

make a story out of what happens!

if you are an Information Commissioner...

join in the publicity for the day by holding an event or issuing a press release; hold a competition that will encourage openness such as the best government website or the department with the fastest average response time for answering requests; publicize examples of information disclosure that has helped strengthen the relationship between the public and the government; send a memo to government departments reminding them that 28 September is International Right to Know Day and emphasizing that transparency is nothing to be afraid of because everyone is doing it!

if you are a public servant or elected member of government...

ask yourself you are doing to help promote open government! Find out what the department where you are working is doing to be more open; think about how you can manage information better so that it's easier to provide to members of the public; put some more information on your website so that the public has a better idea about what you are doing; and if your country has an access to information law, talk to the people in your department who are responsible for giving out information and find out what you can do to help make your department respond to requests within the timeframes established by law!

if you are still not sure what to do...

take a look at the FOI Advocates Network website for more information about what the members are doing and what you can do; we can also put you in touch with the local access to information organization in your country; and please, send us your reports and press cutting so that we can make our Right to Know Day Map as full as possible this year!

Thank you!

www.foiadvocates.net

www.RightToKnowDay.net

www.aip-bg.org

FOIANet

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International Right to know Day 2006

International Right to Know Day was established to mark the founding on 28 September 2002 of the global Freedom of Information Advocates Network. In 2006 the 4th International Right to Know Day is being celebrated.

The aim of Right to Know Day is to raise awareness of every individuals right of access to government-held information: the right to know how elected officials are exercising power is being exercised and how the taxpayers' money is being spent.

Activities Around the Globe!

In 2005 around 45 civil society organizations in over 30 countries around the globe marked Right to Know Day with activities that included:

- (1) An all-day conference on current challenges to Freedom of Information.
- (2) Release of several reports by NGO's on different aspects of open government ranging from secrecy policies to political contributions.
- (3) Presentation of Awards

Awards for institution with the best system of providing information

Awards for best web site from the perspective of the access to information law

Awards for a media outlet most frequently filing access to information requests in preparation of its publications and/or broadcasts

Awards for best article/broadcast prepared on the basis of information re-

ceived using FOI law.

Awards for NGOs that have contributed most to the promotion and protection of the right to information.

Awards for a citizen who has exercised his/her right of access to information.

Negative awards for an institution, which does not fulfill its obligations under the FOI Law.

(4) A public debate between current government officials and journalists/NGOs.

(5) Selection and dissemination of interesting news stories over the past year that were based on information released under the FOI law.

(6) Selection and dissemination of the most stupid responses for not providing information

(7) Selection and dissemination of the most shining examples of attempts to help the public with their search for information.

(8) Compose and publish "Black List" of those state officials and public figures who impaired and infringed the right to access to information.

(9) Publication of posters, banners, cards, brochures, and pamphlets with "Right to Know" slogans.

A record of the Right to Know Day activities of FOI Advocates Network members can be found at www.foiadvocates.net.

What You Can Do?

if you are an NGO/civil society organization...

hold an event, a debate, an award ceremony; write a press release; hold a discussion with a local community group or in the local school; print up



AIP Bulgaria's Award for Most Secretive Public Institution

posters and t-shirts and hand them out in the streets; get people involved and best of all get them exercising their rights by filing request for information!

if you are an individual...

file a request for information, write a letter to your local newspaper, ask your local public town hall to put up notices telling people about the right to information or to put some information on its website; write to your local council or to your member of parliament and ask them what they are doing to promote government transparency!

if you are a teacher or pupil...

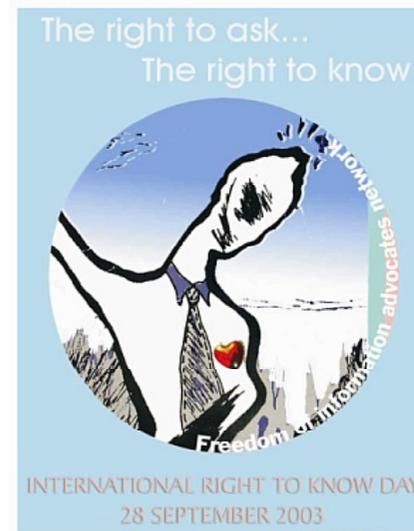
have a discussion in class about the right to know and why open government is important; think of some requests you can file with your local authority or with a government body such as the Ministry of Education; find a local issue that you would like to know more about such as the quality of the drinking water or the budget for the local sports centre and file requests for more information!

if you are a librarian or write an Internet blog...

you already understand the value of information, so make sure you inform your members/readers about Right to Know Day!

if you are a journalist...

write an article about Right to Know Day around the world and/or about local transparency issues; if you have never filed a request before using your national access to information law, now is the time to start, and then



Poster designed for first Right to Know Day 2003 by Yascha/Deebeeduss Systems (Kosova)