economic Development (via [sed@hivos.nl](mailto:sed@hivos.nl)) or Kwasi Boahene, coordinator of the Hivos HIV/AIDS programme (via [drag@hivos.nl](mailto:drag@hivos.nl)).*

## LAUGHING ABOUT MUGABE

**In countries where there is censorship and violence, creative people often find ways to express themselves nevertheless. In Zimbabwe, for example, political theatre is popular. In June of this year Hivos organised the ‘Expression under Repression’ conference in Harare, about the role of art and artists in times of repression.**

“Zimbabwe is a country of large-scale censorship and government intimidation”, says Hivos Cultural Fund Officer Christine Wagner. “But despite the repression, a lot can still be done in this country. Harare has a vibrant cultural life.” In the week in which Hivos held its conference, two plays opened which really lashed out at Mugabe and his government. But the criticism was coupled with humour. “It is important for artists to package their message so that it is not banned by the censors”, says Wagner. The conference ‘Expression under Repression’ was organised by the Hivos regional office in Harare. Considerable thought had been given to the timing: right before the presidential elections. “The conference was private and so it could take place without government permission or interference”, says Wagner. ‘Expression under Repression’ was meant as an opportunity for artists in Zimbabwe and surrounding countries to exchange knowledge about circumventing repression. Hivos attributes an essential role to art and culture in building democratic and pluralistic societies.

*Learn more about ‘Expression under Repression’! Go to: [www.krachtvancultuur.nl/en/current/2008/july/expressionunderrepression](http://www.krachtvancultuur.nl/en/current/2008/july/expressionunderrepression)*

## **M** METROPOLIS TV IS A SUCCESS

Audience ratings are on the rise. The international site has a growing number of visitors. And the episodes are better each time. Metropolis TV, an innovative multimedia project of Hivos and the Dutch public broadcasting organisation VPRO, has concluded a successful season. What is more: it has already started on a new one.

Metropolis TV offers young – both experienced and inexperienced – journalists from all over the world a chance to show how globalisation affects day-to-day life in the country where they are posted. The reporters do this by ‘covering’ small-scale events in a unique, highly personal and low-threshold manner. Thus far, items have been broadcast from 44 countries. Together the brief episodes reflect the cultural differences between people, but they also show how many similarities there are. Subjects in the coming season range from ‘The worst job’ to ‘I am a believer’, and from ‘Life in prison’ to ‘Sex and morality’. New episodes have been available online since September.

*View the episodes at [www.metropolisweb.tv](http://www.metropolisweb.tv)! And learn more about Metropolis TV, suggest topics to a correspondent in your country or recommend someone as a correspondent! Get in touch with Monique Doppert, Hivos Media&ICT Programme Officer” (via [cim@hivos.nl](mailto:cim@hivos.nl) or her MyHivos account).*

## **AFAD CELEBRATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY**

Asia has the highest number of disappearances in the world. The leading organisation that works to combat this, Hivos partner Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD), celebrated its 10th anniversary in June.

The regional organisation has been supported by Hivos since its founding. Next year Hivos will cease its financial contribution in accordance with its policy not to support partners financially for more than ten years. AFAD has since found alternative sources of financing and will remain a strategic partner of Hivos – for example, for knowledge exchange. One of the most important results of AFAD has been the adoption of an international convention to fight disappearances: the UN Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. “After years of international lobbying by AFAD, the convention was approved by the UN General Assembly in 2005 and has since been signed by 72 countries”, according to Artien Utrecht, Programme Officer for Democratisation and Human Rights. AFAD, with headquarters in Manila, consists of eight member organisations from Pakistan, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal and the conflict area of Kashmir. Employees of these organisations are often family members of persons who have disappeared. The fact that they have personally experienced the suffering involved in disappearance makes them all the more proactive and thus an important driving force behind AFAD’s success.

*Learn more about AFAD! Go to [www.hivos.nl/AFAD](http://www.hivos.nl/AFAD)*

## **FREEDOM TO CELEBRATE**

The Netherlands is a place where you can be openly homosexual. This is celebrated with an annual procession through the canals of Amsterdam of boats full of flamboyantly dressed gays and lesbians. The glitter and glamour of this Canal Parade is completely at variance with the exclusion that homosexuals experience in many other countries. To highlight this huge difference, Hivos took part this year in an empty boat.

The empty boat was symbolic for all the people in developing countries who would like to have the freedom to be open about their sexual orientation. Prison sentences are imposed for homosexual acts in 79 countries, and in seven countries even the death penalty. Most of these countries are in Africa and Asia. For Hivos, the rights of sexual minorities are irrevocably bound up with freedom, self-determination and access to opportunities. This is why Hivos supports organisations in developing countries that stand up for these rights.

*Learn more about the Hivos programme for gay and lesbian emancipation! Get in touch with Paul Jansen (via [drag@hivos.nl](mailto:drag@hivos.nl) or his MyHivos account).*



## **SUCCESS FOR CIPAC**

A milestone for gays and lesbians in Costa Rica: in this Latin American country, 17 May has officially been designated as the National Day against Homophobia. This is the result of a lobbying campaign by Hivos partner CIPAC.

“We have been working to achieve this since early 2007”, says Francisco Madrigal, administrative director of CIPAC (Centro de Investigación y Promoción para América Central de Derechos Humanos). On 17 May the organisation submitted its proposal – which was later adopted – to Minister of Health María Luisa Ávila. CIPAC, which is supported by Hivos, has been fighting for years for the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders. Its activities have included setting up training courses, counseling and social activities. Since 2003 CIPAC has also organised the popular annual Festival por el Orgullo Gay (“Gay Pride Festival”) in Costa Rica.

*Learn more about CIPAC! Go to [www.hivos.nl/CIPAC](http://www.hivos.nl/CIPAC)*



# THE HIVOS KNOWLEDGE PROGRAMME

Hivos has recently started focusing more strongly on developing and exchanging knowledge. The object is to bridge the knowledge gap between the various players in development cooperation. Specially set up for this purpose, the Hivos Knowledge Programme will address several themes in the period 2007-2010. One of them revolves around building up civil society in closed societies, another around the role of small-scale producers in changing markets.

### INFLUENCING POLICY WITH KNOWLEDGE

The world is changing, with the markets for oil, raw materials and food leading the way. This change has huge consequences for small-scale producers. This was one reason why, in 2007, Hivos decided to commission an inventory of the available knowledge about these markets. **“Hivos is closely involved with small-scale producers of goods such as sustainable raw materials for fuel and food”**, says Erik Nijland, head of the Hivos policy field Sustainable Economic Development. “Changes that have an impact on the trade in these products are important for us.” The study resulted in a hefty report by Hivos partner Stockholm Environment Institute entitled ‘Food, Feed and Fuels’. It showed that there was a knowledge gap between the organisations dealing with these issues. Nijland: “Non-governmental organisations, producer organisations, knowledge institutes and research agencies all have valuable knowledge, gained from studies, projects, fieldwork and other experience. **Much of this knowledge is important not only for them, but also for other players in the field. This is why Hivos wants to bring these various players in touch with one another.** If these parties exchange their knowledge on a structural basis, they can influence the development policy of their government better and faster to the benefit of the small-scale producers.” Hivos will work on this theme (‘participation by small-scale producers in changing markets’) together with a strategic partner. It is expected that negotiations with the partner will be completed in October. The Knowledge Programme for this theme should be able to start soon after. “We will work with this partner and with other NGOs to get the knowledge integration project moving, and we mean to ensure that knowledge about the changing markets reaches all parties involved”, says Nijland.

### OPENING DOORS IN CLOSED SOCIETIES

In closed societies such as Syria and Iran, human rights and social freedoms cannot be taken for granted. Citizens’ organisations have a very hard time in these countries. If they criticise the government, it is punished with intimidation, bureaucratic obstacles and arrests. For the next two and a half years, Hivos and the Amsterdam School for Social Science Research (ASSR) of the University of Amsterdam will help these organisations and activists by means of knowledge development. **“In the past, and still today, numerous examples can be found of repressive, closed societies. Think of Cuba and the former Eastern bloc countries”**, says Marcel van der Heijden, Programme Officer for Democratisation and Human Rights in Southeast Europe, Central and Western Asia. “Researchers at the University of Amsterdam will conduct research together with local activists and scientists. How do, or did, civil society organisations in these countries deal with the threats and the repression? How do they ensure the citizens’ access to democratic processes?” The Hivos network will be put to good use for this research. The knowledge will be disseminated by publishing articles and by organising training courses. “The object is to generate new knowledge, to chart existing knowledge and to make all of it usable in practice”, says Van der Heijden. “This will result in new solutions. Although the project takes a highly scientific approach, it will definitely not become mired down in theoretical discussions. **Citizens’ organisations in closed societies need to be able to apply the knowledge about democratisation.**”

*Learn more about the Hivos Knowledge Programme! Get in touch with Josine Stremmelaar, coordinator of this programme (via [knowledge@hivos.nl](mailto:knowledge@hivos.nl) or her MyHivos account).*



Hivos is a development organisation which stands for emancipation, democratisation and poverty alleviation in developing countries. For this purpose financial and political support is given to more than 800 local private organisations in 30 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The seven policy spearheads of Hivos are financial services and enterprise development; socially and ecologically sustainable production; human rights and democratisation; HIV/Aids; arts and culture; gender, women and development; ICT and media. Part of the work has been decentralised to four regional offices in Zimbabwe, India, Indonesia and Costa Rica.



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