



#### About Blacksmith:

Blacksmith Institute's mission is to ensure that a clean and hospitable planet is accessible by future generations, regardless of cultural or economic circumstances. Founded in 1999, the focus of our work is on helping local groups in developing countries to solve health-threatening pollution-related problems in their communities.

Throughout the developing world, we link local government agencies and community groups to a growing roster of international organizations and funding partners that help provide strategic, technical and financial support for pollution-related activity. These collaborations help eradicate specific, pollution-related problems that continue to have a devastating impact on the health of the poor worldwide.

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#### Blacksmith Country Representatives

Ravi Agarwal - India

Abdirahman Geyre - Somalia

Saada Juma - Tanzania

Mamadi Kourouma - Guinea

Marcelino Lucas - Mozambique

Penchom Saeteng - Thailand

Pak Sokharavuth - Cambodia

Ibrahima Sow - Senegal

Leyan Wang - China

Alexey Yablokov - Russia

# SPRING 2004

2 Park Avenue, 29th Floor, New York, NY 10016  
[www.blacksmithinstitute.org](http://www.blacksmithinstitute.org)

## Spreading the Fight Against Pollution

Pollution is one of the biggest killers of children and adults in the developing world. In response, Blacksmith expanded its project areas to encompass more polluted sites in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Russia. Within the past five months, we have visited Guinea, Senegal, Mozambique, Zambia, India, the Philippines, Cambodia, China, and Thailand. During these visits, we investigated regional pollution issues and assessed specific sites, interviewed and hired local country representatives, and began work on specific pollution projects. ▣

Please see pages 2 and 3 for *West African Air Pollution* and *India's Polluted Places*.



*Air pollution from diesel buses is a concern in Dakar.*

## Blacksmith Hosted by Howard Gilman Foundation

Blacksmith Institute was awarded permission by the Howard Gilman Foundation to hold a meeting of global Polluted Places project partners at the foundation's famous White Oak Plantation in northern Florida. The meeting in October will involve up to 22 diverse contributing partners – Blacksmith country coordinators, funders, technical advisers and international agencies concerned with pollution remediation in developing countries.

Each year, White Oak hosts conferences, retreats, and workshops for a select group of non-profit organizations. The Blacksmith Institute is honored to be among those extended this opportunity in 2004.

The meeting's agenda will be dominated by the development of a Polluted Places Manual for the nomination, assessment, and remediation strategies of polluted sites worldwide. The meeting will also include ample time to assess and refine key aspects of our work: developing local leadership, exploring funding options, verifying the health impacts of polluted sites, and raising the profile of pollution-related issues among governments, international organizations, and key funders. ▣

## Medical Waste Success in Cambodia

Our two 2003 projects with the Cambodian Ministry of Environment (MoE) – support for development of a national Medical Waste Management program and national legislation governing management of Hazardous Materials – are now complete.

The Medical Waste program has resulted in the implementation of more environmentally sound management of hospital infectious waste in a number of Cambodia's health facilities. This was work undertaken in conjunction with the Cambodian Ministry of Health and work done by the World Health Organization.

The Hazardous Materials project team has now completed the text of legislation which, when it becomes law this year, will ensure effective controls over production, importation, management, and disposal of hazardous materials in Cambodia.

In 2004, Blacksmith Institute will be fund two new projects with the MoE's Department of Pollution Control. (Continued on page 3)

# Polluted Places Update



Lead smelter pollution in La Oroya, Peru.  
Photo Courtesy of Dr. Kathryn Dowling, OK International

The Polluted Places launch event was held on November 15, 2003 in Tuxedo Park, New York. Polluted Places, a Blacksmith Institute project, seeks to identify the most contaminated places on earth, especially places that are not currently the object of international concern.

Polluted sites are identified through direct nomination by local groups and individuals on the Polluted Places website and through the research efforts of Blacksmith Institute staff and volunteers. Katherine Bruce Mechner is the project coordinator overseeing this information-gathering process. To date, 13 sites have been nominated, and ten full site research dossiers published.

The mission of Polluted Places is to identify locations in the developing world where human health and the environ-

ment are significantly impacted by pollution, and to create global partnerships that will assist local agencies with technical expertise and funding in solving those problems. Polluted Places nominations are used by Blacksmith to target its efforts through re-granting and technical support. This information is also freely available to any other group interested in pollution and human health issues. Visit [www.pollutedplaces.org](http://www.pollutedplaces.org) for details on this methodology and nominated sites. ■

## Polluted Places Technical Advisory Board:

Dr. Pat Breyse, Johns Hopkins  
Bloomberg School of Hygiene & Public  
Health

Josh Ginsberg, Ph.D., Director of Asia  
Programs, World Conservation Society

Perry Gottesfeld, Director, Occupational  
Knowledge International

Dr. David Hunter, Professor of Epidemi-  
ology, Harvard School of Public Health

David Satterthwaite, Human Settlements,  
International Institute for Environment  
and Development (IIED)

David Hanrahan, Principal Environmental  
Specialist, World Bank

Dr. Leona Samson, MIT Computational &  
Systems Biology Initiative (CSBi)

## Currently nominated sites are:

Kigoma/Mwanza/Msimbazi/  
Arusha, Tanzania  
Dongwu Banner, China  
East Ujumchin Banner, China  
Poiana Rusca Mountains, Romania  
La Oroya, Peru  
Chittagong, Bangladesh  
Bidar, Karnataka, India  
Calcutta, India  
Kodaikanal, India  
Ranipet, Tamilnadu, India  
Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh, India  
Sukinda District, Orissa, India

## Toxic Tannery Waste in Manila

In January, Blacksmith visited Meycauayan, a town about 12 miles north of Manila, and the tannery center of the Philippines.

About 180,000 people live in and around Meycauayan, with an untold number of squatters living directly on the banks of the 23-mile-long Meycauayan River, into which many of the tanneries discharge their waste. We will work with the Philippine Tanneries Association to promote the use of treatment processes for tannery waste in this region.

For the full Polluted Places Manila Tan-  
neries dossier see  
[www.pollutedplaces.org](http://www.pollutedplaces.org). ■

## India - New Polluted Places



Trash clogs the Wah-Umrah River in Shillong, India.  
Photo: NEEDS

The Blacksmith Institute implemented a Polluted Places Pilot Initiative in India in September 2003, with the help of our Indian partner, Toxics Link, and funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The overall purpose of the current project is to develop the Polluted Places methodology of site identification, assessment, and remediation planning.

In Kanpur, a city of 4 million people on the Ganges river, we are supporting a project to clean up hexavalent chromium, a carcinogen, found in the groundwater. We will coordinate with and support the Central Pollution Control Board and a local NGO to bring in clean drinking water and develop a clean-up strategy that will then be presented to major international funders.

In another city in the north east of India, Shillong, a project to clean up an extremely polluted stretch of the Wah-Umrah River is being developed by NEEDS, a local NGO. This city has no sanitation treatment, and all the sewage from the town flows into the river, along with most of the garbage and factory pollution. We are supporting development of a coordination committee of village elders, municipal authorities, and local experts to design and implement step-by-step plans to clean up this disaster. ■

## Cambodia (continued from page 1)

The first will be a project in partnership between the MoE and the Phnom Penh Department of Public Works to clean up the city's Beong Cheung Ek Lake, which has become a repository for solid waste and raw sewage.

Our second new project will be to provide funding support to the MoE for development of technical guidelines to monitor air quality. This is necessary to assist in developing suitable national planning measures to combat air pollution from increasing vehicle traffic and industrial sources in Cambodia. ▣

## Spreading Mozambique's Pollution Message

Following a fruitful visit in Fall 2003, Blacksmith Institute is pleased to welcome Mozambique-based Grupo de Ambiental de Journalists (GAJ), the Environmental Journalists Group, into our network of affiliated projects. Richard Fuller met with the group during his Fall 2003 site visits to Southern and Eastern Africa.

GAJ has sought funding from Blacksmith to help journalists in Mozambique use the power of the media to spread environmental information to the public and to stimulate debates among political, scientific and civic leaders about the best strategies for providing remediation for untreated polluted sites. To these ends, GAJ will produce radio programs to be aired on the two most influential radio stations in the country. ▣



Litter lines Maputo streets.

## Africa - Air Pollution

In **Senegal**, we launched an initiative to monitor and reverse Dakar's severe air pollution. Dakar, the capital, has one of the worst air pollution problems in the world. This project, done in conjunction with Africa Clean (a network of environmental groups) and the Ministry of Transport, will provide equipment and personnel to enforce regulations for clean emissions from trucks and vehicles.

**Guinea**, further along the coast of West Africa, is on the verge of beginning a new Blacksmith-funded project to stop the importation of leaded gasoline and encourage the use of unleaded gas. Blacksmith will be working with government ministries, industry, and civil society. ▣

## Siberia Industrial Pollution

With Blacksmith support, three projects are underway to identify and remediate toxic waste and radioactive sites in Magadan (Siberia), Dzerzhinsk (Western Russia), and Tomsk (Siberia). These sites are some of the most contaminated areas in Russia and pose a significant threat to human health and the environment.

Under the coordination of Alexey Yablokov, Blacksmith's Russia Representative, new possibilities for pollution remediation are opening up in some of Russia's most polluted cities. Once again, Blacksmith is using its resources to initiate dialogues with large donors for long-term cleanup. ▣

## POLLUTION FACT

Every day 5,500 children die from diseases caused by consuming water and food polluted with bacteria.

"The good news is that morbidity and mortality due to unhealthy environmental conditions are largely preventable by taking decisive action..."

*Children in the New Millennium, 2002*

## Blacksmith Staff & Board Members

A complete listing of Blacksmith staff and Board members is available online at [www.blacksmithinstitute.org](http://www.blacksmithinstitute.org).

Our website also offers updated information on all of the projects mentioned in this newsletter and all of Blacksmith's projects by region.

## Notes from the Field

By Mamadi Kourouma, Conakry, Guinea

*Blacksmith welcomes Mamadi Kourouma, of the Centre d'Appui au Développement (CAD).*



*He will act as Blacksmith's representative in Guinea. CAD is currently initiating a leaded gas phase-out project in Guinea:*

Although richly endowed with agricultural and mineral resources, Guinea remains a poor country with an estimated population of 8.7 million inhabitants. It still faces serious constraints, such as weak public sector management capacity, insufficient private investment, a lack of dynamism and capacity in the private sector, limited credit and support services for small enterprises, high unemployment, rapid population growth, and rising levels of environmental degradation due to a lack of pollution monitoring and enforcement of existing regulation. Yet in spite of these constraints, Guinea has tremendous development potential.

During his visit on October 7 – 11, 2003, Richard Fuller of the Blacksmith Institute had the opportunity to meet and discuss pollution issues with several key people in the environmental sector. Mr. Fuller also conducted a field visit in the Conakry area (waste transport, land fills, the sewage treatment system, and a small enterprise for waste transport).

This visit resulted in the identification of various areas for collaboration with the government of Guinea, such as leaded gasoline phase-out, the revision of the environment code, and the establishment of a sewage system in the town of Kankan. ▣

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HAZARDOUS & MEDICAL WASTE IN CAMBODIA**

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Thank you for your support!

You may designate donations as either unrestricted/general support or target your gift to a specific region and/or program. Whatever giving option you choose, Blacksmith uses your gift to initiate tangible results in specific polluted areas of the developing world.

