

# Highlights of Fairtrade Fortnight 2008

## Launch

Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 was launched on 25th February by the Minister of State for Overseas Development, Mr. Michael Kitt T.D. at the Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre in Dublin.



Mr. Michael Kitt T.D. (*Minister of State for Overseas Development*), Jennifer Kirema (*Member of the Michimikuru Tea Company Co-operative, Kenya*), Nimrod Wambette (*Member of Gumutindo Coffee Cooperative, Uganda*), Armando Choco (*Managing the Toledo Cocoa Growers Association, Belize*) & Yahya Msangi (*Works with the Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union, Tanzania*) at the Launch of Fairtrade Fortnight.

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## Leinster House

On 27th February we visited Leinster House, it was also announced during the fortnight that the [Dáil and Seanad](#)'s restaurants and bars are to switch the bulk of their tea and coffee supplies to FAIRTRADE Mark products.



Jennifer Kirema (*Member of the Michimikuru Tea Company Co-operative, Kenya*), Nimrod Wambette (*Member of Gumutindo Coffee Cooperative, Uganda*), Armando Choco (*Managing the Toledo Cocoa Growers Association, Belize*), Mr. Micheál Martin T.D. (*Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment*) & Yahya Msangi (*Works with the Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union, Tanzania*) outside Leinster House.



Senator Mark Daly, Siobhan Byrne (*Member of the Newbridge Fairtrade Committee*), Jennifer Kirema (*Member of the Michimikuru Tea Company Co-operative, Kenya*), Yahya Msangi (*Works with the Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union, Tanzania*), Nimrod Wambette (*Member of Gumutindo Coffee Cooperative, Uganda*), Armando Choco (*Managing the Toledo Cocoa Growers Association, Belize*), Mr. Seamus Mullooly, Cllr. Fiona O Loughlin and Peter Gaynor (*Executive director of Fairtrade Mark Ireland*), with the students of the Peace & Justice Group from the Patrician Secondary School, Newbridge, outside Leinster House.



Outside Leinster House Senator David Norris showed his support for Fairtrade by modelling a Fairtrade Certified Cotton Toga along with a colourful wreath of Fairtrade Roses.

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## Áras an Uachtaráin

On 6th March Fairtrade Mark Ireland was cordially invited to meet with President Mary McAleese at Áras an Uachtaráin. Among the guest were Staff & Board members of Fairtrade Mark Ireland, Fairtrade Town's representatives, Businesses representatives, Fairtrade farmers from Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana & Belize. The President praised the concept of the Fairtrade Movement and said that during the Fortnight, groups had a unique opportunity to help many more people understand how Fairtrade brings about tangible change for communities in developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America struggling against poverty and unfair trade.



Armando Choco (*Managing the Toledo Cocoa Growers Association, Belize*) with President Mary McAleese in Áras an Uachtaráin.



Nimrod Wambette (*Member of Gumutindo Coffee Cooperative, Uganda*) with President Mary McAleese in Áras an Uachtaráin.



Yahya Msangi (*Works with the Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union, Tanzania*) with President Mary McAleese in Áras an Uachtaráin.

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## Fairtrade Towns

There are over 60 voluntary Fairtrade Towns committees around Ireland, all running events during Fairtrade Fortnight. On the 20th February Dublin achieved Fairtrade City status. Five more towns were awarded status during Fairtrade Fortnight; Baltinglass, Ennis, Newbridge, Roscommon and Sligo, bringing the total no of Fairtrade towns in Ireland to 31. Well done to all those involved and keep up the good work, remembering that achieving Fairtrade Town's status is not a badge of honour but a badge of commitment.



Cllr Eric Byrne, John Tierney (*City Manager*) & Cllr Paddy Bourke (*Lord Mayor of Dublin*) with the Discovery Gospel Choir at the official launch of Dublin as a Fairtrade City in City Hall.

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## Meet the Growers

This year we were delighted to have representatives of coffee, cocoa and tea producers visiting during Fairtrade Fortnight. [Armando Choco](#) an indigenous Mayan from Belize who works with the Toledo Cacao Growers Association (TCGA). [Nimrod Wambette](#) a member and of the Gumutindo Coffee Cooperative Enterprise in Uganda and [Yahya Msangi](#), who works with the Tanzania Plantation and Agricultural Workers Union (TPAWU). Armando, Nimrod and Yahya all with their individual stories helped inspire and motivate people all around Ireland.

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## Special Thanks

We would like to thank all the Fairtrade Towns and volunteer groups around Ireland. Without their hard work, time and dedication Fairtrade Fortnight 2008 would not have been the success it was. So well done and Thank you!