

Like

2

Tweet

0

Share

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

November 2011 - Vol 3 # 11

GFI Newsletter: This Month - Collaborative Development



Give the Gift of Water this Month

This holiday season we celebrate how partnership and sharing of knowledge can help us thrive. Continue the essence of Thanksgiving by delivering the tools necessary for Guatemalan farmers to improve their health and incomes.

Read GFI's Regional Director's Article on Technology for Mayan Farmers

The advance of technology can go far beyond the latest application for smart phone users and have a transcendent role in poverty alleviation, especially through the design of tools that meet the needs of the poorest



Congratulations, Albina Ruiz!



On November 8th the DC development and international community gathered to honor grassroots and grass-tops leadership. GFI and the Lincoln Theatre welcomed guests to the 2011 Fairness Award; and DC's vocal legend, Dick Smith, kicked off the evening's performances with a rendition of Duke Ellington's *A Train*, a tribute to the Lincoln's jazz heritage.

ABC's Maureen Bunyan shared the theme of the evening: *"[this is] what we can accomplish when people at all levels work together, when leaders at the top embrace innovation and ideas coming from*

sectors of society[Read more](#)



You Can Help

The Global Fairness Initiative launched the BeFair Campaign to bridge the bottom of the pyramid technology gap and bring low-cost technologies to improve livelihoods. With your support BeFair will deliver over 5,000 Farmer Livelihood Kits to smallholder farmers in Guatemala. These kits use low-cost drip irrigation and specialized trainings to help farmers improve their nutrition and increase their incomes by as much as 50%. Your contribution of \$40 will deliver one irrigation kit plus technical trainings to an indigenous farming family in Guatemala.

**DONATE \$40 OR MORE
AND RECEIVE A BEFAIR
WATER BOTTLE !**



grassroots movements." Jose Maria Figueres, former President of Costa Rica, one of those leaders, presented the Award to the 2011 honoree, Albina Ruiz founder of Peru's Ciudad Saludable.

Accepting the Award, Albina talked about turning trash into wealth for thousands of waste pickers in Peru. In Albina's own words: *"Seeing the mountains of garbage in Lima, I was puzzled by 3 questions: why do the poor have to live among mountains of garbage; why should waste pickers have to work in dumps looking for paper, plastic, and glass; and why is the government so inefficient in solid waste management?"* Not satisfied with the answers she received from public officials, she set out to make a change and created Ciudad Saludable. Today Ciudad Saludable has improved the lives of over 6 million people in rural and urban regions of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, and India.

In honor of Albina and her work in Peru, Sentimiento Peruano, six-time winner of Peru's National Marinera competition, performed beautiful and spirited traditional dances from Peru, accompanied by outstanding singer Dayan Aldana. ([see event pictures here!](#)) The entertainment and enthusiasm continued with Savannah Music Festival gold medalist Sharon Clark and talented singer/song writer Lauren White.

This evening of fun and inspiration offered a renewed sense of optimism about what is possible with dedication and collaboration. As Albina says, *"The struggle of 15 million waste pickers is our struggle!"*

LEARN MORE AT
befaircampaign.org

Call for BeFair Campaign Fundraisers

Help the BeFair Campaign bring innovative, life-changing technology to Guatemalan farmers. Support GFI's drive to deliver 5,000 irrigation kits by hosting a local fundraiser, a Happy Hour, or a House Party.

Contact Alessandra for more information on hosting a fundraising event at adelgado at globalfairness.org



Thank you for making a difference

Muito obrigado to Romero Britto for donating his stunning painting to commemorate collaborative development at its best! It was an honor to share the evening with Britto, OAS, Glamour, Rio Tinto, and Prince of Wales Foundation representatives. Stay connected to the Fairness Award by clicking the painting below!



Inclusion of Informal Workers in Nigeria, an Opportunity for Increased Economic Development

As the world marked the birth of its 7 billionth inhabitant, poverty remains a devastating reality in both rural and urban areas. Facing an influx of people searching for a means of livelihood, urban areas have seen the subsequent proliferation of informal sector work, commonly called "petty trading" in Africa.

In Nigeria 80% of the population operates economic

activities outside government regulations. Work of the informal sector here includes a wide range of small-scale and largely self-employed enterprises. With so many people working in so many areas, the informal sector provides work opportunity for millions of workers and has the potential to provide fair wages for workers and tax revenue for the nation.

Unfortunately, this potential has not been realized. The Economic Freedom Index ranks Nigeria's economy as a "mostly unfree" economy. This rating reflects Nigeria's high trade barriers, heavy regulations, instability, misguided economic policies, and excessive government interventions. Including the informal sector in the mainstream economy is a major pathway to realizing Nigeria's full economic potential.

Nigeria, like many growing economies, has seen an increase in economic isolation and a widening income gap for millions of informal workers. The result is increased levels of crime and violence seen in the country, as workers see an economic growth model that does not work to increasingly integrate them legally and economically. In Nigeria and throughout emerging markets in Africa, it is key to focus on the integration of workers using flexible regulatory structures that adapt to the needs of the poor. These policies include the provision of basic services including safety nets such as basic social security for informal workers.



[Follow us!](#)



The Global Fairness Initiative - 1800 Wyoming Avenue, NW - Washington, DC 20009
www.globalfairness.org - info@globalfairness.org - 1 (202) 898-9022

[Click here](#) to forward this email to a friend

