



## PRESS RELEASE

### Public debate on Youth and Education in developing countries *Second event in the series of Maastricht Debates*

January 16, 2007

On January 23, 8.00 pm a public debate will take place on the need to invest more in developing world's youth population. Manny Jimenez, lead author of the World Development Report 2007 'Development and the New Generation', will discuss issues at hand with a panel of experts and students, moderated by Jo Ritzen, President of the Maastricht University. The debate will take place on **January 23 at 8.00 pm in the Auditorium of the Maastricht University, Minderbroedersberg**, Maastricht.

Members of the panel are students from Concordantia, the study association of the European Studies program of the University Maastricht, and the coordinator of the Maastricht twinning association with Rama in Nicaragua, experienced in local, regional and national education programmes. According to the report of the World Bank, developing countries which invest in better education, healthcare, and job training for their record numbers of young people between the ages of 12 and 24 years of age, could produce surging economic growth and sharply reduced poverty.

#### **Maastricht Debates**

The *Maastricht Debates* is a platform for debate and networking on issues of international cooperation and globalisation. Each debate is organised by issue experts from within the Maastricht network together with internationally oriented study associations. The 2006-2007 series focuses on 'governance' as the overarching theme. See at [www.maastrichtdebates.net](http://www.maastrichtdebates.net).

#### **Network organisation**

The *Maastricht Debates* is a collaborate initiative of the University Maastricht ([www.unimaas.nl](http://www.unimaas.nl)), the Netherlands Chapter of the Society for International Development (SID, [www.sid-nl.org](http://www.sid-nl.org)), Europe-open ([www.europe-open.info](http://www.europe-open.info)) and the European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM, [www.ecdpm.org](http://www.ecdpm.org)). It receives financial support by the National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development (NCDO, [www.ncdo.nl](http://www.ncdo.nl)) and operates in collaboration with the Municipality of Maastricht ([www.maastricht.nl](http://www.maastricht.nl)) and Concordantia ([www.concordantia.com](http://www.concordantia.com)).

It is the intention to link-up with representatives of other Maastricht-based and regional organisations to ensure broad support and commitment, for instance as advisor, co-organiser or host of one of the events. This is in line with the ambition to become an important multi-actor platform for debate.

The *Maastricht Debates* is explicitly seen as one activity within a larger programme of the Society of International Development (SID). SID aims to stimulate the public and political debate on international cooperation in the Netherlands and beyond, among others with its lecture series in Amsterdam and Utrecht.

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For **more information** on the **Maastricht Debates**, see [www.maastrichtdebates.net](http://www.maastrichtdebates.net) or contact Huub Mudde, project coordinator at [huub@europe-open.info](mailto:huub@europe-open.info) or T. +31-(0)621275064.

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