

Aid and Development Linkage

by Danielle Cave
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- The grumbles of Pacific Island NGOs are **getting louder** as a **shift** in New Zealand's aid policies sees a greater focus on economic development projects with funding cuts to civil society groups across the region. It seems NZAid's preference is that **more money** be channeled through New Zealand-based NGOs to provide services. AusAID has provided **emergency funding** to keep some Pacific Islands NGOs running until the end of the year.
- **This blog post** asks what aid should be focused on: poor people or poor countries?
- The **Mo Ibrahim Foundation** has launched the **2010 Ibrahim Index of African Governance**, with significant gains recorded by countries such as Liberia and Ghana. Others have regressed, including Guinea and Madagascar. And for the second year in a row, the Foundation has refused to award a \$5 million prize for excellence in African leadership, **saying** they could not find a proper candidate.
- The **One World Trust**, which aims to make global governance more accountable, launches an **online accountability database** for organisations conducting policy-relevant research. The database takes into account that research organisations are no longer just universities, but private companies, public institutes and **non-profit think-tanks**.
- The Guardian **asks** whether digital activism is an effective medium for change. Digital and social media has certainly **made waves in international diplomacy**, but it seems Australia is **far behind** (although there is the **odd glimmer** of hope).

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