



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

# Newsletter

UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

January–June 2015, Volume I, Issue 2

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*“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed”*



UNESCO Constitution

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jun 8-12 Dakar Senegal:  
*Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) 14th General Assembly and Scientific Conference*
- Aug 4-7 Nairobi, Kenya:  
*Innovation Week at the University of Nairobi*
- Aug 10-11 Kampala, Uganda:  
*Policy Board and Management Meeting on ICTs and Disabilities*
- Aug 17-19 Western Cape, South Africa:  
*Int'l Conference on Sustainable Utilization of Water Resources in Developing Countries, Africa-China Water Conference series*
- Sept 2-5 Arusha, Tanzania:  
*Capacity building on small scale mining*
- Sept 13-16 Durban, South Africa:  
*World Social Science Forum*
- Oct 4-8 Kampala, Uganda:  
*6th Africa Forum on Disabilities*
- Oct 12-15 Nairobi, Kenya:  
*2nd NASAC-IANAS on Africa Water Challenges*
- Oct 29 Nairobi, Kenya:  
*Kenya Corporate Conservation Champions Wildlife Trafficking Anti - poaching Campaign - Conference Summit & Gala*
- Nov 30 -Dec 4 Goa, India:  
*2nd Int'l Indian Ocean Symposium*

## A Message from the Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa “Focusing on quality and equity of UNESCO programme delivery towards Post 2015”



Mr. Mohamed Djelid, UNESCO Director calls for more investment in building the knowledge base of Kenya's water resources that brings benefit to all people at World Water Day event in Nairobi © Masakazu Shibata

I welcome you to this edition of our newsletter. Although the office has been making progress and contributions towards achieving the MDGs and in advocating for peace and sustainable development, we also witnessed several setbacks. I would like to offer my sincerest prayer for those who lost their lives and express my utmost sympathy to all those who have been affected by the series of terrorist attacks, namely:

Garissa University College in Kenya, Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education of Somali Republic, and UN Compound in Garowe involving our fellow UNICEF colleagues.

UNESCO is determined to support the governments as well as the people to protect education and to ensure that its citizens can benefit from access to quality learning opportunities at all levels.

A high level event in Nairobi took place where Member-States gathered to reinforce their commitments in raising *618 million USD* for humanitarian efforts. UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation, Mr. Forest Whitaker played an active role together with UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos in raising the fund by highlighting the urgent need to assess the humanitarian situation concerning the peace and stability of the East Africa region.

In education, UNESCO organized the Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Ministerial Conference on Education Post-2015 in Kigali. The conference provided an opportunity to review and assess the progress made in attaining the Education for All (EFA) goals set in 2000 to prepare for the World Education Forum that was held from 19 to 22 May 2015 in Incheon, Republic of Korea. This initiative allowed African Member States to present a common African vision for the post-2015 education agenda.

The World Water Day was observed with the MOU between Government of Kenya and UNESCO to further strengthen the cooperation to map potential groundwater resources for a resilient and sustainable livelihood. Furthermore, the Third Session of the UNESCO-IOC's Sub-Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA III) leading to further advancement of collaborative research on marine sciences and coastal development.

In culture, International Jazz Day was celebrated with the understanding that culture is an integral part of sustainable development, and that music has the power to work towards national cohesion. Young musical talents from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania performed at the celebration together with Kenya's prominent jazz musicians.

*Continued on page 2*

# Feature Story: The Nairobi Declaration

In the area of social and human sciences, the first MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Eastern Africa on Global Justice resulted in the adoption of the Nairobi Declaration on Global Justice by Ministers from 13 Eastern African countries.

UNESCO also co-organized the roundtable discussion on peacekeeping, where H.E. Dr. Martin Kimani, Kenya Ambassador to UNON, took part as a panelist to exchange views with youth and academia on the culture of peace and the security in Africa. UNESCO is also urgently requesting the authorities to take stronger measures in improving the safety of media workers especially in view of the recent killings involving Kenyan (1) South Sudanese (5) and Somali (1) journalists.

Everyone must be free to speak, and to seek, receive and impart knowledge and information, and media workers must be able to carry out their professional duties without fear of violence and reprisal. Finally, knowing that all of this could not be possible without strong partnerships and mutual trust, we would like to thank the NATCOM for UNESCO and all our partners and donors

for our activities. I invite you to follow our newsletter, as we work towards building peace and sustainable development. Mohamed Djelid, Director, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa.

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Mohamed Djelid, Director,  
UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

## High Level Event on the Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan and its Impact in the Region

*“Peace not only entails an absence of fighting, but the presence of dialogue and mutual respect”*  
- Forest Whitaker, UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation

9 February 2015, Nairobi, Kenya – The world’s youngest country is slipping back into its darkest years with an ongoing conflict impacting the politics of the newly-independent nation. Reflecting on this man made humanitarian crisis, a joint OCHA-IGAD High-Level Event on the Humanitarian Crisis in South Sudan was held on 9 February 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, to mobilize funding and agree on actions needed to create an enabling environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and ensure the protection of the civilians. The event follows a three-day visit to South Sudan by UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, and UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation Forest Whitaker.

## Seven out of 10 refugees are children

Thanks to the tireless efforts of individuals throughout the country and the generosity of the international community, aid workers were able to help more than 3.6 million South Sudanese citizens with lifesaving aid in 2014. However, additional \$809 million was needed in 2015 for the South Sudan Refugee Response Plan. More than a year after the outbreak of hostilities in South Sudan in December 2013, the political situation

remains fragile and the humanitarian outlook is grim: 2.5 million people face severe food insecurity, with thousands of children suffering from malnutrition. Massive displacement continues, with an estimated 2 million people having fled their homes, half of whom are children. About 1.5 million people are displaced inside South Sudan and some 500,000 South Sudanese have fled the country.

Mr. Forest Whitaker, during the high-level meeting, addressed that the conflict in South Sudan is having a real and measurable effect on all of East Africa, as half a million individuals have fled the violence by seeking refuge in neighboring countries. He also highlighted the importance of education and reintegration programs for children who have been scarred by conflict and stressed the need for the international community to not only combat hunger and poverty, but also to take measures to improve the conditions pertaining to sustainable economic growth that brings positive change.

## The Nairobi Declaration: Lifesaving assistance to reach all communities in need

Humanitarian agencies have appealed for US\$1.81 billion to respond to the humanitarian crisis in 2015, of which \$600 million was needed and received by February to repair roads and airstrips and pre-position supplies before the rainy season to reach as many people as possible. The press conference was an opportunity for Mr. Whitaker and Ms. Amos to call on all parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and allow lifesaving assistance to reach all communities in need.

*“We need to ensure that our humanitarian groups on the ground are able to move. Since the onset of the conflict the situation has worsened. What we saw during our visit to the region was devastation and destruction as well as a desperate need for food, water, education and health care.” - Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator*



*Amina Mohamed, Kenya Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs addresses the Member States on Kenya’s effort in working with the international community to take measures to improve the humanitarian condition in South Sudan © Masakazu Shibata*

*Forest Whitaker, UNESCO Special Envoy for Peace and Reconciliation shared his views on the conflict in South Sudan as having a real and measurable effect on all of East Africa © Masakazu Shibata*



*Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator answers to questions during the press conference at the High Level event on the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan © Masakazu Shibata*



## UNESCO in South Sudan

During his speech in Nairobi, Mr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Sudan thanked Forest Whitaker for his commitment in South Sudan and his work with youth. Forest Whitaker returned to Juba on 11 February 2015 to start a five-day training with UNESCO Juba, Ericsson and Zain within the Youth Peacemaker Network programme (YPN), that was launched in 2012. The goal of the YPN is to empower youth, former child soldiers and orphans with peace-building and conflict management/mitigation skills, meditation and life-skills as well as ICT skills to become peace and development leaders in their communities. In an interview with Aljazeera Whitaker

mentioned: “I’ve been in South Sudan working for my NGO for about 2 years now. We train youth to become peace builders that then become community builders. Through the training they develop community peace-building projects. Then they create a network amongst themselves to try to keep connectivity and communication going between the different villages to avoid any sort of conflicts in the future.” In support of peace-building and long term reconciliation in South Sudan, the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative (WPDI), the foundation established by Forest Whitaker, has inaugurated a sports center in the Protection of Civilians camp managed by the UN in Juba and a computer center in Torit.



## Kenya Groundwater Mapping Programme Cooperative Framework Agreement



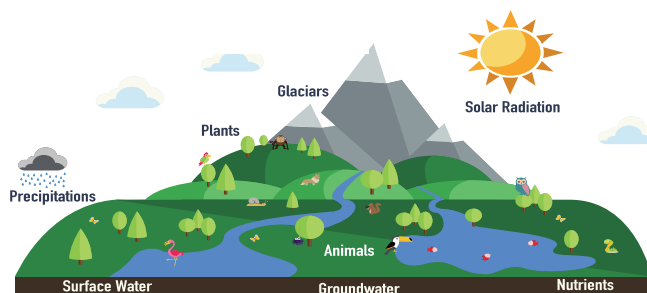
*Ms. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary from Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Mr. Mohamed Djelid, UNESCO Director discuss Kenya's groundwater potential and cooperative framework in taking the Kenya Groundwater Mapping programme forward ©Masakazu Shibata*

8 May 2015, Nairobi – UNESCO and Government of Kenya signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources to build a knowledge base of Kenya's groundwater resources by improving the scientific knowledge on the nation's groundwater wealth as the full potential of groundwater in Kenya is unknown. A lack of scientific information about location and volumes indicates only an estimated 5 per cent of the overall national water endowment. Meanwhile, the intensifying use and demand for water resource in Kenya reveals its strategic importance. Limited

understanding of groundwater resources and inadequate monitoring systems, rainfall variability, seasonality of streams and lack of large reservoirs for water storage, all prove to hinder development. An intervention in groundwater can bring tangible change. The four year support of Kenya Groundwater Mapping Programme to Kenya's Vision 2030 will be elaborated into the new National Groundwater Policy and Regional Catchment Management Strategies. It is also in line with the UNDAF 2014-2018, calling for effective and integrated management of water resources.

## World Water Day Celebrations: Water for Sustainable World

*“Water resources are a key element in policies to combat poverty, but are sometimes themselves threatened by development. Water directly influences our future, so we need to change the way we assess, manage and use this resource in the face of ever-rising demand and the over exploitation of our groundwater reserves. This is the appeal made by the latest edition of the UN World Water Development Report.”- Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General*



19 March, 2015, Nairobi – As part of the global campaign on raising awareness on the water challenges and its central role for socio-economic development and in line with the United Nations General Assembly resolution, the World Water Day was celebrated on 22nd March. Due to the fact that the day falls on Sunday, the World Water Day was celebrate on 23rd in Kenya. At a global level, it was celebrated on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2015 with

the launching of the World Water Development Report 2015 (WWDR2015) on water for a sustainable world. In addition to the global launching of the WWDR2015, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa and the Government of Kenya organized a High Level Policy Roundtable on Water for Sustainable Development as a pre-event and part of activities for the national World Water Day celebration at Lacio Hotel in Nairobi.

## UNESCO High Level Policy Roundtable: Addressing the need for sustainable water management



*Mr. Abou Amani, UNESCO Senior Water Specialist, addresses that securing water on the long term is an achievable goal through means of higher efficiency, re-use of resources and sustainable water management © Masakazu Shibata*

*Director of UNESCO Mohamed Djelid (right) and Kenya State Department of Water and Regional Authorities Jame Teko Lopoyetum (left) launch the WWDR 2015 during the High Level Policy Roundtable © Masakazu Shibata*



*Participants share ideas related to sustainable water management issues during the discussion © Masakazu Shibata*



20 March 2015, Nairobi – As a pre-event of World Water Day celebrations held in Kenya, UNESCO and Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources jointly organized a high level policy roundtable on the occasion of the launching of the World Water Development Report 2015 on ‘*Water for A Sustainable World*’ (WWDR). Also, the strategic partnership between UNESCO and the Government of Kenya, on the Kenya Groundwater Mapping Programme was officially announced, calling for action to build a knowledge base of groundwater resources by improving the scientific knowledge on Kenya’s groundwater wealth to face the upcoming challenges.

During the WWDR launch, Mohamed Djelid, UNESCO Regional Director, noted that “countries have to put in place and implement coherent and harmonized policies taking in account sound scientific knowledge” and urged all stakeholders to invest more in building the knowledge base of Kenya’s water resources that brings benefit to all people. He also emphasized on the need for the sector do deviate from the business-as-usual pathway if meaningful success is to be achieved.

Mr. Fred Mwango of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Secretariat also reflected on a recent IGAD initiative on a Regional Water Policy, and highlighted that “political will is a vital aspect for a successful approach to the upcoming water crisis.”

# One Planet, One Ocean

## Third Session of the IOC Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA-III): Sustainable management of the Oceans

13-15 April 2015, Nairobi – The Third Session of UNESCO/IOC’s Sub-Commission for Africa and Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA III) was held in Nairobi from 13-15 April 2015. The goals of the session were to review progress in the implementation of the IOC programmes on ocean sciences, services and observations in the region, as well as to discuss the planning of 2015-17 to be submitted to the 28th session of the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, held in June 2015 in Paris.

The session was attended by more than 50 participants, representing 23 member states from the region (Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, and Tunisia), UN agencies, regional programmes and NGOs active in marine science in the region, as well as invited experts.

In his opening remarks, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Professor Fred Segor, representing the Cabinet Secretary, highlighted several developments since the establishment of the Sub Commission, and requested the delegates to take these into consideration during their deliberations. These included the adoption of Agenda 2063 by the AU, a vision of “an Integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa” and the 2050 African Integrated Marine Strategic Plan of Action (AIMS2050), and the ongoing preparation of the proposed post 2015 agenda focusing on conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



Participants, including the representatives from 23 member states, UN agencies, regional programmes, NGOs and experts in marine science celebrate the closing of the session @Masakazu Shibata



Participants discuss the work plan and prioritize activities on ocean and coastal management issues @Masakazu Shibata



Dr. Sang-Kyung BYUN, Chairman of IOC and Mr. Felix Toteu, acting Director for the UNESCO Regional Office review the artwork publication from the Africa Seas and Oceans campaign. Illustrations were created by students from across Africa @Masakazu Shibata



## Second China-Africa Forum: Strengthening of collaboration framework for China and Africa on Marine Science and Technology



*Abou Amani acting as UNESCO Regional Director sees various possibilities in developing blue economy in Africa through transferring of marine culture technology ©Masakazu Shibata*



*Prof Micheni Ntiba, Principal Secretary, State Department of Fisheries and Mika Odido, UNESCO IOC Africa listens to views shared by participants on sustainable ocean and coastal management ©Masakazu Shibata*

*Dr. Huang Daji, Deputy Director General, Second Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration, listens to a request made by the African States to share remote sensing curriculum with hope that this would positively impact human capacity development ©Masakazu Shibata*

9-10 April 2015, Nairobi – The Second China-Africa Forum on Marine Science and Technology was co-organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, through its Sub Commission for Africa and the Adjacent Island States (IOCAFRICA), and the State Oceanic Administration of China.

The forum was hosted by the IOCAFRICA secretariat at the United Nation's Office at Nairobi from 9-10 April 2015, and attended by more than 40 oceanographic experts from Angola, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and China as well as the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association and the secretariat of IOCAFRICA.

The forum was officially opened by the Principal Secretary in the State Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Kenya Prof Micheni Ntiba. In his opening remarks Prof Ntiba noted that “the growing population of young people in Africa has increased the pressure to generate employment opportunities and provide food and other basic necessities. The development of the blue economy will facilitate the harnessing of the rich resources of the oceans and seas around the African continent and contribute significantly towards the social and economic development of member states and their citizens.”



# Education for All, Learning to Live Together

## Partnership for literacy and life skills education in Somalia: Second Steering Committee meeting



*Shantha Retnasingam, UNESCO Chief for Cooperation, expresses UNESCO's further commitment in supporting literacy and life skills for Somali youth, adults and women in partnership with Al-Maktoum Foundation to ministerial officials from the Federal Government, Puntland and Somaliland*  
© Masakazu Shibata

14 May 2015, Nairobi - In partnership with Al-Maktoum Foundation, UNESCO is promoting literacy and life skills education amongst Somali youth and adults with a special focus on women. Acquisition of literacy skills is critical for individuals to cope with their economic and social life. Participation in literacy programmes has a variety of benefits ranging from having improved self-esteem, empowerment and creativity to critical thinking.

Somalia is among the countries listed lowest in the literacy ranking with an estimated 37,8% literacy rate, out of which 49.7% of the adult male population is literate as opposed to only 25.8 percent of adult females. This shows that many challenges remain to be addressed. The second steering committee meeting was organized by UNESCO to inform about the status of project implementation and deliberate on the progress made and the remaining challenges to the invited relevant stakeholders, including the Al Maktoum Foundation, Federal Ministry of Education, Culture and Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Higher Education of Somaliland and Ministry of Education of Puntland.

## Focusing on quality and equity in education: GMR Launch and UNESCO Roundtable



*Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology discuss issues on quality and equity in education with selected students at EFA GMR launch in Kenya.*  
© Masakazu Shibata

28 April 2015, Nairobi - The official launch of the 'Education for All' (EFA) Global Monitoring Report (GMR) in Kenya took place during the EFA Global Action Week under the theme *The Right to Education post-2015*. The event was co-hosted by UNESCO and UNICEF, and formalized by Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary, MoEST. The EFA GMR is an annually launched report that, in the preparation for post-2015, emphasized the achievements and the challenges at stake for quality and equity in education. In order for Kenya to reach the goals as it set out to do, Mohamed Djelid, Director of the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa stated that Kenya "should focus on addressing the remaining challenges on EFA related to quality, equity, access and monitoring – thus ensuring that all children are guaranteed quality education".

## Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Ministerial Conference on Education Post-2015



*ICTs in education promoted in East Africa among young girls through the uptake of Women in African History: An E-Learning Tool*  
© Edouard Joubeaud

13 February 2015, Kigali — The Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Ministerial Conference on Education Post-2015 took place on 9-11 February 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda. The conference provided an opportunity to review and assess progress made in attaining the Education for All (EFA) goals set in 2000. The aim was to prepare an African vision for the post-2015 education agenda. On top of that, the conference was also meant to define the education needs, obstacles, and priorities in the region to develop recommendations for the World Education Forum.

## President Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta Calls for revision of Curriculum on HIV and AIDS

*His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta shaking hands with Jane Kamau – UNESCO at the UN Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS for the launching of the campaign*  
© UNESCO



17 February 2015, Nairobi - Speaking during the global launch of the All in Campaign in Nairobi, the President of the Republic of Kenya expressed his concern on the evidence indicating that 30% of new HIV infections occur among young people below the age of 24 years in the country. To ensure that new HIV infections are prevented in Kenya among young people, the president underscored the role of education is mitigation. The president's directive is very timely since it is expected to fast track UNESCO's efforts in strengthening the education sector's response to HIV and AIDS.

## UNESCO advocates for Comprehensive Sexuality Education among Parents in Kenya

30 January 2015, Nairobi – Parents remain instrumental in shaping beliefs and values among children. Their role in enhancing access to information on sexuality among young people can therefore not be underestimated. To ensure that parents support inclusion of sexuality education through the formal curriculum, UNESCO works in partnership with the Kenya National Parents Association. It is on this premises that UNESCO was invited to make a presentation on *the role of parents in addressing sexuality education and HIV prevention* in schools during the 7th annual delegates conference that brought together over 2,000 parents representatives.



# Protecting our Heritage and Fostering Creativity

## Dialogue for Kenya on Culture for Development



UNESCO Youth Group Choir performs at the UN Office in Nairobi for the World Day for Cultural Diversity celebration © Masakazu Shibata

19 May 2015, Nairobi – A Roundtable calling for further dialogue on Culture and Development and the mainstreaming of culture in national policy frameworks within the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda took place on the occasion of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development at United National Office in Nairobi. The event was organized by UNESCO, in collaboration with the Kenyan National Commission for UNESCO, and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC). More than 100 people from the heritage and cultural industry sector across Kenya participated in the Round Table. Participants included government officials from both central and county governments, cultural experts, academia, artists, creators/producers/practitioners, media and civil society organizations.

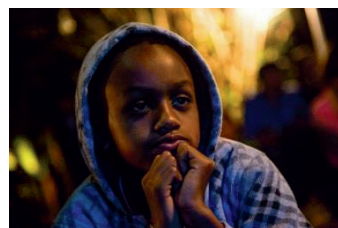
## Jazz means courage and standing up for freedom



Left: Arron Rimbui and his band performs in Nairobi during the International Day of Jazz celebration © Quaintphotography



Above: Eric Wainaina, a popular singer-song writer, described jazz as a medium that allows him to communicate and investigate people's feelings on day-to-day issues © Quaintphotography



1 May, 2015, Nairobi – In Kenya, jazz festivals became prominent from 2006 onwards. With the understanding that culture can be the catalyst for building peace and development, and that music is a tool that works towards national cohesion, UNESCO in partnership with National Commission for UNESCO and All that Jazz organized the 2015 International Jazz Day celebration on 1 May in Nairobi. The day culminated in an all-star concert, featuring Kenya's prominent jazz musicians, namely: Eric Wainaina, Arron Rimbui, and Ricky na Marafiki, as well as young selected talents from Maisha Superstars representing Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

## Protecting Our Heritage and Fostering Creativity: Nairobi Cultural Festival



Dr. Hassan Wario, Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and Arts, dances with the traditional drummers at the Nairobi Cultural Festival © Mulekeni Ngulube

19 April, 2015, Nairobi – The 3rd Nairobi Cultural Festival took place at the National Museum of Kenya (NMK) on Sunday 19th April with pomp and fanfare. The festival, organized in collaboration with UNESCO under the theme 'World Day-World Unity: Unity in Diversity', brought in one place a showcase of diverse cultural expressions. Representing UNESCO, Ms. Mulekeni Ngulube, Programme Specialist for Culture explained that "through distinctive cultural forms and artistic expressions such as crafts, books, fashion, food, music, dance, storytelling, documentaries, displayed and shown here – culture becomes the medium through which individuals express themselves." The cultural festival is a practical example of making the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions work.

## Commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade



Panelists and students engage in discussion on existing laws, protocols and conventions combating modern forms of slavery, as this topic remains a taboo for the majority of the people in the Kenyan society. © Masakazu Shibata

23 March 2015, Nairobi - The 2015 theme for the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, "Women and Slavery" is aimed at: paying tribute to the many enslaved women who endured unbearable hardships from forced labour to sexual exploitation; paying tribute to those who fought for freedom from slavery and advocated for its abolition; to celebrate the strength of enslaved women, many of whom succeeded in transmitting their African culture to their descendants despite the many abuses that they endured.

The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) and UNESCO, in partnership with sister agencies in the UN organized a Roundtable and present an Exhibition on "Women and Slavery" at UNON Gigiri. The International Day also aims at raising awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today. In addition, the United Nations established the "Remember Slavery" Programme which is managed by the Department of Public Information.



# Social Transformation through Dialogues

## Dialogue for Peace: Peacekeeping in Perspective: Reflections from Africa



Kenya's Ambassador to UNON, H.E. Dr. Martin Kimani, Madame Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General UNON, Florence Omundi, Senior Deputy Commissioner of Defense Services salute UN Peacekeepers ©Masakazu Shibata

UN Peacekeepers from Kenya Defense Force at the UN compound in Nairobi pay tribute to those who continue to serve as peacekeepers around the world ©Masakazu Shibata



Panel moderator, Abdul Lamin, UNESCO Programme Specialist situated UN Peacekeeping in historical and geopolitical context, highlighting the evolution of the practice since 1948 ©Masakazu Shibata

27 May, 2015, Nairobi – In recognizing the 2015 International Day of UN Peacekeeping, UNESCO, in partnership with UN Information Centre (UNIC) organized an interactive panel discussion to reflect on the state of UN peacekeeping in Africa over the past five decades titled, *Peacekeeping in Perspective: Reflections from Africa on the Past Five Decades*. The event was held at UNON compound which brought together a distinguished group of panelists including Kenya's Ambassador to UNON, H.E. Dr. Martin Kimani, the Executive Director of African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA), Retired Ghanaian Colonel Festus Aboagye, two representatives from the Kenya Military, Lt. Col. Joyce Sitienei and Ms. Catherine Njeru, youth activist, Felix Lone, and Pernilla Ryden, a Senior Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region.

In his introductory remarks, the panel moderator, Abdul Lamin, UNESCO Programme Specialist situated UN Peacekeeping in historical and geopolitical context, highlighting the evolution of the practice since 1948, when the first such operation was established and deployed by the UN Security Council to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Lamin further explored the implications of the practice in Africa, which is currently home to half of the total number of peacekeeping operations (PKO) globally and the relationship between such operations and African regional and sub-regional organizations including the AU, EAC, ECOWAS and SADC.

## First MOST Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Eastern Africa Countries Adopts Nairobi Declaration on Global Justice

27 February 2015, Nairobi – The 1st Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Eastern Africa, organized under the auspices of UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, and hosted by the Government of Kenya, ended on a high note on Thursday, 26 February, with the adoption of the *Nairobi Declaration on Global Justice*. The *Nairobi Declaration* commits the Eastern Africa countries to a wide range of measures to be undertaken, individually and collectively, to tackle the challenges of injustice and inequalities, including a strong and urgent call on “the international community to place poverty eradication and the reduction of inequalities at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Prior to the adoption, and following the formalities of the opening ceremony, participants engaged in three full days of lively, rigorous and substantive exchange of information, knowledge and strategies on how to tackle problems of poverty, inequalities, youth unemployment and skills development, etc., both as individual countries, and as a region.

From left: Amb. Dr. Mary Khimulu, Kenya's former Ambassador to UNESCO, Getachew Engida, Deputy Director General of UNESCO, Prof. Jacob Kaimenyi, Cabinet Secretary MoEST, Hon. William Ruto, Kenya's Deputy President at the Opening Ceremony ©Masakazu Shibata



Getachew Engida, Deputy Director General of UNESCO, highlighted both the significance of the forum, and the relevance of its theme, *Global Justice*, especially at a moment when the post-2015 development agenda is being deliberated on, by UN Member States ©Masakazu Shibata

Hon. William Ruto, Kenya's Deputy President at the Opening Ceremony, assures Kenya's commitment to continue its collaboration with neighboring countries to address the problems of poverty, inequalities and related issues ©Masakazu Shibata



Mohamed Djelid, UNESCO Director, with Ministers and representatives from 13 Eastern Africa countries (Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) at the forum ©Masakazu Shibata

# Transforming Societies with Media and ICTs

## Promoting Literacy through mobile learning solutions in Somaliland

25 May, 2015, Somaliland – UNESCO in partnership with Gollis University held a 2 days' workshop on development of mobile learning solutions to improve literacy in Somaliland from 23 to 24 May 2015 at Gollis University, Hargeisa, Somaliland. The workshop aimed at equipping NGO partners with basic literacy skills through use of mobile phones in Somaliland. During the training participants were taken through key issues affecting literacy in Somaliland; mobile learning features and tips used in mobile learning; understanding mobile learning platforms; priority functions of mobile learning solutions; approaches for implementing mobile solution; and, key success factors for mobile learning solution. Also, they were engaged to define the design and functionality of their mobile literacy learning tools.

## World Press Freedom Day: UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity

3 May 2015 – In 2015, States are accelerating to reach the MDGs and shaping a new global sustainable development agenda. Freedom of expression and press freedom are essential to success at every level. Everyone must be free to seek, receive and impart knowledge and information on all media, online and offline. Quality journalism enables citizens to make informed decisions about their society's development. It also works to expose injustice, corruption, and the abuse of power. For this, journalism must be able to thrive, in an enabling environment in which they can work independently and without undue interference and in conditions of safety.

## Director-General urges investigation into killing of Kenyan newspaper publisher John Kituyi

30 April 2015, Nairobi – The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova today called on Kenyan authorities to shed light on the murder of John Kituyi, owner and editor of the *Mirror Weekly* in the town of Eldoret in the west of Kenya, on 30 April. Kituyi, 63, was the editor and publisher of the *Mirror Weekly*, a regional newspaper he founded in Eldoret ten years ago.

## Working towards Sustainability: Women Entrepreneurs in ICT on financial planning, management and resource mobilization

25-27 April 2015, Nairobi - UNESCO organized a 3 day training workshop on Financial Planning, Management and Resource Mobilization Skills for women entrepreneurs' from 25-27 April 2015 in Ugunja, Siaya County and from 30 April to 2 May 2015 in Chwele, Bungoma County respectively attracting participation of 40 women entrepreneurs. Ruth Chelongo a participant from Chwele said, "such training could not have come at a better time than this. Since I started my business 3 years ago I have never had proper financial records for my business. I am happy that the skills and knowledge that I have gained from this workshop will not only enable me expand my business but also make it sustainable."

## UNESCO Celebrates Girls in ICT Day in East Africa through the uptake of Women in African History: An E-Learning Tool



ICTs in education promoted in East Africa among young girls through the uptake of "Women in African History: An e-learning tool"  
© Edouard Jouveaud

24 April 2015, Addis Ababa – In support of Girls in ICT day, UNESCO is rolling out its 2014 Gem-Tech award winning Open Educational Resource "Women in African History: An E-Learning Tool" across East Africa in partnership with Camara Education. The tool is an interoperable internet platform that consists of multimedia content and promotes the ICT competencies of young girls. It also represents a crucial step to expand and disseminate knowledge of the role of women in African history to counter prejudices and stereotypes.

## Young reporters and producers celebrate World Radio Day 2015 in Kenya



Young reporters and producers from local radio stations celebrate the World Radio Day at the UN Office in Nairobi  
©Masakazu Shibata

13 February 2015, Nairobi – UNESCO partnered with Media Council of Kenya (MCK), United Nation Information Centre (UNIC) and Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) to mark the World Radio Day 2015 celebrations at the United Nations Complex in Nairobi, Kenya, themed "Youth and Media". The 2-day event aimed at increasing the level of participation of young people in radio taking into account media ethics as producers of radio contents with media literacy skills and mobilizing and encouraging main stream media and community radios to promote access to information, freedom of expression and youth empowerment through their programs.

## A Consultative Forum on Open Access for Africa is taking place in Nairobi

28 January 2015, Nairobi – UNESCO joined hands with the Network of African Science Academies (NASAC), Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Kenya National Academy of Sciences, African Academy of Sciences, and Kenyan MoEST to organize a Consultative Forum on Open Access: Towards high level interventions for research and development in Africa. The delegates urged the need of redefining the context of advocacy, networking and capacity development for Open Access in the continent.



# Do you know about?

## UNESCO World Heritage: Lamu Old Town

*A crossroad of Bantu, Arabic, Persian, Indian and European Cultures*



*Lamu Fort was built between 1813 and 1821 providing a base from when the Omanis consolidated their control of the East African coast. Today it houses an environmental museum and a library, and is often used for community events. (cc) Hoja de Rutas*

Lamu Old Town, the oldest and best-preserved Swahili settlement in East Africa, became a World Heritage Site in 2001. At its peak it was the most important trade center of the region resulting in a hybrid culture influenced by Europeans, Bantu, Arabs, Persians and Indians. This rich social and economic historical timeframe is reflected in the architecture and the urban structure of the town.

In the 19th century, Lamu became an important cultural and religious centre, attracting scholars of both Islamic religion and Swahili culture. Until today, researchers consider Lamu as the cradle of Swahili civilization and this position is reflected in the annual *Maulidi* and the many cultural festivals.

Recently the government has commissioned the Lamu Port – South Sudan – Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) corridor and the new Lamu Port and Metropolis Development Project which form a threat for the “Outstanding Universal Value” (OUV) of Lamu.

Upon the request of the World Heritage Committee, a Heritage Impact Assessment was conducted to assess all possible impacts on the built heritage, the natural environment as well as the social, cultural and religious impacts to the setting and the surrounding landscape. The Heritage Impact Assessment Report has been finalized and adopted by the national authorities and plans are underway to have it launched in order to use it as a platform for creating awareness and engagement with all the relevant stakeholders.

UNESCO together with partners, supports the identification, protection and preservation of cultural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

*Lamu is the only one of the Swahili settlements and seaports that has constantly been inhabited for over 700 years. (cc) Hoja de Rutas*



*Dhow is commonly used in Lamu. In order to preserve and encourage the art of dhow sailing, the town's finest dhows are selected to compete, and race under sail through a complicated series of buoys, combining speed with elaborate tacking and maneuvering skill during Lamu Cultural Festival. © Kenya Tourism Board*

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