

Weekend links: communicating aid, bitcoin, corporate tyranny and inverting township tours

by Camilla Burkot
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Another weekend, another set of links to keep you thinking about development right through 'til Monday.

Following on from [our In Brief about media and aid](#) earlier this week, Humanosphere has been crowd-sourcing [a list of reporters](#) whose coverage of aid and humanitarian affairs stands out. Further suggestions are welcomed!

Speaking of communication, Emily Troutman of Aid Works offers a critique of [‘The secret language of aid’](#), examining how the language used in donor and agency reports can distort or disguise what it is that agencies are actually doing.

The Guardian Development Podcast [recently discussed](#) interest in the virtual currency bitcoin from developing countries, among them Tonga. For those still trying to wrap their brains around the bitcoin concept, check out [this article](#) explaining how Yap stone money might serve as a fitting analogy.

Also from The Guardian, a longer exposition of the [history of the East India Company](#), extracted from William Dalrymple’s forthcoming book *The Anarchy: How a Corporation Replaced the Mughal Empire, 1756-1803*, offers sobering reflections on the tyranny perpetuated by the EIC and its entanglements with the British state.

Finally, there is no shortage of debate over so-called ‘poverty tourism’, which has occasionally been justified on the basis that it can be a means of directly providing income to people living in impoverished neighbourhoods. A group of Cape Town photographers recently threw into relief some of the other, more intractable aspects of ‘township tours’ by staging an alternative [‘suburb tour’](#) (video).

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Link:

<https://devpolicy.org/weekend-links-communicating-aid-bitcoin-corporate-tyranny-and-inverting-township-tours-20150312-2/>