



## Quarterly Newsletter

January 2012

Inside >>> [Projects](#); [Grants](#); [Events](#); [Website](#);  
[AGM 2011 Resolutions](#); [Opportunities](#); [Stories](#)

### Message from Chairman of FAIR Board: Gerard Guedegbe

Dear fellow members of our prestigious organization, please accept my best wishes for you and for your family in the year 2012. FAIR experienced a profound transition crisis during 2011, but the spirit of wisdom, patience and sacrifice managed to prevail amongst us. And for this I would like to sincerely say 'thank you'. Thank you for being so calm and disciplined during this journey of transition which is ending with good news: the draft of the first ever audit of FAIR accounts has been completed and sent to the FAIR secretariat. I'm happy to report that FAIR has been governed with integrity even though the audit firm has written *"the problem here is lack of policies and procedures for the whole organization"*. Therefore it would be unfair if we fail to publicly congratulate our former Director, Evelyn Groenink and the staff who worked with her in such difficult conditions. We should FORGIVE each other for causing any inconveniences, offenses or abuse during the past few months. Let us take each other hand in hand and work hard to face the challenges of IJ in Africa and assure we have a well governed organization which reassures its partners and members. Some urgent actions include the declaration of interests of Board and individual members, and the adoption of a code of ethics. These measures can secure a better future for FAIR and for the development of Investigative journalism on the continent. Long live FAIR!

### Message from FAIR Executive Director: Abdullah Vawda

Happy New Year to all FAIR members! Your expertise and support in the past few years has allowed FAIR to develop into a multi-sourced institution with an increased range and scope of activities and partners. In 2012 FAIR plans to ensure that its core management needs are met without losing sight of the energy, values and passion that made the organization what it is today. Apart from regional conferences, FAIR seeks to launch at least two major TI's during 2012, and a range of smaller investigative stories by our members. Our Board members have displayed good commitment, which will strengthen FAIR's backbone in the years to come. Many new aspiring members have submitted applications during the past few months, and major media organizations are seeking to partner with FAIR. Members have shared information and contacts over the email lists, and our support base is growing on social media. We hope that you find the quarterly newsletter useful, and kindly provide suggestions to improve the contents and style.

### Finance issues

After much delay, the draft audit report was issued and subsequently reviewed by the FAIR Board. During a Board meeting on 27 January, the draft audit report was accepted by majority vote of Board members, despite one objection and one abstention. We have request D&V (our auditing firm) to finalise the report as soon as possible, in order to circulate the official copy to FAIR members, donors and the public. The audit report found NO instances of 'misappropriation' or 'fraud'. It provided valuable conclusions and advice to strengthen FAIR's governance system in future. The Board is now looking at an Ethics Code and a Freedom of Information protocol that will provide ways for members to raise issues internally and at the same time ensure that unnecessary damage to the reputation of the organisation is avoided. A copy of the audited financial statements will be uploaded on our website soon.

## Projects

### East Africa IJ workshop

Noting that FAIR already had funding for the West Africa and Southern investigative conferences in 2012, we began looking for a partner to help in the fundraising, coordination and execution of a Nairobi conference for East Africa region. Discussions between FAIR member Wanjohi Kabukuru and the Great Lakes Media Institute led to plans for a joint IJ workshop in east Africa. GLMI director Sally Stapleton and FAIR director Abdullah Vawda subsequently produced a joint proposal and approached the Open Society to fund funding a proposed September 2012 'East Africa Investigative Forum', for 35 journalists from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea South Sudan and Somalia. Tentative date: **26-28 September 2012**. Venue: Nairobi, Kenya.

### East Africa conference

During 2011, FAIR member Ken Opala negotiated with MESHAKENYA to support our east African regional Investigative Journalism network. In January 2012, MESHAKENYA subsequently agreed to support us, by covering costs of travel and accommodation for 30 east African investigative journalists (FAIR members) from Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia to attend MESHAKENYA's upcoming conference on 'Science and Technology Journalism'. FAIR proposed to arrange IJ networking sessions in the evening, where investigative journalists at the conference can discuss their concerns, ideas and requirements. The successful candidates (FAIR members) will have a unique opportunity to enhance their capacity and knowledge about various scientific projects and events likely to have an impact in the development of the country and the region. Another objective of attending is to improve the quality and diversity of coverage of scientific issues by mainstream and community media in the region. Tentative date: **5-7 September 2012**. Venue: Mombasa, Kenya.

### West Africa conference

Funds for our west Africa regional conference were carried into 2012.. We have approached a newly opened school of Journalism, New Media and Communication (E-Jicom) to partner on the training. The FAIR Secretariat is currently drafting a programme and will produce shortlist of potential participants/speakers from the region (FAIR members) The conference seeks to accommodate both francophone and Anglophone journalists from west Africa, with interpretation costs included in our budget. Tentative date: **19-21 March 2012**. Venue: Dakar, Senegal.

### Southern Africa conference

We are planning to host the southern Africa regional IJ conference in Zambia, to link with media house as partner/co-sponsors. Hivos has already provided funding for this purpose. The format of the event will be similar to last year's southern Africa conference, with a thematic agenda, (for example elections) keynote presentation, networking sessions, and new memberships. Tentative date: **22-24 August 2012**. Venue: Lusaka, Zambia.

### Newsroom mentoring

Hivos approved our funding contract for 2012 to cover newsroom mentoring to an amount of ZAR 150,000. 3 countries include Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe. We will structure the activities of this project to result in more investigative stories, which will be released through our website. In this way, FAIR can produce exclusive IJ stories from the mentees and their newsrooms, with copyright limitations, that will be published by the media house and our website simultaneously. FAIR is finalizing its project report for 2011 mentoring projects, and will roll out the 2012 activities from March 2012.

## Zimbabwe mentoring

In partnership with the Humanitarian Information Facilitation Centre (HIFC) and the Media Centre (MC), the Institute for War & Peace Reporting (IWPR) seeks to deliver a 12-month project to strengthen investigative reporting in Zimbabwe. FAIR is contracted as a consulting organization to support the project through an initial Train the Trainers phase, bi-monthly pitching sessions and on-going online support to the investigative journalism mentors. Charles Rukuni will conduct the workshops sessions on behalf of FAIR, in the format of 6 bi-monthly one day workshops. All travel and accommodations costs are covered by the HIFC. In addition, FAIR will receive a cooperation fee (30 hours a month @ \$50) \$1,500 x 12 months = \$18,000 per year. The initial ToT has been completed, and FAIR was paid US\$1 350 in 2011. What remains are the bi-monthly one-day brainstorming sessions with mentors.

## AIJC 2012

The African Investigative Journalism Conference (AIJC) is a FAIR-Wits partnership. We intend to start planning early in 2012, and awaiting the draft conference report from Margaret Renn which will be forwarded to FAIR members when it becomes available. We have already reconciled the AIJC expenses paid out by FAIR, and found that we are safe within our budget. There is general consensus from participants and partners that AIJC 2011 was successful. Unfortunately there will not be a conference publication/booklet. We will establish a planning committee for the 2012 conference to ensure that member's input and FAIR's overall objectives are included, and the possibility of a partnership with Google Data experts.

## Small Grants

The deadline for applications is 10 February 2012. All FAIR members will be notified about the outcome after adjudication by our Advisory committee. Please note these are special grants for FAIR members organized by the secretariat through budget line item 'website content generation'. Normal grants, which go up to \$3000, and are open to all journalists, will be announced when the FAIR Grants Fund is fully established.

## IJ Manual

During 2011 KAS and FAIR representatives discussed the possibility of producing new chapters, after the project was placed on hold. KAS subsequently made a general commitment to fund the production of a new chapter on 'Climate Change' in 2012. The new chapter 10 will focus around 'How to Investigate Climate Change in Africa'. The long term vision of the project is: Improved reporting on climate change adaptation and mitigation by media in Africa. The proposed new chapter will contribute to this vision by equipping journalists with a better understanding of climate change adaptation and mitigation in order to improve the investigative reporting of climate change issues affecting communities throughout Africa.

## Content sales

In January 2012 FAIR concluded a 'sales agreement' with Courier International, for reproducing our previous TI (Pirates) exclusively in France and on their website. We intend to raise more funds in 2012 through sales of new content (TI's, grant stories, independent investigations, etc.) FAIR should also consider producing a quarterly 'African Investigative Journal' that will garner advertising and sales revenue. A business plan is being developed.

## Website

Phase one is completed, which includes basic design, creating pages, adding RSS links, member stories, opportunities, partner logo and buttons, etc. Phase two will focus on the translation aspect, where our site will be coded with language options, so that a reader can choose a language such as French, Portuguese, etc. For now, we have uploaded previously translated materials such as TI's and Awards information. Our long-term objective is to create a multilingual website with unique IJ resources, databases, funding alerts and 'exclusive stories'. The stats during a period of 3 months (1st Nov 2011 – 1st Jan 2012) reveals there were 3,351 total page views. The all-time top ten pages visits include:

Home page	 1,577
FAIR Grants Guidelines	 79
Contact	 79
FAIR Awards 2011	 62
IJ Manuals	 62
Concern grows in Kenya ...	 56
FAIR Board	 56
Membership Form	 49
Anas caught with human ...	 48
FAIR Small Grants 2012	 43

**Please send your own suggestions for improving the FAIR website.**

## Internships

The FAIR Secretariat is liaising with Andrew Trench (Media 24 Investigations Editor) about the placement of a FAIR member (journalist based in mainstream media house) for one month at the Media 24 newsroom in Johannesburg. FAIR can provide limited travel and stipend costs. Media 24 will arrange suitable accommodation and local transport. The candidate will be drawn from previous FAIR Awards entries, and not limited to finalists.

## Transnational Investigations

The FAIR Secretariat has listed a number of suggestions for TI topics in 2012, which are drawn directly from members input at the past AGM. A shortlist of topics will be made available shortly. We are receiving support from old and new funders for the Grants Fund and that we hope to fund many grants and TI's from there, starting in 2012. Other donors have pledged support for the TI's in 2012. FAIR is exploring a new partnership with IWPR on Grants and TI's to be submitted to Europe Aid.

## Opportunities

Entries open for Taco Kuiper awards

CNN African journo awards extends deadline

Global: Data Journalism Awards

Knight International Journalism award open

Leading African media organization announces \$1 million fund for news innovation

Center for Investigative Reporting offers grants

## Stories

**Kenya: How notorious criminal gangs rule Eastleigh** ... In an investigation that took six months, Star correspondent Kassim Mohamed uncovers two cocky and aggressive criminal gangs operating in Eastleigh who kill, rob and maim residents and visitors alike with reckless abandon.

**Tanzania: The untold story of Adam's ordeal** ... Influenced by the lust for affluence, a father has just sold his albino child to the attacker, in a secret contract only attended by the man's second wife. Richard Mgamba writes in The Guardian on Sunday.

## AGM 2011 Resolutions

1. The Board should seek advice from Advisory Council to settle disputes.
2. Members must respect the democratic process of election and voting.
3. Secretariat to list the criteria for becoming an AC member.
4. Source funding for Transnational Investigations in 2012.
5. Make room for broadcast journalists within FAIR projects.
6. Develop better, clearer elections protocol for circulation ahead of AGM.
7. Constitutional amendments can be proposed at the AGM 2012.
8. Secretariat to provide B5oard with regular reports to help shape the programme.
9. Produce and circulate quarterly newsletter on projects and opportunities.
10. Consider appointment of Francophone and Lusophone Editors.
11. Seek gender balance in membership and Board representation.
12. Consider projects in North Africa and countries not represented at the AGM.
13. Explore possibility to host regional conferences in 2012.
14. Staff contracts to be approved by the Board before December 2011.
15. Treasurer to oversee quarterly review of monthly financial reports.
16. FAIR should 'internationalize' its projects and memberships.
17. Limit elected members from holding up governance with opposing views.
18. Assist journalists with improving writing skills to qualify for other IJ Grants.
19. Partner organizations to support FAIR member's in their regions.
20. Members and partners to inform Secretariat about funding opportunities in their own region and networks.
21. Prioritise fundraising for Transnational Investigations and Grants.
22. Update Awards criteria to benefit broadcast and online media too.
23. FAIR Awards notice and deadline to be circulated in advance for more entries.
24. Create business plan for two years.
25. Source media partners for future Awards.
26. Train members on data mining and technical skills.
27. Translate AGM documents into French and Portuguese.
28. Ensure new FAIR website has multilingual content in French and Portuguese
29. \* Impose a two-year limit on members to serve on the FAIR Board. (Added by FAIR member Reece Adanwenon after draft resolutions circulated by email)



Participants in group session at the FAIR AGM 2011 held at Wits University, Johannesburg

**Membership queries can be sent by email: [admin@fairreporters.org](mailto:admin@fairreporters.org)**