

Bulletin:

June-August, 2003

Compiled by Jennifer Rockwitz

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Submissions to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

In August HRIC submitted two cases to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on behalf of labor activist Xiao Yunliang and Internet activist Huang Qi, who HRIC believes are being arbitrarily deprived of their liberty. HRIC appealed to the Working Group to review their cases and to take appropriate action to determine the arbitrary nature of their detention, and to call upon the Chinese government to release them.

Also in August, at the request of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, HRIC submitted comments on the reply of the PRC Government regarding the detentions of labor activist Li Bifeng and China Democracy Party member Liu Xianbin, two cases HRIC submitted previously. HRIC pointed out the inadequacy of the government's response and urged the Working Group to direct the PRC government in their future responses to include facts and supporting documentation in order to further strengthen the Working Group's review process and develop greater government accountability.

June 4 Activities

In spite of driving rain, HRIC joined other organizations representing the mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan in attending a candlelight memorial at the Chinese consulate in New York to commemorate the 1989 massacre at Tiananmen on June 4. President Liu Qing was a key coordinator for this event, which included speeches and songs in remembrance of the tragedy.

HRIC's Hong Kong office participated in the SAR's June 4 vigil with two booths distributing materials on the massacre. In addition, the Hong Kong office assisted in rallying local public support for the Tiananmen Mothers Campaign.

Hong Kong Article 23

HRIC's Hong Kong office, as one of the

founding NGOs in the umbrella organization Civil Human Rights Front, has been at the forefront of activism against draft anti-subversion legislation being introduced under Article 23 of Hong Kong's Basic Law. As a culmination of its efforts to persuade the Legislative Council to amend the legislation to better safeguard Hong Kong's freedoms, the Civil Human Rights Front organized a march on July 1 that attracted more than 500,000 protesters. Introduction of the legislation has now been deferred pending discussions on further amendments.

INCORPORATING RESPONSIBILITY 2008

HRIC's Internet Initiative

HRIC's ambitious multi-year research and monitoring campaign for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Incorporating Responsibility 2008 (IR 2008), focuses in part on the Internet's role in promoting an uncensored flow of information and discussion. In order to integrate IR 2008 into a broader international forum, from June 26-28 Executive Director Sharon Hom and Internet Project Manager Amy Tai attended a conference on Press Freedom on the Internet sponsored by The World Press Freedom Committee and the Communications and Media Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

On July 24 Sharon and Amy met with Representative Chris Cox (R-California), co-sponsor of the Global Internet Freedom Act, to discuss the Act, as well as HRIC's IR 2008 Campaign and the potential repercussions of Article 23 in Hong Kong. Sharon and Amy also met with James Dempsey, Executive Director of the Center for Democracy and Technology in Washington D.C., to discuss issues related to global Internet policy and regulation.

Trade and Human Rights

As part of our broader five-year IR 2008 strategy, HRIC applied for and received NGO observer status for the WTO Fifth Ministerial meeting in Cancun, which will take place September 10-14. HRIC is particularly concerned with China's implementation of WTO obligations, and its impact on human rights, sustainable and equitable development and poverty alleviation. HRIC and La Ligue des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH) will cosponsor an NGO China briefing during the Ministerial meeting.

OUTREACH TO THE LEGAL COMMUNITY

On June 17, Sharon Hom introduced HRIC's work as a panelist in the American Bar Association's (ABA) Joint Women's Workshop, cosponsored by the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession, and the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar.

LITIGATION UPDATE

Last June HRIC filed a lawsuit against the Bank of China (BOC) in the federal court of the Southern District of New York alleging that BOC assisted the government of China in the confiscation of humanitarian funds that would have supported families of victims of the Tiananmen Square massacre. HRIC is demanding both compensatory and punitive damages. On August 5, a hearing was held on the defendant's motion for judgment on the pleadings. A decision on the motion is pending.

HRIC IN THE MEDIA

On June 13, Voice of America interviewed HRIC co-chair Robert Bernstein and HRIC staff members about what motivates them to work for a human rights NGO focused on China.

In addition to weekly interviews with Radio Free Asia by President Liu Qing, Executive Director Sharon Hom was interviewed by Voice of America's Beijing Bureau at the end of July regarding the Yang Jianli case and general issues relating to the Chinese legal system.

STAFF NOTES

HRIC welcomes new staff to the HRIC family in New York and Hong Kong:

In the New York office, HRIC welcomes Director of Development Jennifer Walling and Program Assistants Adina Matisoff and Carolyn Hsu.

Jennifer has worked extensively in the former Soviet Union and Bosnia-Herzegovina. She received an M.A. in Organizational Psychology from Columbia Teachers College. Her background includes more than ten years of development and program experience with organizations focused on social justice issues.

Adina is a graduate of the Gallatin School of New York University, where she studied Communications, Chinese Culture and Human Rights. Adina was an intern at

HRIC and also studied at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Carolyn is a graduate of Smith College, where she studied East Asian Languages and Cultures and Government. Carolyn was an intern at HRIC and the National Organization for Women (NOW), and has studied at Tunghai University, Taiwan and the School of Oriental and African Studies, England.

HRIC also welcomes Research Assistant Cynthia Wan to the Hong Kong office. Cynthia graduated with a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Kentucky in 1994, and has worked as a reporter for Cable TV, the Hong Kong Standard and the South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, and for Xinhua Financial Network in Beijing. She is currently studying for a law degree.

And finally, many thanks to New York summer intern Rachael Goldberg and others who wish to remain unnamed for all of their hard work!

Incorporating Responsibility 2008

Compiled by Stacy Mosher

In this year's first issue of CRF, HRIC introduced its multi-year research and monitoring project Incorporating Responsibility 2008 (IR 2008) focusing on China's new global presence as a member of the World Trade Organization, host of the 2008 Olympic Games and participant in the UN Global Compact Initiative. The second issue presented our first update to IR 2008, focusing on companies that had been awarded contracts for the design and construction of Olympics venues. This second update provides further information on Olympics-related projects and the companies involved in them.

At this time there is no readily accessible source of comprehensive information on Beijing Olympics contracts. Apart from the limited information regarding contracts for major Olympics venues provided on the official Beijing Olympics Web site (www.beijing-2008.org), the following information was gleaned from the Web sites of various corporations and private or government trade organizations.

SPONSORSHIP

Two more multinational companies have signed formal agreements extending their sponsorship in The Olympic Partner Programme (TOP) to cover the Beijing 2008 Olympics:

Swatch Group Ltd.

The Swiss watchmaker extended its agreement through 2010 to provide timing, scoring and venue results services to the Olympic Games.

Swatch subsidiary Omega has been involved in the Olympics since 1932. Swatch itself made its first appearance at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, and was also the official timekeeper for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

In November 2002 Swatch announced plans to double the size of its distribution network and also post double-digit business growth in China over each of the next few years. The 2008 Olympics sponsorship is a key component in the company's growth blueprint, which includes extending its distribution channels to inland regions and smaller cities and importing the latest products into the Chinese market. Swatch has more than 100 counters in department stores and agent boutiques in hub cities, including Beijing, Guangzhou and Shanghai, and is expanding its network to more than 30 cities, such as Chongqing, Hangzhou, Kunming, Nanjing, Suzhou and Xiamen.

Corporate responsibility: The Swatch Web site (www.swatch.com) provides no information on corporate responsibility policies.

General Electric Company

In July it was announced that GE had agreed to become a TOP sponsor for the Beijing Olympics. GE's television broadcasting subsidiary, NBC, has paid \$894 million for rights to broadcast the games.

GE started doing business in China as early as 1906 and was considered one of the most active foreign companies in the country at the time. The company resumed trade with the PRC in 1979, and opened its first Chinese joint venture, GE Hangwei Medical Systems Co., Ltd., in Beijing in 1991. All eight of GE's industrial businesses have set up operations in China through at least 36 legal entities at a total investment of over \$1.5 billion.

GE views China as "a global priority for the 21st century" and plans for \$5 billion in annual sales in China by 2005, and \$5 billion worth of annual sourcing.

Recent China business ventures:

July 10, 2003 - The first power generator of China's Three Gorges Project, built by a consortium comprised of GE, Hewitt and Siemens, was connected to the power grid to begin generating electricity.

February 18, 2003 - GE Power Systems acquired majority ownership of Kvaerner Power Equipment Co., Ltd (Kvaerner Hangfa) of Hangzhou, China, a leading supplier of hydropower generation equipment in China.

November 2002 - AVIC I Commercial Aircraft Co. Ltd. selected GE's CF34-10A engine to power the 500 ARJ21 regional jets now in development as part of China's aviation market expansion in preparation for the Olympics.

Corporate responsibility: According to GE's corporate Web site (www.ge.com), each employee has to sign onto the company's 35-page statement of integrity, which includes sections on legal compliance (including corruption), environmental and safety issues and fair employment practices. GE provides scholarships for Chinese educational institutions as well as organizing and contributing to community services and environmental protection in localities where it operates.

OLYMPICS CONTRACTS

National Swimming Center (estimated cost \$71 million)

On July 29 the Beijing State-owned Asset Management Co. Ltd., which owns the center's rights, signed a design contract with Australia's **PTW Architects** and **Ove Arup Pty Ltd.**, after their Water Cube design was chosen from among three finalists. This is the first official signing of a design contract for a Beijing Olympics venue.

PTW, with headquarters in Sydney and offices in Beijing and Shanghai, also designed venues for the 2000 Sydney Olympics, and has designed a number of convention and urban redevelopment projects in China (<http://www.ptw.com.au>).

Ove Arup, with headquarters in London, has 30 offices worldwide, including Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hong Kong. Its previous Chinese projects include the Bank of China Building in Beijing (www.arup.com).

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

On April 1, 2003 Finnish telecommunications giant **Nokia** signed a formal contract with Beijing Just Top Network Communications Co. Ltd. to build the first phase of the Beijing municipal government's shared Digital Professional Mobile Radio (PMR) communications network, which fulfills the dispatch communication requirements of the "Digital Beijing" and "Digital Olympic" programs, as well as special measures needed for Beijing's emergency rescue system. The network will allow seamless dispatch services in all Olympics venues as well as covering all provinces around Beijing and the Bo Hai Bay area.

The TETRA network in Beijing will become China's largest and most advanced digital trunking communication network, and will offer a general data platform for private dispatching communications for individual government organizations in Beijing.

The system is scheduled for implementation in the second half of 2003, with the first construction phase, supporting 50,000 subscribers and completely covering the Beijing metropolitan area and environs, completed in the first half of 2004. Completion of the second phase in 2006 will support 150,000-200,000 subscribers.

Corporate responsibility: Nokia's corporate code of ethics includes respecting and promoting human rights as outlined in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Labour Organization and Global Compact principles, and reducing adverse environmental effects in the production process. Nokia also commits to monitoring the ethical performance of its suppliers and subcontractors (<http://nokia-asia.com/nokia/0,1080,1113,00.html>).

ENVIRONMENT-RELATED PROJECTS

As part of its pledge for a "green Olympics," the Chinese government has announced plans to spend nearly \$7 billion over the next five years on environmental projects, and appointed representatives of two environmental NGOs to advise the Beijing Organizing Committee (BOCOG) on environmental guidelines: Liao Xiaoyi from Beijing Global Village, and Liang Congjie from Friends of Nature. One NGO, Greener

Beijing, has a section devoted to the Green Olympics on its Web site (<http://gbj.grchina.net/2008/index.htm>).

Environmental projects related to the Olympics include:

- A garbage and sewage treatment plants involving a total investment of about \$350 million.
- \$800 million to reduce coal burning through cleaner forms of energy.
- \$193 for a wind-power plant to supply power for the Games.
- Expanding public transportation and enforcing stricter standards on auto emissions.
- Major forestation projects outside of the city to eliminate sand storms
- Removal of industrial operations from the city to surrounding areas.

Following are some foreign companies that have won contracts for the provision of environment-related services connected with the Olympics:

Shield Innovations of Helsinki, Finland (www.shield.fi) is a contractor for 160 geothermal wells that will supply energy and water in Beijing by 2008, as well as for a solar photo electricity and thermal utilization project meant to supply 90 percent of the hot water for the Olympic Park. Finally, Shield is involved in the wind-power plant that is intended to supply 20 percent of the electricity for the Olympic Park.

Netherlands-based **DHV Group** (www.dhv.nl) is a project development and engineering partner to **Netherlands Airport Consultants B.V.** (www.naco.nl) and Toronto-based **Delcan International Corp.** (www.delcan.com) in preparing Beijing's transportation, aviation, water and wastewater facilities for the Olympics.

The International Center for Sustainable Development, based in Gaithersburg, Maryland (www.solarcities.org), reports it is working with a number of U.S. government agencies and consultants to integrate zero net emissions, community sustainability planning and green buildings into Beijing Olympics venues. In July 2003, ICSD organized video conferences between experts from the American and Chinese energy industry, government agencies and urban planning fields to discuss the

development of combined heating and power units in Beijing, planning for the Olympic Park and hydrogen vehicles.

Industrial Design & Construction

(www.idc-ch2m.com) of Portland, Oregon, is engaged in environmental problem-solving for the Beijing Olympics. IDC's Beijing office operates under the name CH2M-IDC China as a joint venture with Japan's Ishimoto.

OLYMPICS-RELATED PROJECTS ELSEWHERE IN CHINA

Although Beijing has been the main focus of attention relating to the Olympics, other parts of China will also participate substantially in the games.

Qingdao, hosting the Olympic Sailing Regatta, has projected \$9.1 billion in Olympic-related investment, including 12 Olympic projects that will be executed through public bidding open to international participation.

Following are the twelve officially announced projects and their estimated cost. Assignment of corporate participants has been projected for the last half of 2003 in most cases, with construction to take place in 2004-2006:

1. Olympic Village - \$58 million
2. International Cruise Terminal (wharf) - \$40 million
3. Resort Hotel - \$65 million
4. International Conference Center - \$20 million
5. Water Sports Center - \$25 million
6. International Yacht Club (marina) - \$15 million
7. Marine World & Aquatic Museum - \$25 million
8. Commercial & Tourism Facilities - \$38 million
9. Olympic Park & Public Utilities - \$62 million
10. Olympic Plaza - \$25 million
11. Recreational Center - \$20 million
12. Real estate development north of the Olympic area - \$20 million

The city of Tianjin will host Olympics soccer matches along with Qinhuangdao, Shanyang and Shanghai. On July 30, 2003, it was announced that the Japanese architectural firm **AXS Sawto Inc.** had won the design contract for the 60,000-seat Tianjin stadium, with construction scheduled to begin in August.