Call to participate in the workshop

ANOTHER WORLD IS NECESSARY
Justice, Sustainable Development & Sovereignty

JULY 19-26, 2006

We call on social change researchers and activists to join this 6-day workshop in seeking alternatives to corporate globalization that are just, sustainable, and respect popular sovereignty. Participants are invited to join the Center for Global Justice and share in the job of renewing its mission. All sessions will be in both English & Spanish.

“We have no alternative,” (TINA) said Margaret Thatcher of neo-liberal capitalism as led by the United States at least since the 1980s. And this system’s defenders still argue TINA. But this flies in the face of reality. Without waiting for governments, victims of neo-liberalism have themselves constructed many viable alternatives aiming at justice, sustainability, and popular sovereignty. And new majorities are directing governments to join this construction and the global justice movement. For another world is not only possible, it is now necessary. Amidst signs of a deep global economic crisis, the present system’s environmental and social unsustainability is clear. Failure to honestly ponder options invites disaster by mindless recycling of a toxic system. Another world needs inventing by us all - morally, economically, environmentally, politically, & culturally.

We aim for bi-lingual, publishable results of our joint work on suggested themes like:

1. **Grasping the crisis:** how capital pits working classes against each other; conflicting agricultural models & the rural crisis; the neo-liberal offensive today - economically, ecologically, politically; water & ecocide; new imperialism & war; recycling racism.

2. **Women world-wide:** women’s rights; migration of women; indigenous women; reproductive rights; women’s new economic activity; feminist ecology.

3. **Goals & Alternatives:** How is the people’s resistance redefining social and global justice, autonomy, and participatory democracy? New kinds of democratic socialism including “socialism for the 21st century”; how to undo racism; gender democracy; una vida digna.

4. **Strategies & Tools:** occupy, resist, produce; regional economic unity; global justice movements; solidarity economy, recuperated factories, & co-ops; can pursuit of local economic autonomy be combined with electoral action?; North-South cross-border organizing; ambiguities of new technologies; Tobin tax & international legal reform; food sovereignty; the subsistence perspective; reclaiming the commons; distinguishing means that are unjust, unsustainable, & disrespectful of peoples’ sovereignty from those that are not.

We welcome individual or joint papers, performances or other creative presentations on such themes. All papers will be posted on our website so we can prepare for joint work by reading each other’s work in advance. Site visits will concretize our debates.

**PROPOSALS DUE by May 1**

**FULL PRESENTATIONS IN ENGLISH & SPANISH by June 10**

Proposals & queries to Beatriz Súcar at: conference@globaljusticecenter.org

Please support the workshop by printing out and posting this Call
What to expect & how to participate in

ANOTHER WORLD IS NECESSARY

July 19-26, 2006  Center for Global Justice, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

You will find four distinguishing features of the workshop:

n it will bring together researchers and activists on an equal basis for two-way learning about how to move beyond corporate globalization

n it will bring together persons from the global North and the global South in defiance of the neo-liberal project of pitting these hemispheres’ workers against each other

n all proceedings will be in both Spanish and English to assure the understanding and communication needed for joint action; and

n our meeting is largely self-financed based on the formula “from each according to ability, to each according to need.”

Finally: we ask all participants to read all presentations in advance. This is because we ask all presenters to summarize presentations at the workshop to maximize the substantive discussion needed for progress on the issues.

Results – including key debates – will be made public. We plan two site visits on two days, one to a co-op network, one to a community development group.

All participants are invited to join the Center to help renew its mission and choose leadership & themes for 2007.

Proposals for an individual or group talk/paper/panel/creative presentation, etc. should include:

1. name, address, nationality, e-mail, affiliation, skill levels in primary and secondary languages;

2. title of proposal, nature of proposal (activist report, paper, show, etc.);

3. descriptive abstract.

Please indicate if you are willing to moderate a discussion to assure that all receive a fair share of available time and that presentations are merely summarized. Workdays end with a common session on the various groups’ progress, led by their appointed spokespersons.

DEADLINES

Proposals: MAY 1 to Beatriz Súcar at: conference@globaljusticecenter.org

Notification of acceptance: MAY 15.

Final, full presentations in both Spanish & English are due by JUNE 10. If you cannot get your paper translated yourself we will supply a list of translators charging reasonable rates.

Early registration deadline: JUNE 10

COSTS

Registration fee: includes all sessions, reception and lunches - $250 until June 10, $300 after June 10.

Site visits: $50 covers both visits.

Lodging and sessions at the Hotel Real de Minas (www.realdeminhas.com) a quiet, full service hotel 10 min from San Miguel’s historic center. Single or double: 702 pesos or $68 USD per night. Check our website for other options.

Scholarship assistance is available for low-income participants, including travel expenses, and lodging & dinners with local friends.

Full fees (and contributions) help provide scholarships for low-income participants.

We welcome tax deductible contributions to our Scholarship Fund.

All checks should be made payable to: “Research Associates Foundation,” and sent to:

Center for Global Justice BC-2323
9902 Crystal Ct. #107
Laredo TX 78045

For credit card payment & more information about the Center for Global Justice, see our website: www.globaljusticecenter.org

U.S. phone number: 1 (347) 983-5084
Mexico phone number: 01 (415) 150-0025