

Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

In this email:

- AGM and open debate on Water Sustainability, 27 September, central London
- ECCR is recruiting a Church and Membership Relations Officer
- ECCR Rio Tinto report cited in BBC News 24 *Hardtalk* interview
- New Engagement Guide – members and partners invited to review draft text
- CAFOD urges Argos and Goldsmiths to sign up to 'golden rules'
- George Monbiot on the urgency of strong action on climate change

AGM and open debate on Water Sustainability: The Challenge to Business, 27 September, central London

ECCR's AGM takes place on Thursday 27 September from 2.30 to 3.30 pm at Methodist Church House (lower ground floor), Marylebone Road, London. Members and interested non-members are welcome; light refreshments will be available. Members will receive AGM papers by early September.

Claire Foster, National Policy Adviser to the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, will chair ECCR's 2007 open debate on water sustainability and business stewardship. Panel speakers confirmed to date: Jacob Tompkins, Waterwise; Tom Le Quesne, WWF-UK; David Gardner, Farmcare/The Co-operative Group. Speaker from the food and drink industry invited. All are welcome to this open event at Methodist Church House (main hall), Marylebone Road, London, Thursday 27 September, 4.30 – 6 pm.

Please circulate or display the attached flyer among your contacts.

ECCR is recruiting a Church and Membership Relations Officer

ECCR wishes to appoint a part-time Church and Membership Relations Officer on a freelance basis, initially for 1 day per week. Responsibilities will include developing relationships with church bodies and church members; providing appropriate services to ECCR members; assisting with creation of written materials; responding to membership inquiries and administering subscriptions and database. Salary: £24,000 pro rata. For details and an application form, please contact Miles Litvinoff (miles.litvinoff@eccr.org.uk). Closing date for applications: Friday 10 August 2007. Interviews: late August/early September.

ECCR Rio Tinto report cited in BBC News 24 *Hardtalk* interview

ECCR's 2006 company report on Rio Tinto was cited in a recent BBC News 24 interview with Rio Tinto chairman Paul Skinner. Six minutes into the interview, journalist Stephen Sackur refers to ECCR's reported concerns about there often being 'stark differences between the image portrayed by Rio Tinto's corporate literature and the views of community and environmental groups on the ground where they operate'. The interview is available online at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/hardtalk/6764259.stm>.

New Engagement Guide – members and partners invited to review draft text

Work is progressing on ECCR's new Engagement Guide, which aims to assist faith-based and responsible investors and others interested in participating in corporate and investor responsibility

advocacy. Members, partners and friends who would be interested in reading and commenting on the draft text during August are invited to contact Miles Litvinoff.

CAFOD urges Argos and Goldsmiths to sign up to `golden rules`

As part of its Unearth Justice campaign, ECCR partner CAFOD is asking supporters to urge Argos and Goldsmiths to join other jewellers in signing up to 12 'golden rules' to clean up the gold industry. Currently it is difficult for jewellers to say with confidence how the gold in their products is mined. Implementation of the `golden rules` would lead to greater transparency, CAFOD says. CAFOD is campaigning to highlight the hidden harm caused by gold mining and to get governments and multinational businesses to give poor communities a greater say in whether and how gold is mined and who benefits. Jewellers have an influential role to play. Further details at www.cafod.org.uk/latestaction.

George Monbiot on the urgency of strong action on climate change

ECCR members the Columban Missionaries have reproduced on their website columnist George Monbiot's recent strong defence of the steps needed to tackle climate change advocated in his book *Heat*. Recommended reading. See www.columban.com/environmental_feedback.html.

The next ECCR e-newsletter will be in September.

With all good wishes

Miles Litvinoff
Co-ordinator, Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility