

International Development Ethics Association (IDEA)

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ETHICS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**June 19-22, 2002, Escuela Agrícola Panamericana,
Zamorano, Honduras**

**“Poverty, Corruption, and Human Rights:
Ethics of Citizenship and Public Service”**

NEW DATE and MODIFIED THEME: IDEA’s Sixth International IDEA Conference on Ethics and Development will be held in Zamorano, Honduras, June 19-22, 2002 (instead of January 17-20, 2002). The theme is “Poverty, Corruption, and Human Rights: Ethics of Citizenship and Public Service.” The reasons for the changes were various. What is important is that the date and themes now better fit the Honduran calendar and policy challenges. A new government soon takes office in Honduras, and we wanted to have our event after it had settled in. Officials recently announced the formation of a commission to combat corruption, and the initiative has received much press attention. Focusing on corruption rather than impunity enables us to deal with the varieties of present law-breaking (their causes, consequences, and remedies) and not solely the military’s past human rights abuses. The date of June 19-22 fits both academic calendars and that of Zamorano, the stunning agricultural university near Tegucigalpa. What follows is the new one-page “Call for Papers,” and then additional material about the conference (Part of the IDEA Web site will be devoted to the conference).

CALL FOR PAPERS:

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International Development Ethics Association (IDEA)

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ETHICS AND
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

June 19-22, 2002, Escuela Agrícola Panamericana, Zamorano, Honduras

“Poverty, Corruption, and Human Rights: Ethics of Citizenship and Public Service”

Conference Aims: The 2002 IDEA conference will bring together ethicists, development scholars, poverty researchers, corruption analysts, and development practitioners to forge better approaches to controlling corruption and advancing the public good. Its threefold aim is to address aspects of the central conference theme, enable IDEA members and other development ethicists to share and receive comments on their current work, and encourage fruitful dialogue between theorists and practitioners of development. This balance between a central conference theme and IDEA’s engagement with the full range of development issues has been the tradition in the previous IDEA conferences and workshops in Costa Rica (’84, ’87), Mexico (’89), U.S.A. (’91), Honduras (’92), Chile (’95, ’96), Scotland (’96), and India (’97).

Central Theme: The conference aims to understand corruption and evaluate it from normative points of view. It also seeks to delineate the causal relationships between poverty, corruption, and human rights violations. To what extent and how does poverty generate corruption and vice-versa? What links exist between corruption and other human rights violations? Given the causes and consequences of corruption and the various policy responses to this widespread practice, the conference will ethically assess different types of corruption and diverse ways of controlling it. Honduran participants will address these issues in the context of Honduran development challenges. The Conference begins only a few months after a new Honduran administration takes office, and we will invite members of the new presidential team and of congress to participate in the Conference. Hondurans and non-Hondurans alike will ask how individual and public efforts to control corruption benefit from an ethic of citizenship and public service.

Principal Sponsors : The International Development Ethics Association (IDEA), a membership organization of development philosophers, scholars, policy makers and practitioners; the Citizen’s Forum, a leading Honduran advocacy and civil society group; the National Autonomous University of Honduras, and the University of Maryland.

Participants, Proposals, Papers, and Presentations: We expect a conference of 100-150 participants, with an equal number of Hondurans and non-Hondurans. Abstracts and papers may be in either Spanish or English and should be submitted electronically (if possible) in Microsoft Word. Papers should be no longer than 20 double-spaced (12 point font) pages. Plenary presentations will be 45 minutes, and smaller session presentations will be 15 minutes.

Deadlines and Registration:

- Receipt of paper proposals (200 words) and panel proposals: February 15, 2002
- Decision on proposals: March 1, 2002
- Advanced registration for “South” participants (\$15): March 31, 2002
- Advanced registration for “North” participants (\$100): March 31, 2002
- Receipt of Conference Papers: April 30, 2002
- Onsite Registration: “South” participants (\$20) and “North” participants (\$150): June 19-22, 2002

Contacts: For additional information or to join IDEA —see (www.carleton.ca/idea/newsletter) or contact David A. Crocker (dc134@umail.umd.edu). Proposals/papers may be submitted electronically to D. Crocker or R. Romero (rrromero@edured.net).

CONFERENCE AIMS: The conference has three mutually reinforcing aims:

- To enable the conference participants to address one or more aspects of the central conference theme: “Poverty, Corruption, and Human Rights: Ethics of Citizenship and Public Service.”
- To enable IDEA members and other development ethicists to share and receive comments on their current work.
- To encourage fruitful dialogue between theorists and practitioners of development. The Conference encourages community or non-governmental organizations to make collective and nontraditional presentations concerning their groups’ development challenges and options.

Central Americans and others addressing the Conference’s central theme will find value in both general treatments of development ethics as well as specific topics or case studies situated in other development contexts. Development Ethicists considering general issues as well as participants confronting specific development challenges beyond the central theme will learn from those who address the Conference theme.

This balance – between a theme relevant to the conference venue and IDEA’s engagement with the full range of development issues – has been the tradition in the previous IDEA conferences and workshops, which were held in Costa Rica (‘84, ‘87, ‘92), Mexico (‘89), Honduras (‘92), Chile (‘95, ‘96), Scotland (‘96), and India (‘97).

RATIONALE FOR CENTRAL THEME: How should we evaluate corruption? When and why is corruption wrong? Is it a necessary evil? A Western hang-up? An offensive leech that poses insurmountable obstacles to development? Are the proposed cures of corruption worse than the disease? This IDEA Conference aims to understand corruption and evaluate it from normative points of view.

Toward that end, we will attempt to understand the causal relationships between corruption and poverty, on the one hand, and corruption and human rights violations on the other. What are the specific ways in which poverty and human rights violations are symptoms, determinants, or effects of corruption? In Honduras, for example, there seems to be an intertwining of (i) public and private corruption (judicial bias, bribes, and kickbacks), (ii) failures to bring to justice individuals and institutions that break the law and violate rights; and (iii) street crime, domestic violence, drug trafficking, and private vengeance. To what extent and how does poverty generate corruption and vice-versa?

Once the empirical relationships that connect corruption to poverty and human rights violations become apparent, we hope that the ethical principles and courses of action required to deal with

corruption will become more obvious. Will public action required to control corruption benefit from an ethics of citizenship and public service? What actions should individuals, associations, governments (at various levels), and international institutions take in the face of corruption? The 2002 IDEA Conference hopes to shed light on these questions by bringing together ethicists, development scholars, poverty researchers, corruption analysts, and development practitioners who, together, might forge better approaches to controlling corruption and advancing the public good.

The Citizens Forum [Foro Ciudadano], an Honduran advocacy group and one of the event's sponsors, has been addressing these issues in the context of Honduras's development challenges. How might Honduras's new administration and anti-corruption commission control corruption and improve government transparency? What roles do Honduran citizens and government officials, respectively, have in controlling corruption and in safeguarding human rights? What are ways that Hondurans can work in and with their government to evolve more democratic and accountable institutions? What sort of development assistance would best promote pro-poor and anti-corruption development?

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: The conference will feature two keynote speakers. Adela Cortina, professor of Ethics and Political Philosophy at the University of Valencia (Spain) and Director of the Foundation ETNOR (Ethics of Business and Organization), will give the international keynote address. Professor Cortina is one of Europe's most prominent political philosophers and applied ethicists. Recently extending her work to development ethics, she has formulated an ethics of citizenship and civil society as one way of combating corruption and promoting democracy. Among her many publications are *Razón comunicativa y responsabilidad solidaria* (1985), *Ética mínima* (1986), *Ética sin moral* (1990), *Ética aplicada y democracia radical* (1993), *Hacer reforma: La ética de la sociedad civil* (1994), *Ciudadanos del mundo: Hacia una teoría de la ciudadanía* (1997), *Hasta un pueblo de demonios: Ética pública y sociedad* (1998).

Leo Valladares, Honduran ombudsman and National Commissioner for the Protection of Human Rights in Honduras, will give the national keynote address. Señor Valladares and the small but mighty Commission inquired about Honduran "disappearances" and published *The Facts Speak for Themselves: Preliminary Report on the Disappeared in Honduras 1980-93* (1993). The Commission publishes a human rights report each year, frequently confronting Honduran poverty, corruption, lack of public responsibility, and failures of developed countries to provide appropriate support. Stepping down from his position in March, Sr. Valladares will assess Honduras's challenges in controlling corruption and establishing a more just and democratic Honduras.

SPONSORING AND COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONS:

Sponsoring Organizations :

- International Development Ethics Association (IDEA)
- Postgrado Centroamericano en Economía y Desarrollo (POSCAE), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras
- FORO CIUDADANO [Citizens Forum], an Honduran civil society and advocacy organization

- Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland

Collaborative Institutions:

- Inter-American Development Bank (IADB): Inter-American Initiative of Social Capital, Ethics, and Development
- Comite de Familiares de Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH)
- International Programs, University of Maryland
- Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector (IRIS Center), University of Maryland (Unconfirmed)
- Center for Research on Poverty (CROP), University of Bergen (Unconfirmed)
- Development Dialogue on Ethics and Values (Unconfirmed)
- Transparency International (Unconfirmed)

PARTICIPANTS: We anticipate a conference of 100-150 participants with a balance of North/South, East/West, Honduran/non-Honduran, and scholar/practitioner participants. The Conference will occur only a few months after a new Honduran administration takes office, and we will invite members of the new presidential team, parliament, and new anti-corruption commission.

VENUE: The Conference will be held in the facilities of the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana (Zamorano) not far from Tegucigalpa, the nation's capital. Zamorano is a leading agricultural university with students from all over Latin America. With strong commitments to ethically-based agricultural and rural development, Zamorano faculty and students will contribute in a variety of ways to the success of our conference. Located in a beautiful valley near Tegucigalpa, Zamorano promises to be a splendid location for our work. Our conference will be held in the Kellogg Center on the Zamorano campus. Information on various lodging options will be forthcoming, but you can count on the accommodations being excellent and affordable.

REGISTRATION: Please register for the Honduras conference as soon as you can. Advanced Registration (which closes March 31, 2001) forms are available by clicking on "Honduras Advanced Registration." Advanced registration combines prudence and altruism: it saves you money and helps with our pre-conference expenses. What a deal! And while you are at it (and to get an IDEA member's rate for conference fees), why not renew your IDEA membership or join for the first time (click on Join IDEA).

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PANELS, AND PRESENTATIONS: We have decided to cap the number of conference papers and presentations at 50. As of January 10, 2002, we have accepted more than twenty non-Honduran proposals and still seek proposals for papers and panels on the central conference theme as well as on other topics in development ethics. We also encourage practitioners, projects, and communities to propose presentations that address their concrete challenges and successes. The deadline for proposals is February 15, 2002. Proposers will be notified of acceptance, conditional acceptance, or rejection no later than March 1, 2002. Completed papers are due no later than April 30, 2002 and will be made available on the conference web site. Send, by **email attachment in Word, if possible**, English abstracts or

proposals and completed papers to David A. Crocker (dc134@umail.umd.edu) and Spanish abstracts and papers to Ramon Romero (rrromero@edured.net).

SUBTHEMES AND SAMPLE PAPER TOPICS: In keeping with the Conference's threefold aim, the following is a list of sample topics on both the central Conference theme and on other timely topics in development ethics.

Central Conference Theme

- "Corruption and Development: Moral Issues and Remedies"
- "Does Corruption Matter? Assessing the Arguments"
- "Dos and Don'ts in Controlling Corruption"
- "Controlling Corruption: Are the Cures Worse than the Disease?"
- "Is Poverty the Cause of Corruption? Is Development the Remedy? What Kind of Development?"
- "Retribution versus Reconciliation: How Should Law-breakers be Treated?"
- "Post-Truth Commission Development Challenges: Comparing Chile, South Africa, and Honduras"
- "Citizen Responsibility in Public Life"
- "Ethics of Citizenship and Women's Rights"
- "Legal Reform as a Development Strategy in Rwanda and Honduras"
- "Moral and Civic Education: Aims and Strategies"
- "Strengths and Liabilities of Civil Society in Combating Corruption"
- "Merits and Weaknesses of an Anti-Corruption Perspectives on Development"

Other Timely Topics in Development Ethics

- "Do Human Rights and Development Need Each Other? Assessing UNDP"
- "Consolidating Democracy in Eastern Europe and Latin America"
- "Realism and Idealism in International Aid for Civil Society"
- "Capability vs. Kantian Approaches to Development Ethics"
- "Gender Equality and Democratic Participation"
- "The World Bank's Analysis and Remedy for Urban Poverty: A Moral Assessment"
- "National Patriotism vs. Global Citizenship?"
- "Can and Should Terrorism Be Fought with Development?"
- "Tolerance, Democracy, and Development"
- "Balancing Tradition and Modernity: the Role of Deliberative Democracy"
- "Development Ethics and Poverty Reduction"
- "National vs. International Causes and Remedies of Poverty"
- "Development Cooperation and the International Financial Institutions: Evaluating the post- Washington Consensus"

Group Presentations

- "Combating Honduran Corruption: The Experience of Foro Ciudadano"
- "The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Civil Society"
- "IDB and the Initiative on Social Capital, Ethics, and Development"

ACCEPTED PAPER PROPOSALS: The following papers have been accepted as of January 11, 2002:

1. Richard H. Bell, Philosophy, The College of Wooster, Ohio, USA “Justice: Retributive or Restorative? Lessons from South Africa on Public transparency, Mercy and Democratic Transformation.”
2. Camilo Perez Bustillo, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM), Campus Estado de México; and Hans Egil Offerdal, Theology and Communication, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Campus Estado de México (ITESM-CEM), México, “The Ethics and Politics of Truth Commissions in Guatemala and South Africa”
3. Luis Camacho, Philosophy, Universidad de Costa Rica, “Globalización: desde arriba y desde abajo, desde fuera y desde adentro.”
4. Jesus Conill, Philosophy, Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, Valencia, Spain, “Bases éticas del ‘capability approach’ de A. Sen”
5. Adela Cortina, Ethics and Political Philosophy and Director of the Foundation ETNOR (Ethics of Business and Organization), Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo, Valencia, Spain, international keynote address
6. David A. Crocker, Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland, USA, “Corruption, Impunity, and Democracy”
7. Roman David, Post-Doctoral Scholar, University of Witswatersrand, South Africa, “Based Constitutions: The Experience of Germany, Czech Republic and Slovakia”
8. Séverine Deneulin, Economics, Oxford University, England, “Justice as Mutual Obligations Towards One Another”
9. Nigel Dower, Philosophy, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, “The Global Framework for Development – instrumentality or contested ethical space?”
10. Jay Drydyk, Philosophy, Carleton University, Ontario, Canada, “Is There a Right to Community Empowerment?”
11. J. Ron Engel, Social Ethics, Meadville/Lombard Theological School, University of Chicago, USA, "The Earth Charter: A New Covenant for Democracy?"
12. Des Gasper, Institute of Social Studies, The Netherlands, “Global Ethics and Global Strangers: Beyond the International Relations Framework: An Essay in Descriptive Ethics”
13. Christine M. Koggel, Philosophy, Bryn Mawr College, USA, “In the Real World: Sen’s Development as Freedom”
14. T. Michael McNulty, SJ, Philosophy, Marquette University, USA “Taking the Victims’ Side”
15. Jean Marie Makang, Philosophy and History, Frostburg State University, USA, “A Way Out of the Culture of Impunity in Modern Africa: Linking Reconciliation, Truth, and Justice”
16. Peter Penz, Environmental Studies, Practical Ethics and Refugee Studie, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, a panel on “Development, Population Displacement and Ethical Standards and Limits.”
17. Ananya Mukherjee Reed, Political Science, York University, Ontario, Canada, “The Scepter of Sen: Human Development or Neo-liberalism with a Human Face?”

18. Anayra O. Santory, Philosophy, Universidad de Puerto Rico en Mayagüez, "Impunidad y Género en El Salvador"

19. Jerome M. Segal, Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, University of Maryland, USA, "Trying to Figure Out How Much Money People Need: The U.S. Experience 1900-2000"

20. Leo Valladares, Ombudsman and Head of Honduran Human Rights Commission, national keynote address

21. Wilfrido V. Villacorta, President, Yuchengco Center for East Asia, Lorenzo Tañada Professor of Political Science and International Relations, De La Salle University, Manila, Philippines, "Corruption and Impunity as an Obstacle to Development: The Case of Marcos's Ill-gotten Wealth."

CONFERENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: I thank the following IDEA members who have been advising the International and National Organizing Committees and evaluating paper proposals..

- Luis Camacho, Philosophy, University of Costa Rica
- Nigel Dower, Philosophy, University of Aberdeen (Scotland)
- Jay Drydyk, Philosophy, Carleton University (Canada)
- Des Gasper, Development Studies, Institute for Social Studies (Netherlands)
- Laura Mues de Schrenk, Philosophy, Washington, D.C., Human Rights Academy (Mexico)
- Ramón Romero, Philosophy, Autonomous National University of Honduras
- Asunción St. Clair, Sociology, University of Bergen (Norway)
- Stephen Schwenke, Public Policy, University of Maryland (USA)
- Wilhelm Verwoerd, Philosophy, University of Witwatersrand (South Africa; currently residing in Ireland)
- Janine R. Wedel, Anthropology and Public Policy, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh

At least two evaluators read each proposal or abstract. Whether they accept, conditionally accept, or reject (with or without recommendations to resubmit) a proposal, the evaluators generally have provided written comments on the proposals and made suggestions for their improvement. Thanks to the Committee members for their careful and thoughtful work.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEES: These two committees, the former at the University of Maryland and the latter in Honduras, have been working since September. Dave and Eddie Crocker met with the National Organizing Committee in September 2001. During their visit to Washington, D.C. in October 2001, Ramon and Wilma Romero met twice with the International Organizing Committee.

National Organizing Committee:

- Ramon Romero, Foro Ciudadano, Profesor, UNAH
- Wilma Romero, lawyer
- Julietta Castellanos, Foro Ciudadano
- Erick Vargas, UNAH

International Organizing Committee:

- Amit Brar, Maryland School of Public Affairs
- Peter Balint, Maryland School of Public Affairs
- David A. Crocker, Maryland School of Public Affairs, Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy
- Eddie Crocker, University Park Elementary School
- Darin Dalmat, Assistant to the President, IDEA; IRIS Center

- Natalie LeBeau, Urban Institute
- Gabriella Mossi, IRIS, University of Maryland
- Jennifer Munro, IRIS, University of Maryland
- Christian Sabando, Chief of Staff, Directors' Office, Zamorano
- Stephen Schwenke, Maryland School of Public Affairs
- Jerome M. Segal, Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy
- Andrew Selee, Maryland School of Public Affairs