

Notes on Debrief: Nigel's Trip to Sao Paulo

- Event report is also available on the Z drive
- In addition to activities at Polis, Nigel skyped with Alex Shankland of IDS (set up by Kaustuv)
- As English is not spoken much, FIM may have to seek special assistance
 - Emphasis on the value of a local partner

Thoughts on meetings with Polis:

- Silvio seems slow to commit until he is very comfortable
 - He waited until after the BRICS event to mention the Forum
- Attendees: NGO officials, unionists, journalists, chamber of commerce representatives, government officials (approx. 40 participants)
- Silvio chaired the meeting, another person took notes
- Key contacts:
 - Brazil's Ambassador to BRICS (Nigel has a card for this diplomat)
 - Senior minister
- Chatham House Rules did not apply to the proceedings
- Spirit of the meeting was good
- NGO participants had not met before hand, hence no NGO consensus
- Underlying issue: importance of open dialogue between CS and BRICS
 - There is a will to make this happen
 - Nigel got the sense that Brazil is committed to that
- In his remarks, Nigel gave the examples of the ICC and the Land Mines treaty
- Bottom line: Brazilian Government sees it can play a leadership role and is prepared to do it around its summit
 - They don't know how to go about it – representativity is an issue
 - FIM needs to share the solutions we've found over the years
- Brazil is concerned about China and Russia
 - Don't want to antagonize them
- The BRICS bank won't happen in time for the 2013 summit
 - 2014 much more likely
- NGOs expressed interest in formalizing the dialogue but may work best on an informal basis
- The participants were well selected
 - Silvio appears to have a good network
- Brazil is still the best entry point
- The meeting in South Africa will be the same as the others
 - An in-country effort to sensitize CS
 - Brazil seems much more committed

- But Brazil does not want to do this alone, looking for a partner in India and/or South Africa
- Need to find a theme that is acceptable to all
 - Perhaps climate change?
- See what happens in Russia
- We can still aim for officialised dialogue for 2014
 - Meet with sherpas before the agenda has been finalized
 - Need a date for the Brazil meeting
- FIM to check the Durban Agenda
- Polis did not mention receiving materials from PRIA and none were on display

Skype call with Alex Shankland

- BRICS has an academic advisory body and business group
 - Academic group to meet in South Africa prior to the summit
- Have a joint meeting with FIM project during the academic meeting
- Silvio asked Alex to put his suggestions in writing
- South Africa meeting set for January 23rd
- Need to clarify the BRICS agenda

- Polis appears to be driving the government involvement
 - The connection is LogoLink

On Polis

- 60 staff, all the facilities needed to convene the forum
- 3.5 star hotel across the street
- Safety should be fine if we move in groups
- Need to brief participants prior
- Julia will be the contact person
 - Will provide another staff 'runner'
- On visas, FIM to send names and coordinates
 - Polis will write to the Brazilian embassy we will be applying to
- The visa problem is one of reciprocity and the number of countries without Brazilian embassies
- Silvio sees potential for future collaboration
 - Polis is more of a think tank
 - Interested in FIM for our UM experience
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