



2009 Human Development Award honours Frances Stewart for lifetime achievements

Country reports from Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia and Turkey receive awards for excellence in policy proposals and innovation, Swaziland report receives special recognition

Busan, South Korea, 27 October 2009—The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) honoured outstanding contributions to work on advancing human development at a ceremony held here, today.

This year's *Mahbub ul Haq Award* was presented to Professor Frances Stewart of the United Kingdom for her lifetime achievements in promoting human development. Stewart —a leading development economist at Oxford University—has been one of the key figures associated with human development since the Human Development Report was first published in 1990.

The *Mahbub ul Haq Award* recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to furthering the understanding and progress of human development. The award was created to honour Mahbub ul Haq (1934-1998), who pioneered the human development approach and founded the global Human Development Report.

“Frances Stewart’s continuous encouragement and support to Human Development Reports since their inception is greatly admired and appreciated,” said Jeni Klugman, Human Development Report Office Director, who presented the award. “Her contributions to developing, teaching and promoting the conceptual, empirical and policy foundations of human development have been truly remarkable, and very influential around the world.”

Stewart joined previous Mahbub ul Haq Award winners, who include Fernando Cardoso, former President of Brazil (2002), Fazle Hasan Abed, founder of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (2005) and Sheila Watt-Cloutier, arctic community activist (2007).

“For the first time the Human Development Awards ceremony take place abroad, and I am honoured that the host country is Korea,” Dr. Insill Yi, Commissioner of Statistics Korea, said at the opening ceremony. “I believe this is a great opportunity to raise global awareness about the importance of the Human Development Reports.”

Also, today, human development reports from Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia and Turkey received awards in recognition of their excellence. The UNDP’s Human Development Awards are given every two years and recognize the contributions of national and regional reports to improve development policies and practices.

The report *The Other Frontier-Alternative Uses of Natural Resources in Bolivia, 2008*, won the Excellence in Policy Analysis Award for its encouragement of an alternative model for Bolivian economic development based on high labour and environmental standards.

The subnational Colombian report entitled *On the path to an inclusive and peaceful Valle del Cauca* won the Excellence in Participation and Inclusiveness in Report Preparation Award for its comprehensive consultations with a range of stakeholders in the Valle del Cauca district, including political organizations, universities, the corporate sector and civil society organizations.

The report *Youth in Turkey* won the Excellence in Influencing National Policy Debate Award. After generating large media attention, the report led to the creation of a youth non-governmental organization platform and the government's first policy for youth issues.

The Excellence in Innovation in Measurement Award was given to the report *Social Inclusion in Bosnia and Herzegovina*, won for developing a new statistical measure of the relationships between social inclusion and development opportunities.

In addition to the above-mentioned countries, Swaziland's report entitled *HIV/AIDS and Culture* received a special recognition for its inclusive process, which drew on experiences from the government, civil society organizations and traditional Swazi groups to capture the role of culture in containing the spread of HIV and AIDS and mitigating its impacts.

For more information about the 2009 National Human Development Awards:
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/nhdr/awards/2009/>

For more information about Frances Stewart:
<http://hdr.undp.org/en/nhdr/awards/2009/press/>

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About Human Development - *Human Development is the expansion of the freedoms that people have to live their lives as they choose. This conception – inspired by the path-breaking work of Nobel laureate Amartya Sen and the leadership of Mahbub ul Haq, and known also as the capabilities approach because of its emphasis on the freedom that people have to achieve vital 'beings and doings' – has been at the core of UNDP's approach since the first Human Development Report in 1990, and is as relevant as ever to the design of effective policies to combat poverty and deprivation. This approach has proved powerful in reshaping thinking about topics as diverse as gender, human security and climate change.*

About the National Human Development Reports – *A National Human Development Report is a road map for policy makers aimed at improving the lives of millions of people through a highly integrated assessment and accounting of basic human needs based on detailed research. Since the launch of the first global Human Development Report in 1990, human development has expanded through the research and advocacy work of over 600 regional, national and sub-national Human Development Report teams in over 130 countries.*

About UNDP - *UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners. www.undp.org*