

GPPi Roundtable Discussion
Mutual Respect, Common Interests? Perspectives on Emerging Donors in Humanitarian Aid
February 25th, 2009

The purpose of the roundtable is to start an exchange between traditional humanitarian actors and emerging donors, looking at the current and future role of the emerging donors in the international humanitarian system. The discussions will build on the transatlantic focus we have established over the last 13 months in the context of the “Raising the bar: Enhancing transatlantic governance of disaster preparedness and relief” project. (www.disastergovernance.net.)

Although there is an increase in demand for humanitarian aid, the economic recession has resulted in tight budgets for traditional donors limiting the funds available to respond to humanitarian issues abroad. Fortunately, emerging countries in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Latin American and Eastern Europe have begun providing humanitarian assistance, widening the pool of donors. However, at the moment little is known about *what* these states do in terms of humanitarian aid, *why* they give and *how* their aid is provided. As these emerging donors begin to engage in humanitarian efforts it is important that their approaches are better understood and their voices heard during the current reform process in the humanitarian system.

17:00h WELCOME

- Ursula Müller, Head of Division, Humanitarian Task Force and Mine Action, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

17.15h MOVIE PRESENTATION, CERF DOCUMENTARY

17.45h PANEL SPEECHES

- Andrea Binder, Project Manager, GPPi, to speak on the current status of the international aid system, its principles, platforms, and institutions.
- Per Byman, Head of Division for Humanitarian Assistance, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), to speak on normative and political strengths and weaknesses of the current international aid system.
- Tiia Treier, 3rd Secretary Economics and Trade, Estonian Embassy, Berlin, to speak on what motivates emerging donors, and the obstacles and opportunities they face.
- Ulrike von Pilar, former Director of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors without Borders (MSF) Germany, to speak on NGO perspectives towards emerging donors.

18.30h DISCUSSION

Facilitation: Julia Steets, Associate Director, GPPi (confirmed)

19.00h RECEPTION