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GFI Newsletter: Celebrating 10 Years

Save the Date: 2013 Fairness Award

2013 marks ten years of innovative GFI programs and the **Fourth Annual Fairness Award**.

Please join us on Wednesday, October 9th, at the historic Howard Theater as we celebrate a decade of sustainable and equitable economic development for the world's working poor and honor some of the amazing leaders who make this development possible.

Delegation of Ross MBA students visits salt farmers

Over the past two weeks, four MBA students from the University of Michigan's Ross School of Business have been on the ground working with GFI, the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), and thousands of salt farmers in Gujarat. Leveraging their experience and passion, the students are analyzing the salt farmers' supply chain and market to help move the Salt Workers' Economic Empowerment Program forward. During their field visit the students have had the opportunity to meet leaders from SEWA, work with technology and diesel providers, and observe distribution and financing models. Based on their analyses, meetings, and observations, the students are creating a business case and implementation strategy for GFI's and the Practica

Foundation's report on the potential for introducing renewable technology to the salt-farming process. Over the next two months, the University of Michigan will work closely with GFI and our other partners to present a case for the farmers to adopt energy-efficient pumps, reduce input costs, and provide greater opportunities for income generation for thousands of farmers.



GFI intern visits Rwanda

Mariana Rivera Torres, Georgetown University, BSFS 2015

Rwanda, the land of a thousand hills, is commonly known for having gone through one of the world's most tragic episodes. I had the opportunity of visiting the country through Georgetown University's one-week alternative spring break program, which focused on exploring the successes and challenges of Rwanda's economic development, with a particular focus on public health. I was positively surprised by the extraordinary improvements the country has made in less than two decades, to the extent that the first word that pops into head when thinking about Rwanda is *progress* rather than *genocide*. Streets are clean and safe; the economy is growing steadily and strongly; and efforts on gender equality, anti-corruption, and environmental policies have seen great success.

Throughout our time in Rwanda we were able to sense the scars left by the genocide, the gaps between political reconciliation and genuine forgiveness, the disparity between economic and political freedom, and the strong levels of state supervision in every corner of the country. Despite the progress seen in the past couple of decades and the cohesive national development plan labeled Vision 2020, Rwanda still has a long way to go.

The biggest lesson I learned during my trip to Rwanda was the ability to acknowledge the complexity of human nature. On the one hand, the genocide illustrates our capacity to commit merciless atrocities, driven by our accumulated hatred and desire for power, but at the same time it demonstrates our ability to recover from even the most devastating circumstances. I left Rwanda filled with hope for its future and a profound admiration for its people, whom I regard as symbols of courage and perseverance.

Apply for the SAPIN FELLOWSHIP

GFI is currently accepting applications for the summer and fall 2013 Sapin Fellowship.

Email Nora Mara at:
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The Global Fairness Initiative - 2122 P St NW Suite 302 - Washington, DC

