

News & Notes

A Newsletter for Friends of the Rural Development Institute
January 2010

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Coming Event

RDI's Annual *Women & Land Luncheon*, March 11.

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Blue Print For Success: RDI participates in first ever Global Washington Conference.

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New RDI Program: Securing Land Rights for Vulnerable Women and Girls in Northern Uganda.

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Upcoming events:

Tim Hanstad to speak at World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

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March 11: International Women's Day Luncheon, "Women Feed the World"

Join us to celebrate International Women's Day and help transform the lives of women and their families. Mark your calendars for March 11, 2010.

This year's theme—**Women Feed the World**—will address the critical role that land plays for women, who do 60-80 percent of the farming in the developing world, yet own less than 2 percent of the world's land. When a woman has secure rights to land, she provides food and healthcare for her family, her own health improves, she gains status in the household and community, she is able to start a micro-business to create additional income, and her neighbors and community benefit. Join us to learn how secure land rights fight hunger and poverty and help families thrive.

The event will feature keynoter **Catherine Bertini**, *Former Chief Executive, United Nations World Food Programme, World Food Prize Laureate, 2003, and Professor of Public Administration, Syracuse University.*

We look forward to seeing you on March 11.

Thursday, March 11, 2010
Seattle Sheraton

[Learn more here.](#)

Registration Now Open!

Sponsorship Opportunities

Interested in co-sponsoring the event? Contact My-Lan Dodd at my-land@rdiland.org.

For more information about RDI's International Women's Day event, contact My-Lan at my-land@rdiland.org.

About RDI's Annual Women & Land Luncheon:

Join us to celebrate International Women's Day and help transform the lives of women and their families. Mark your calendars for March 11, 2010.



RDI Participates At Global Washington Conference

Held at Microsoft in Redmond, more than 300 people engaged in the day's events on December 7, which included lively discussions and the sharing of strategic approaches for strengthening cross-sector collaboration among Washington State's dynamic global development community. This was the first annual conference for Global Washington.



The conference was keyed by New York Times columnist and Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Kristof, who noted that Seattle has been at the heart of global development and

offered RDI as one example of an organization which has found success. Kristof recently published a book with his wife about women in the developing world entitled *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*.

RDI's Deputy Director for the new Global Center for Women's Land Rights, Radha Friedman, spoke during a morning panel, "Washington's Contributions to the National and International Agenda on Women and Poverty." Friedman spoke about the central role of women and girls in strategies for alleviating poverty on a panel focused on Washington's contributions to the national and international agenda on women and poverty.

Friedman was joined on the panel by Rick Beckett (President and CEO of Global Partnerships), Margaret Willson (International Director, Bahia Street), and Suzanne Sinegal McGill (President and Co-Founder of Rwanda Girls Initiative).

[Photos and video of conference highlights.](#)

Media coverage of the Global Washington conference:

- [The Huffington Post](#)
- [The Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#)
- [Puget Sound Business Journal](#)

New RDI Program: Securing Land Rights for Vulnerable Women and Girls in Northern Uganda

There is new hope for security and opportunity for women and girls in Northern Uganda. Thanks to an anonymous donor, RDI will launch a new initiative in Uganda aimed at securing land rights for women and adolescent girls.

Over the last 20 years, Northern Uganda has been at war. Many of its citizens have lived in Internally Displaced Persons camps for most of that time; and for younger Ugandans, it has been the only home they have known.

The relative peace of the past year has encouraged the Ugandan government to close IDP camps and move people back to their family or clan land.

Traditionally, a woman's or girl's access to land is secured through her relationship to a male — her father, until she is married, and then her husband. However, this customary support has broken down after years of conflict and IDP camp life. Many fathers and husbands have been killed, and in some cases, women and girls are rejected by their families because they were raped or abducted.

This project will focus on women and girls who remain in the IDP camps, because they do not have land to which they can return. RDI will research, design, and implement a project to provide women and girls with access to land through associations similar to those formed in the IDP camps.

The program will begin in January 2010, and be completed by December 2012.

Renée Giovarelli, Director of RDI's Global Center for Women's Land Rights, said the program seeks to improve the situation and future prospects for at-risk and marginalized women and girls in Northern Uganda, whose ties to their family or clan are broken and who, thus, do not have access to land from which they can sustain a living.



Land Rights in the News

RDI President to speak at World Economic Forum in Davos

Tim Hanstad will participate in a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. DATE.

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Renée Giovarelli to speak January 30 at SAAM

Renee Giovarelli of the Rural Development Institute and Haven Ley of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will speak on "Women Feed the World: Women's Land Rights in Asia" from 9:30–11 a.m., Saturday, at the Stimson Auditorium, Seattle Asian Arts Museum.

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RDI supporter Omidyar Network Founders Top Barron's List of Most Effective Givers

The Omidyar Network, who recently helped propel forward RDI's efforts with a 3-year, \$9 million grant, was ranked No. 1 Barron's top-25 list of most effective philanthropists.

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Roy Prosterman to give February 10 presentation at NBR

On February 10, RDI Founder Roy Prosterman will give a presentation at the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) in Seattle. The presentation, "Unleashing the Production and Consumption Power of China's 750 Million Rural Poor: Results from a Nationwide Survey," will highlight key findings in a recent nationwide survey showing that secure land rights are a key foundation for broad-based rural development in China.

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