New World Bank leadership, grassroots pressure could dry up water profiteering

President Jim Yong Kim first global health expert to head the institution

Developments over the last six months have executives at Suez, Veolia, Bechtel and other global water corporations on edge. Water justice organizers have rebuffed efforts by these corporations to privatize or maintain control of public water systems across Europe.

And with your support, Corporate Accountability International published “Shutting the Spigot on Private Water: The case for the World Bank to divest,” which made headlines. The report finds that the World Bank’s primary role in financing water privatization is both bad for development and financially unsound.

At the same time, Dr. Jim Yong Kim stepped into the role of World Bank president. (Continued inside)
YOUR SUPPORT STRENGTHENS COUNTRIES IN STANDING UP TO BIG TOBACCO

DEAR MEMBER,

I’ve spoken with many of you during my travels about the heartbreaking—and heartening—stories from our recent publication, “Cutting Through the Smoke.” It provides a window into the world of people like Bogotá lung specialist Dr. Alfredo Saavedra, who works long hours treating those suffering from Colombia’s staggering tobacco epidemic.

Dr. Saavedra’s patients are dying because Big Tobacco has targeted Latin America as an expansion market. This isn’t new; what’s new are the lengths to which Big Tobacco is now going to intimidate lawmakers as it illegally markets to children. But, thanks to you, Corporate Accountability International is working with public officials and civil society to cement a strategic, coordinated plan to challenge the industry across Latin America.

The plan builds on past success. Our Colombia-based team has already partnered with allies to push back Big Tobacco’s pervasive influence, securing national tobacco-control legislation in Colombia that provides a model to all countries implementing the global tobacco treaty.

Yet, while implementation goes forward worldwide, Big Tobacco is attempting to weaken the treaty through pressure and shameful intimidation.

That’s why the biennial treaty negotiations are crucial to advancing progress and keeping the industry at bay. Since the first Conference of the Parties in 2006, Corporate Accountability International and our allies have played a key role at each one, as we will again this November in Seoul, South Korea.

“Thanks to you, Corporate Accountability International is working with public officials and civil society to cement a strategic, coordinated plan to challenge the industry across Latin America.”

Together, we are advocating for strong, innovative measures for even more effective treaty implementation and enforcement.

We’ll be sending special updates from the negotiations so you can see just how your support helps fortify measures that save countless lives.

KELLE LOUAILLIER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHALLENGE BIG TOBACCO

Courts worldwide give boost to public health, uphold tobacco plain-packaging laws

U.S. courts buck the trend, bow to Big Tobacco’s intimidation

While Big Tobacco sends fleets of lawyers around the world to fight policies that protect people’s health, governments are standing strong in the face of the industry’s intimidation... and succeeding.

How?

Countries from Australia to Norway that have prevailed in industry legal challenges are among the 175 countries to ratify the World Health Organization’s global tobacco treaty.

The landmark treaty, adopted thanks to the global grassroots mobilization led by Corporate Accountability International and its allies, requires implementation of lifesaving measures such as selling tobacco products in plain packaging (without logos and with graphic health warnings).

The collective power represented by the treaty enables countries to vigorously face down a deadly industry. The recent rulings pave the way for more countries to move full speed ahead in implementing the treaty—with the ultimate goal of reining in Big Tobacco worldwide.”

—GIGI KELLETT, CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

But the contrast in the U.S.—which has not ratified the treaty—is marked. A District of Columbia court recently struck down a law that would have required graphic health warnings on cigarette packaging.

WWW.STOPCORPORATEABUSE.ORG
Deputy Director honored by Green Corps

Green Corps awarded Patti Lynn the prestigious David Brower Alumni Achievement Award. The nation’s leading field school for environmental organizing recognized her significant contributions to the environmental movement and her steadfast commitment to grassroots organizing.

(Continued from front page)

CHALLENGE CORPORATE CONTROL OF WATER

Kim’s background is in global health. His appointment is a true contrast to the bankers and defense officials that have historically taken the helm. The medical doctor and anthropologist also has a demonstrated track record of “following the evidence,” as the UK Guardian newspaper put it and challenging “orthodox economics” (read: ideology), like that which has driven the World Bank’s misplaced financing of water privatization.

“We are cautiously optimistic about Dr. Kim’s leadership,” said Senior Organizer, Shayda Naficy. “We also recognize that his ability to champion the human right to water will require Corporate Accountability International and others to challenge entrenched corporate interests both in and around the World Bank.”

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY INTERNATIONAL

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:
Catherene Morton

“When you live in a desert, water is everything,” says longtime member and Tucson resident Catherene Morton.

“From the day you arrive, you understand water is precious and fundamental.”

Morton herself arrived in the desert on a July day, in a hot cab of a Ryder truck crowded with her husband and two young children. A lifelong advocate for local and global justice, she would eventually link her newfound appreciation for water to her activism.

Growing up in Baltimore during the civil rights movement, Morton learned from her parents to value racial equality. So in 1978, when the Tucson school district was ordered to desegregate, there was no question that the young mother would dive headfirst into the effort to integrate the district’s African American, Latino and white students. “My husband would come home from a long day in the operating room, and I’d head out for school board meetings,” says Morton.

That’s where she met Raul Grijalva, then on the school board and now a member of Congress. Together, they represented a young, progressive challenge to the old guard. “It was a big fight,” she says, but the magnet-school plan Morton and Grijalva helped hammer out was ultimately adopted as the best path to desegregation.

While working to bring equality to her local community,

Morton also paid attention to global struggles of inequity. Outraged that Nestlé’s insidious marketing was resulting in millions of infant deaths in the Global South, she became a strong supporter of Corporate Accountability International’s (then Infact) successful Nestlé boycott.

Decades later, Morton can draw a straight line connecting Nestlé’s previous abuses with its current deceptive marketing in her desert community. In Tucson, as in cities across the U.S., Nestlé specifically targets Tucson’s Latino community with aggressive and misleading marketing of its bottled water. Exploiting community concerns about health, the corporation sells its water—sourced from public water systems—back to people at hundreds of times the price. This just doesn’t sit right with the longtime social justice activist.

As part of her support of Corporate Accountability International’s campaign to take on Nestlé and other water privatizers, Morton connected the organization with Representative Grijalva. He has since become an advisory board member and has spoken powerfully in support of the organization’s initiative challenging Nestlé’s manipulative marketing. Once again, Morton and Grijalva have joined to take on vested, powerful interests and champion the rights of people in their community.

Vote in the Corporate Hall of Shame at StopCorporateAbuse.org.
Corporate Accountability International stops life-threatening abuses of global corporations and increases their accountability to people around the world.

Check out the new website!
Thanks to you, Corporate Accountability International’s new website is driving the organization’s work forward and maximizing its impact. Check it out at StopCorporateAbuse.org!

Challenge Corporate Control of Water

Thank you! Grand Canyon tells Coke to take a hike
Your actions will help other parks go bottled water free

Perhaps you heard that Coca-Cola nearly derailed a groundbreaking policy to remove bottled water from the Grand Canyon’s stores? It tried to strong-arm the National Park Service by threatening to halt charitable contributions to the parks if the ban went forward. But thanks to the public outcry you helped amplify, the director of the National Park Service stood up to Coke.

Corporate Accountability International is now working with members like you to eliminate bottled-water sales from other national parks.

“The Grand Canyon, a cherished national treasure, is leading the way by promoting our most critical natural resource—our public water supply,” said Rita Lara, director of philanthropic partnerships. “We look forward to a day when all national parks end their promotion of a product so wasteful and damaging to the environment as bottled water.”

Send a photo of yourself with a reusable water bottle at your favorite outdoor location. We’ll include it in materials to help compel our parks to go bottled water free. Email NPSphotos@StopCorporateAbuse.org.

Sustain this work to protect human rights, public health and the environment

“My decision to include Corporate Accountability International in my will was an easy one. I know it will use my gift to challenge corporations that promote the bottom line at the expense of people’s health and our precious natural resources.”

— Nina Helstein, MEMBER SINCE 1999

Join Nina and a growing number of members who have made a bequest or other planned gift. For further information, contact Rita Lara, Director of Philanthropic Partnerships at (617) 695-2525, or email legacy@StopCorporateAbuse.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ENDURING SUPPORT!

WHY PLANNED GIVING?

→ You direct your estate to something you care deeply about.
→ You have a personal way to meet your estate planning goals.
→ You guarantee deep and lasting social change to build a more just and equitable world well into the future.

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