

- A Freedom of Information Act lawsuit by CIEL, Friends of the Earth and others related to the controversial **Keystone XL pipeline** unveiled extensive and at times troubling communications between the pipeline proponent and State Department officials. This information made it into the national news media and became a key factor in the public campaign against approval of the pipeline. In the face of immense public opposition, President Obama has delayed a decision for the pipeline until alternate routes are explored and the pipeline's environmental impacts are fully weighed. See http://ciel.org/Publications/KeystoneXL_Comments_7Oct11.pdf
- CIEL organized a human rights delegation to the **International Finance Corporation**. Advocates from Nigeria, Argentina and Cambodia met with IFC Executive Directors and made presentations on a panel hosted by the IFC, creating unprecedented debate on rights, which culminated in the IFC expressly recognizing human rights in its safeguards.
- As part of its growing work to reduce public financing for fossil fuels and move towards a clean energy economy, CIEL published "**Fossilized Thinking: The World Bank, Eskom, and the Real Cost of Coal.**" This report documents the inadequate consideration of environmental and social costs in the cost-benefit analysis for a South Africa's massive *Medupi* coal plant. The report highlights the World Bank's failure to account for the negative externalities associated with coal funding - which both violates the Bank's own policies and undercuts funding for renewable energy. http://ciel.org/News/2011/20110321_Eskom.html
- CIEL's Chemicals and Human Rights & Environment programs collaborated in preparing a submission on medical waste to the **Special Rapporteur on Toxic Waste**. In recent years, the Special Rapporteur's reports on shipbreaking, e-waste and medical wastes have highlighted the role of chemicals in the global economy, the steady rise of trade in wastes, and resulting concerns about human rights violations. This Special Rapporteur has a critical role to play in addressing such infringements on recognized human rights around the world. http://ciel.org/News/2011/20110923_HRC_Toxics.html
- CIEL led civil society efforts to critique and strengthen the **World Bank's proposed new approach to lending**. CIEL's campaign, so far, has ensured that existing standards will apply to environmentally and socially risky projects funded through Borrower programs.
- After a long effort, CIEL celebrated the adoption of a **definition of nanotechnology by the European Commission**. While far from perfect, the definition is an important step toward developing a legal regime for regulating the risks of nanotechnology. http://ciel.org/Chem/Nano_EU_definitions_18Oct11.html
- While citizens living in the cross-border region of Colombia and Ecuador suffer from aerial spraying of herbicides, CIEL attorneys joined leading scholars and practitioners of international law in an amicus brief in support of their right to have their tort claims considered in U.S. courts in **Arias v. Dyncorp**. We argued that the obligation to avoid transboundary damage has become a customary principle of international law. http://ciel.org/HR_Envir/Ecuador_Transboundary_11Oct11.html

- CIEL's Chemicals Team worked with allies in the *Safer Chemicals Healthy Families* campaign to achieve meaningful reforms in chemicals policy and continued its policy and campaign leadership on US TSCA reform. <http://ciel.org/Chem/index.html>
- After years-long engagement, CIEL welcomed the adoption of the *Maastricht Principles on Extra-Territorial Obligations (ETOs) of States in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*. Developed by a group of international experts, including CIEL, these international legal principles clarify the human rights obligations of States beyond their own borders. http://ciel.org/HR_Envir/ETO_Principles_21Oct11.html
- CIEL's Climate Team continues to help design strong safeguard systems, including monitoring and grievance mechanisms, for both tropical forests and new climate funds being developed within the *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change* and other bodies. CIEL's legal analysis persuaded the Government of Ecuador to require the consent of affected communities for forest/REDD projects. See http://ciel.org/Climate_Change/Forests.html.
- CIEL successfully advocated for *the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law* to take human rights into consideration in its development of arbitral rules. http://ciel.org/Trade_Sustainable_Dev/UNCITRAL_11Feb11.html
- In 2011, the General Counsel of the World Bank proposed measures that would undermine the independence and effectiveness of the *World Bank's Inspection Panel*. CIEL, which played a key role in establishing the Inspection Panel as a forum for people affected by Bank-funded projects, led civil society's rapid (and thus far successful) response to this challenge.
- CIEL's report, "*Climate Change and Human Rights: A Primer*," summarized how climate change impacts and response measures are affecting the full and effective enjoyment of human rights. It includes a summary of relevant activities and decisions taken at the Human Rights Council, UNFCCC and other policy processes. http://ciel.org/Publications/CC_HRE_23May11.pdf
- More than a year after the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights ordered the Government of Guatemala to temporarily suspend operations at *Goldcorp's Marlin mine*, the Canadian mining company is still mining. CIEL organized a campaign at Goldcorp's annual general meeting and introduced a shareholder resolution requiring the company to voluntarily suspend the Marlin mine in compliance with the precautionary measures issued by the IACHR. CIEL helped change the debate and, despite a counter-campaign by Goldcorp, the resolution earned a strong show of support from shareholders.
- In the last year, CIEL launched its presence in **Facebook** and **Twitter**, started regular blogs and completed a complete redesign of the CIEL Website! *And we'll be launching our first ever eNewsletter this month to keep you up to date on all our work!*

Visit us online at www.ciel.org to check out the new look, follow the links to Facebook and Twitter and sign up for regular email updates!