



Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

In this e-newsletter:

- Churches Together conference on the economic crisis, 20 January 2009, London
- *Philippines: Mining or Food?* report launch, 9 February, London
- CAFOD Early Day Motion on the Hallmark Nickel Project in the Philippines
- Companies, Communities and Religious Investors - conference on socially responsible investment, Dublin, 5 March 2009
- ECCR letter to Shell on proposed operations in Arctic waters
- Partnership for Development – Ecumenical World Development Consultation, 20 March, Hoddesdon
- ECCR Board member receives New Year's MBE
- Internship vacancies at FairPensions and the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
- Still time to comment on ECCR's work

Churches Together conference on the economic crisis, 20 January 2009, London

The Economic Crisis: Towards Sustainable Economies and Livelihoods is a one-day conference organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland to reflect on the root causes of the current crisis and the response of the churches. Keynote speakers include Bob Goudzwaard (Free University Amsterdam) and Ann Pettifor (Operation Noah and author, *The Coming First World Debt Crisis*). The conference is on Tuesday 20 January 2009, 10 am – 4 pm, at Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR. Further details are available from [CTBI](#), the [Methodist Church](#) or call 020 7654 7254. To register, please contact [Mary Gandy](#).

***Philippines: Mining or Food?* report launch, 9 February, London**

The Working Group on Mining in the Philippines, including ECCR and the Missionary Society of St Columban, will launch their new report *Philippines - Mining or Food?* in the Jubilee Room, Houses of Parliament, to an audience of journalists, parliamentarians and institutional investors on Monday 9 February. Based on new field research by Dr Robert Goodland and Clive Wicks, the 300-page report highlights how mining threatens food security in the Philippines and it echoes the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines in calling for a moratorium on new mining. Companies featuring in the report include BHP Billiton, Intex, Philex Gold, TVI and Xstrata. Along with the authors, Clare Short MP will speak at the launch about the City of London's role in financing mining in the Philippines and the involvement of UK-based mining companies. The report will also be launched in the Philippines.

The executive summary and recommendations of *Philippines: Mining or Food?* will be available on [ECCR's website](#) after 9 February or from [Miles Litvinoff](#). The Working Group's earlier report [Mining in the Philippines: Concerns and Conflicts](#) and our 2007 assessment of which [mining companies and financial institutions](#) are currently or potentially involved in the Philippines mining sector are also available.

CAFOD Early Day Motion on the Hallmark Nickel Project in the Philippines

ECCR partner CAFOD is urging UK residents to ask their MPs to sign Early Day Motion (EDM) 320 on the Hallmark Nickel Project in the Philippines run by BHP Billiton, the world's largest mining company. The EDM points to flaws in the community consent process, allegations of bribery, lack of transparency and information sharing with the community, and potential dangers to the environment and local livelihoods. It calls on BHP Billiton and the Philippines Government to act on the recommendations in CAFOD's report [Kept in the Dark](#) and on the UK Government to adopt a new anti-bribery law and to introduce legislation requiring companies to disclose information about the human rights, environmental and social impacts of private sector projects and the payments they make to governments on a country-by-country basis.

The EDM is online at

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=37329&SESSION=899>.

Companies, Communities and Religious Investors - conference on socially responsible investment, Dublin, 5 March 2009

ECCR and a coalition of churches and faith groups are holding an ecumenical and interfaith conference in Dublin, Ireland, on 5 March focused on how religious communities and people of faith can use their role as investors to promote corporate responsibility and improve companies' impacts on sustainability and justice. Organisers and sponsors include Trócaire, the Inter-Church Committee on Social Issues, the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland, the Missionary Oblates, the Missionary Society of St Columban, Christian Aid Ireland and the International Interfaith Investment Group (3IG). Venue: All Hallows College; entrance is free. [Please see poster and programme](#). For more details or to reserve a place please contact [Helen Boothroyd](#) (tel. +44 (0)1325 580028) or [Mark Cumming](#) (tel. +353 (0)1 505 3261).

ECCR letter to Shell on proposed operations in Arctic waters

Following an approach from the US Sierra Club, ECCR has written to Royal Dutch Shell about concerns and risks relating to its proposed oil exploration in Alaska's Beaufort and Chukchi seas. Sierra has drafted a shareholders' resolution and supporting statement which it plans to bring to Shell's 2009 AGM unless concerns are satisfactorily addressed. ECCR has not yet had a response from the company. A copy of ECCR's letter is available on request.

Partnership for Development – Ecumenical World Development Consultation, 20 March, Hoddesdon

This year's Ecumenical World Development Consultation will focus on working together with agencies, business, campaigning groups, governments and producers, explored through presentations, workshops and worship. It takes place at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts, on 20 March. Speakers will include Malcolm Bruce MP, Paul Chandler of Traidcraft and Benedict Southworth of the World Development Movement. The conference is designed for all who seek to involve their churches in poverty and justice issues. Further details are available at <http://forum.surefish.co.uk/forum/Topic5547-14-1.aspx> and booking forms from [Flo Dagama](#) of Christian Aid Churches Team (tel. 0207 523 2180).

ECCR Board member receives New Year's MBE

ECCR warmly congratulates Board member Steve Hucklesby who was made an MBE in the New Year Honours for his efforts in treating victims of the London Underground bombings on 7 July 2005. Steve is the Methodist Church's Secretary for International Affairs.

Internship vacancies at FairPensions and the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

ECCR corporate member [FairPensions](#) seeks a website writer and campaign communications intern. No technical expertise is needed. Details from [Ben Watson](#).

The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre has launched recruitment for research interns at its London office commencing in February/March (Spanish or French required) or May/June. Deadline for applications is 5 February. The minimum internship period is 4 months full-time or 8 months half-time. Further details are online at <http://www.business-humanrights.org/Aboutus/Internrecruitment>.

Still time to comment on ECCR's work

There is still time for ECCR members, partners and friends to comment on our work over the past year. Please use the evaluation questionnaire sent out last month or simply send your comments by email to any member of the Board or Secretariat ([team contact details](#)). Responses would be especially helpful by the end of January 2009 ahead of our Board and team evaluation meeting in early February.

With all good wishes for a fruitful 2009.

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ECCR is a company limited by guarantee in England & Wales (No. 2764183) and a Body in Association with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

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ECCR's monthly e-newsletters are circulated midway through every month except August. Members and partners are welcome to submit brief news items for inclusion. Please send to [Miles Litvinoff](#).

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