

Aid and Development Linkage

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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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