



PRESS RELEASE

Strategy of Action for Respecting the Standards of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Africa

From 15 to 19 October 2014, the JASCNET (Jesuits Africa Social Centres Network), in collaboration with the CARF (Arrupe Centre for Research and Training), organised a seminar on "*Corporate Social Responsibility*" (CSR) in Africa.

This seminar is the second organized under the theme "Governance of Natural Resources", one of the strategic axes of the JASCNET programme. The first seminar on this theme was held in June 2013 in Lubumbashi, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). JASCNET had planned to hold the second in October 2014, again in Lubumbashi (DRC), but because of the turmoil caused by the fear of Ebola in the DRC, it was relocated, and took place in Nairobi, Kenya at the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR).

Participants at this second seminar came from the following organizations: CARF (Arrupe Centre for Research and Training, Lubumbashi, DRC) CEFOD (Centre for Study and Training for Development, Djamena, Chad), CEPAS (Centre of Study for Social Action, Kinshasa, DRC), DIA (Documentation and Information for Africa, Kinshasa, DRC) JCTR (Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection, Lusaka, Zambia), JHC (Jesuit Hakimani Centre, Nairobi, Kenya) PREMICONGO (Protection of Miombo Eco-region of Congo, Lubumbashi, DRC), SARW (Southern Africa Resource Watch, Kinshasa, DRC), Silveira House (Harare, Zimbabwe). Some participants also came from Hekima College, and Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), a higher education institution of the Society of Jesus in Africa.

In his opening remarks, the Director of JASCNET reminded participants that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) appealed particular to the five axes of the JASCNET program: human rights, leadership and governance, ecology, migration and Natural resources. Participants were asked to avoid isolating the CSR from other on-going researches and other pending actions in the JASCNET network.

It is in this context that the workshop set out, among other objectives, to train participants on international standards of Corporate Social Responsibility and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), to understand the importance of these standards, to provide an overview of requirements for mining and environmental legislation and to develop a strategy of action to achieve an effective advocacy for corporate social responsibility.

During the seminar, participants exchanged ideas on four themes: Corporate Social Responsibility in Africa, the implementation of Corporate Social Responsibility by civil society, Corporate Social Responsibility and human rights, and Corporate Social Responsibility and the development of local communities: Case Study of Tenke Fungurume Mining (Katanga, DRC).

Each presentation paper was followed by a group discussion and a plenary session. At the end of the seminar, participants encouraged JASCNET to initiate a newsletter on the governance of natural and minerals resources. They pledged to contribute to its publication by sending articles as a way of exchanging experiences of social centres in this domain. They also identified two actions to be taken by various Jesuit social centres in Africa under the coordination of JASCNET. These are: research **on corporate social responsibility themes and lobbying and advocacy actions on Corporate Social Responsibility for the benefit of local communities.**

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Rigobert Minani SJ,

Director of JASCNET and Coordinator of the Social Apostolate in Africa and Madagascar.

For more information contact:

Rigobert Minani, SJ.

E-mail rigomin@gmail.com

Tel. +254 731814512

Ferdinand Muhigirwa, SJ.

E-mail muhigirwafsj@gmail.com

Tel. +243 512723481