



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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New Delhi Office

Cluster Office for Bangladesh,
Bhutan, India, Maldives,
Nepal and Sri Lanka

e-Newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 3, July - Sept. 2015

Dear Readers,

As in 2014, UNESCO and UNICEF together again took the lead in the United Nations Country Team (UNCT India) Joint Advocacy Campaign for Education organized in the month of September 2015.

During the Campaign a host of events were jointly organized both at local and national level, in cooperation with various UN networks, partners, stakeholders and the civil society to create a buzz around the UN Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) run under the slogan "Sustainable Development begins with Education".

The Campaign kick-started on 1st September 2015 with the launch of a dedicated GEFI webpage with the message from the UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova. "The Joint Advocacy for Education Campaign comes at a moment when India has made tremendous progress in dramatically reducing the numbers of out-of-school children, achieving universal primary education and improving literacy rates. These are major contributions to global progress in reaching Education for All", said the UNESCO Director-General. The webpage also features video messages from eminent personalities and Heads of UN Agencies, highlighting critical issues towards achieving the newly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the campaign, a comic arts competition for youth on "Literacy and Sustainable Societies" was organized. The winning art works will be used in the outreach material published by UNESCO. A month-long social media campaign on GEFI was also carried both on facebook and twitter to reach to a wider audience and engage with our followers.

To know more about the Campaign, kindly visit the [GEFI homepage](#).

Shigeru Aoyagi

Director and UNESCO Representative to
Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka

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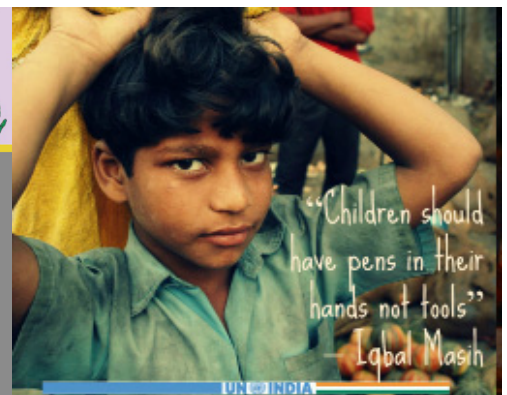


NATIONAL COMIC AND CARTOON ART COMPETITION

Theme: Literacy and Sustainable Societies

Deadline: 30 August 2015

See more details: www.unesco.org/new/en/newdelhi

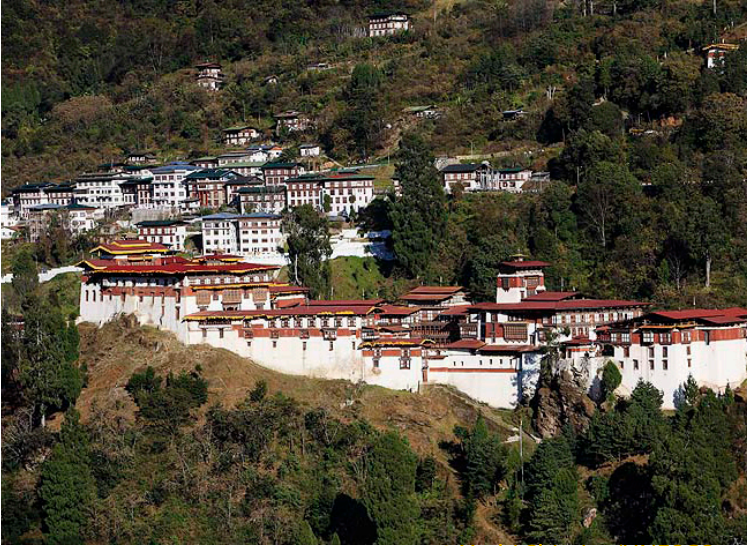


774 MILLION
ADULTS IN THE WORLD
ARE ILLITERATE
2/3 OF THEM ARE
WOMEN



FEATURE ARTICLE

2015 Bhutan Workshop on Cultural Landscape and Sustaining its Significance



© Yoshi Shimizu/UNESCO

Bhutan's uniqueness lies in its cultural landscape where heritage sites coexist harmoniously with nature bearing witness to the distinctive history, wisdom and custom of the people of Bhutan. (...) thus heritage sites should be protected with the understanding of its association with natural settings and living traditions in such a manner as to respect the cultural landscape (extract from the Preamble of the draft Heritage Sites Bill of Bhutan).

As the Government of Bhutan set forth to introduce a new law towards a holistic protection of heritage sites, the Department of Culture, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs initiated in 2014 a public awareness-raising

and expert discussion on cultural landscape and how to translate this concept into concrete heritage management plan.

Following the 2014 International Competition of Cultural Landscape of Bhutan, the 2015 workshop invited 9 young professionals from Bhutan, China, Cyprus, France, India, Japan and Serbia to conduct study of a village in Haa District between 22 July to 4 August to identify and analyse various elements that constitute the cultural landscape of the village such as architecture, settlement, natural environment, community and peoples' lifestyle. The result of the study was presented on 5th August to the panel of experts comprising of senior government officials and international heritage experts. The workshop was concluded with a public forum on 7 August where the international experts and Bhutanese senior officials shared their view on cultural landscape and its sustenance.

The workshop was supported by Oriental Cultural Heritage Sites Protection Alliance (Paris, France), Kyushu University (Fukuoka, Japan) and UNESCO World Heritage Centre and UNESCO New Delhi Office. The workshop complements the process of the drafting of Heritage Sites Bill of Bhutan, initiated in 2012 under the Government of Bhutan-Kyushu University-UNESCO tri-party agreement.

For further information on the workshop, please visit: <http://www.heritagesites.gov.bt>



FEATURE ARTICLE

National Consultation on Children and Internal Migration in India



UNESCO, Aide et Action and Bernard Van Leer Foundation organized a National Consultation on Children and Internal Migration on 22-23 September 2015 in Delhi. UNESCO'S focus in this consultation was on the right to education for migrant children. To support this, a query on How to Ensure the Right to Education for Migrant Children – Policy Recommendations and Best Practices was posted on the UNESCO online knowledge platform known as GYM (Gender, Youth and Migration), a platform linked to the United Nations Solutions Exchange knowledge tool. Such query is particularly important in the context of the current consultations for a New Education Policy (NEP) and negotiations on labour reforms.

Children are the most unrecognized and vulnerable groups among internal migrants, migrating alone or with their families. Migrant children often lose access to basic entitlements, miss out on schooling and are subject to health and security risks. Child migrants forgo critical inputs necessary for their physical, psychological and intellectual development during their formative years. This has an irreversible impact on their emotional and cognitive development.

Migrant children – currently estimated at 15 million (Daniel 2011; Smita 2011) - are among the most educationally marginalized in India. More than 5 years after the promulgation of the act, the right to education (under the Right to Education Act, [RTE] 2009) of migrant children still remains highly compromised: seasonal and temporary migration results in disruption of regular and continued schooling of children, adversely affecting their human capital formation and contributing to the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

Why is education critical to the issue of distress seasonal migration? Because the window of opportunity that children of migrant families have is very small. They get drawn into labour early, and are usually full-fledged labourers by the age of 11 or 12. They face a life of hardship and a sense of displacement right from infancy. They are subjected to hazardous travel between villages and work sites, and a life of severe deprivation at the latter. Girl children endure many more deprivations than boys. They receive less nutrition and less care than boys, and often have to do double the work, at work sites as well as at home. (Smita 2007. Locked Homes, Empty Schools – the Impact of Distress Seasonal Migration on the Rural Poor).

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA) recently established an **Inter-ministerial taskforce on migration** to study the impact of migration on housing, infrastructure and livelihoods in India. UNESCO considers this Inter-ministerial task force as a first and essential step for the future development of a coherent National Policy Framework on Internal Migration in India.

Main policy recommendations highlighted during the RTE Session

- Fill knowledge and research gaps to enable evidence-based policy making
- Assess seasonal and temporary migration and ensure joint planning between districts and states
- Make school and teachers responsible for tracking and mainstreaming migrant children
- Adopt and upscale innovative practices by NGOs and local administration

To know more: [click here](#)

EDUCATION

2015 International Literacy Day Celebrations in New Delhi



The theme of International Literacy Day 2015 is “Literacy and Sustainable Societies.” This year’s celebration therefore, was dedicated to exploring critical links and synergy between literacy and the future Sustainable Development Goals which was adopted during the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, held from 25 to 27 September 2015, at New York.

The International Literacy Day, 8 September 2015, commenced with the prestigious celebratory event organized by the National Literacy Mission Authority, Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) at the Vigyan Bhawan-premier convention centre of Government of India in New Delhi. The dignitaries in attendance were: H.E. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, President of India; H.E. Ms. Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Human Resources Development; H.E. Mr. Upendra Kushwaha, MoS (School Education and Literacy), Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO representative to Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka; Mr. S.C.Khuntia, Secretary, School Education and Literacy, MHRD and Mr. Y. S. K. Kumar, Director-General, National Literacy Mission as well as Members of the Parliament, Ambassadors, representatives of UN agencies, national educational institutions and media. There were also representatives from various central and state level ministries, Jan Shiksha Sansthan (so called Institutes of People’s Education), State Literacy Resources Centres, literacy volunteers, members of Zila Parishads and panchayats (district and village councils), neo-literates as well as students and school children.

The President while speaking at the function, said that all leaders including Mahatma Gandhi have emphasised on literacy. The President further added “we have significantly raised our literacy rates from 18% in 1951 to 72.98% in 2011 but are yet to achieve 100% literacy. We must strive to achieve the goal of literacy laid down in XII Five Year Plan and gender gap in literacy should not remain more than 10 percentage points. Saakshar Bharat in combination with Swachh Bharat has the potential to transform India.”

The Union Minister of Human Resource Development, in her address, congratulated the literacy functionaries and volunteers and said that it is a matter of prestige that in the last 15 months a record number of 2.28 crore (22.8 million) learners have been made literate. Scope of literacy has been expanded to include economic empowerment of beneficiaries and around one crore bank accounts have been opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna.

Director and UNESCO Representative, Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi had the honour of conveying UNESCO’s message on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova. The message focused on the need for use of new technologies, including mobile telephones that offer fresh opportunities for literacy for all.

NATURAL SCIENCES



Capacity building of teachers and school managers on conducting environment education programs

As part of the UN Common Country programme (UNDAF), UNESCO New Delhi partnered with UNICEF Maldives to provide technical support to the Government of Maldives (Ministry of Education) in the area of environment education specifically to activate the environment clubs in

schools to promote Disaster Risk Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation and address environmental vulnerabilities at the school level. In a series of consultations, it was decided to enhance the capacities of school management and leading teachers of environment clubs to activate the clubs, provide them skills in managing school-based environment projects, mobilizing communities for school led initiatives and engaging children in such school projects.

UNESCO New Delhi and UNICEF in collaboration with the National Institute of Education (NIE) organized a 3-day training workshop for capacity building of teachers/organizers of Environment Clubs at Addu High School in Addu Atoll (Maldives) from 18-20 August 2015. The programme was attended by 30 participants from Addu and Fuahmulak Atolls. The main objective of the training was to build the capacity of teachers and school managers in planning and conducting learning activities outside the classroom on environmental issues evident within the community. The focus group for the training was all schools from Addu (including secondary schools: total 11) and 4 schools from Foahamulak. Technical presentations were done by UNESCO team on Climate change, eco-clubs, water, waste management and biodiversity issues which were followed by interactive question answer open sessions. The workshop concluded with presentations of school action projects and comments by UNESCO, UNICEF and NIE experts.

Workshop on UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme

UNESCO and the Nepal National Commission for UNESCO, in close collaboration with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) organized an interactive workshop on UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme on 22 September, in Lalitpur, Nepal. The workshop was organized to commemorate the World Rhino Day as well. It was participated by 53 stakeholders including academic experts, policy makers, and civil society, the event focused on initiating MAB programme in Nepal and reviving the Nepal national MAB Committee.

The workshop began with welcome remarks by the Secretary-General, Nepal National Commission for UNESCO and Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Mr Bishwa Prakash Pandit. He emphasized on the relevance of MAB for biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and sustainable development, as well as science-based conservation policy-making. Mr Christian Manhart, UNESCO Representative to Nepal, in his opening remarks informed the audience that while there are no biosphere reserves yet in Nepal, MAB is not a completely new concept in the country. He remarked that in 1983, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Research, ICIMOD, was established under the MAB programme in Kathmandu. On the occasion of the World Rhino Day, Manhart congratulated the outstanding work of the DNPWC in rhino conservation, particularly in Chitwan National Park. Mr Maheshwar Dhakal from the DNPWC shared about the rhino conservation efforts in Nepal and gave a brief introduction of protected areas and their conservation status in the country.

NATURAL SCIENCES



Mr Miguel Clüsener-Godt of UNESCO Paris, elaborated upon the importance of the MAB programme and how the programme is operated at various levels. He also informed about the World Biosphere Congress to be held in Lima in March 2016. Mr Ram Boojh from UNESCO New Delhi office, made a presentation on the activities of the South and Central Asian MAB (SACAM) Network. The workshop agreed to urgently form the Nepal MAB Committee and take steps to identify areas for declaration of first biosphere reserve in the country. Participants suggested that the main role of the Committee would be the creation of a networking and knowledge sharing platform and to

provide coordination and technical expertise which is required for the biosphere reserve nomination process, and to link up Nepalese experts to international events.

Role of World Natural Heritage Sites in disaster risk reduction



The International workshop and training on the Role of World Natural Heritage Sites in Disaster Risk Reduction was organized by the UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management & Training for the Asia-Pacific Region at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Dehradun from 24-28 August 2015. Around 150 participants from 10 countries (Nepal, India, Bhutan, Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and 25 World Heritage sites) were represented by site managers, scientists, NGO representatives, students and researchers. The workshop began with the inaugural address by Dr V B Mathur, Director, WII who

welcomed the participants and spoke about the shift in policies of various countries including India from disaster reduction to disaster risk reduction. Dr Ram Boojh of UNESCO New Delhi delivered the keynote address at the workshop and highlighted the UNESCO activities related to DRR in UNESCO designated world natural heritage and biosphere reserves.

The first two-days of the workshop saw brainstorming sessions on varied topics such as; Understanding and identification of disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience, enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The remaining two days were devoted to exclusive training for site managers (National and International) from the Asia-Pacific region on specific topics such as linking DRR to Climate Change, space technology for hazard zonation and understanding armed conflict in World Heritage. Site visits to local cultural and natural heritage in Dehradun and interactive group activities and games were the highlight of these training sessions. The fifth day of the training was devoted to a site visit to Taj Mahal, Agra (Cultural World Heritage) and Keoladeo National Park (Natural World Heritage) at Bharatpur, Rajasthan. The major outcome of the workshop has been a more sensitised team of site managers, policy makers and practitioners who now recognise the need to integrate and understand the two way linkage between DRR and natural heritage. A comprehensive network of site managers and documentation has been compiled which shall guide further studies and capacity building initiatives of the UNESCO C2C in the Asia-Pacific region.

SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

UNESCO/TERI Movie “Changing Climate Moving People” nominated for the 3rd Woodpecker Film Festival



A UNESCO film, directed Saransh Sugandh, from The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), ‘Changing Climate, Moving People’ was nominated under the Environment category for the 3rd Woodpecker Film Festival & Forum, which was held from 17-20 September 2015, at the Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi. The film was screened on 18th September 2015, following which Marina Faetanini, Section Chief and Programme Specialist, Social and Human Sciences, received a memento. The 36

minute long film documents the stories of migrants and their families referring to a spectrum of human mobility issues and giving a clear understanding of migration as an adaptive response to environmental stress. It discusses how disaster, changing weather and climate conditions have adversely affected the distribution of population and patterns of mobility from three different regions in the country – Uttarakhand, Bundelkhand and Odisha. These three states are already amongst the leading sources for internal migration and have been hit by extreme weather events like floods (Uttarakhand), drought (Bundelkhand region) and cyclones (Odisha), which are likely to become more recurrent and stronger as a result of climate change. The film is divided in three parts: “A River Comes Down”, “The Dry Heat” and “When a Storm Surges in”.

The film’s objective is to increase awareness, engagement and advocacy on the intertwined and complex linkages between moving people and changing climate, and to support the mainstreaming of migration into climate change policies.

Changing Climate Moving People Twitter Chat on #ClimateAndPeople

UNESCO, Climate Action Network South Asia and TERI joined their expertise for a Twitter Chat on Climate and People on 30 September 2015. During the one hour live chat, the pannelists explored the nexus between migration and climate change and answered questions from the online audience.

CULTURE

100 artisans participate in a business-to-business meet under Rural Craft Hub project



The 'Rural Craft Hub' project under Art for Life is involved in providing various capacity building and market linkage support to artisans in rural West Bengal. The project is a partnership between Banglanatak dot com, UNESCO, and Department of Micro, Small and

Medium Enterprises and Textiles in West Bengal.

100 artisans associated with the project participated in a business-to-business meet organised by Banglanatak dot com in Kolkata from August 3 – 5, 2015. Several designers, exporters, boutiques, and hotels participated in the meet. An exhibition was put up showcasing how crafts can be used for interior décor.

The artisans were also oriented to business and communication skills. Various project challenges over the past year were also discussed along with plans for the next phase of the project. Each of the 10 craft hubs is being equipped with computers and email id. Training in spoken English will also be started soon. Similar B2B meets are being planned in all the metros where artisans will get an opportunity to interact directly with potential buyers.

West Bengal goes to Paris

The Paris Plage came alive as Chau dancers, baul singers, patachitra artists, and craftspeople from West Bengal showcased their performances and artworks at this summer event in Paris on July 28. The 20 participating artists also got an opportunity to present their works at another event held at UNESCO Headquarters on the same evening. These events were part of the various activities being conducted in the 'Rural Craft Hub' project, a collaboration between the NGO banglanatak dot com, Department of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and Textiles (MSSE&T) of Government of West Bengal, and UNESCO.

The project seeks to demonstrate how culture and cultural skills can be an important basis for bringing about socio-economic development in rural areas in India. The exposure visit to France was another important momentum in the capacity building and promotion of rural artists.

Mr Engida Getachew, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, while welcoming the artists and the audience, underlined the crucial mandate of UNESCO to inscribe culture in post-2015 Millennium Development Goals and how a project such as this one is important to demonstrate the effective linkage between culture and development.



CULTURE

Government departments converge to discuss heritage based development of Hooghly



Various government departments came together at the seminar and workshop 'Hooghly riverfront – A case for heritage based urban development' organised at the Nandan Complex in Kolkata on 30 September and 1 October by UNESCO jointly with the Indian Heritage Cities Network (IHCNF), Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, and Urban Development Department, Government of West Bengal.

The Hooghly riverfront is a witness to various cross-cultural exchanges like the historic settlements of Serampore (Danish), Chandernagore (French), Chinsurah (Dutch), and Bandel (Portu-

guese). It is here that the first jute mills were set up in India. This river occupies a significant place in the lives of people as it sustains daily ferrying, goods transportation, bathing, washing, and rituals at the ghats. The river is today littered with garbage and the grand structures along the riverfront are now in a derelict state. The workshop brought together multiple stakeholders like Urban Development Department, Kolkata Port Trust, Eastern Railways, Kolkata Metropolitan Water and Sanitation Authority, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Transport Department, as well as urban planners, developers, heritage experts, and community experts to discuss the management of the riverfront wherein heritage can find its own place.

The event started with a half-day public lecture open to the general audience to raise awareness among them about the heritage of Hooghly riverfront. The public lecture was presented by Philip Davies, an international authority on heritage conservation who's been working in Kolkata for the last 40 years, followed by an interactive session moderated by G M Kapoor, who has been the state convenor for INTACH Kolkata.

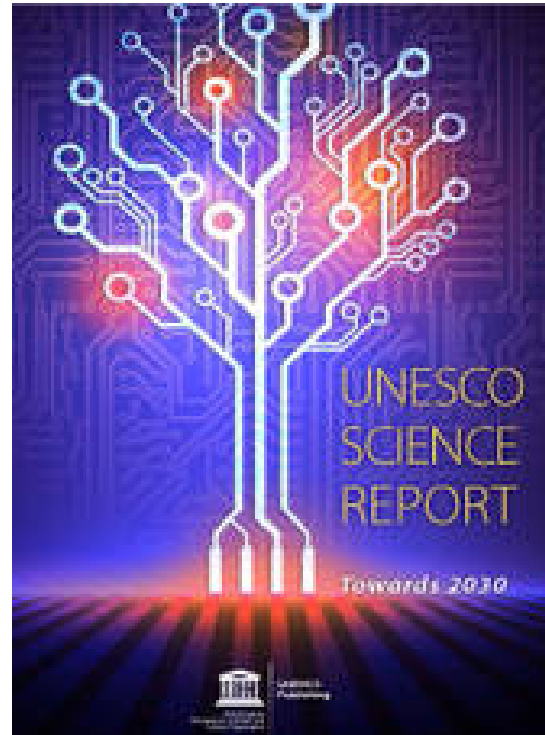
The public lecture was followed by 3 technical sessions led by illustrious panelists. The technical sessions included discussions on the heritage value of Hooghly riverfront, socio-economic needs and challenges of the area, possible collaboration between different government departments and the heritage sector, and how heritage can boost the revitalization of the Hooghly riverfront. The recommendations put forth in the workshop would be further discussed by the heritage policy group in the state being coordinated by the Information and Cultural Affairs Department.

Masons Training Workshop in Heritage Conservation

A Masons Training Workshop in Heritage Conservation was organized in Mysore between 24 - 26 August by the Government of Karnataka and Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development & Finance Corporation (KUID-FC), in association with Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation (IHCN-F). The workshop was supported by RUDSET Institute of Dharmastala Manjunatha Trust and Jeernodhar Conservators Pvt. Ltd, Mumbai.

Masons from Bagalkot, Bidar, Dharwad, Hospet, Mandya, and Mysore attended the workshop and were trained in different techniques of lime mortar use for heritage conservation. The sessions were divided into technical lectures, hands-on activities and interactive sessions with the participants. Trainees assisted on a demonstration of a Madras Terrace construction using traditional techniques and lime mortar. The Workshop was formally concluded by Shri R. Lingappa, Hon. Mayor, in a felicitation ceremony honouring all mason trainees and trainers. This training on heritage conservation is the forerunner to a series of workshops which will be conducted all across the state of Karnataka.

INTERNATIONAL DAYS OBSERVED AT UNESCO

**International Youth Day**

12 August 2015

“Young people must be considered the drivers of change, and not only beneficiaries or targets”

Extract from the message by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

International Literacy Day

8 September 2015

“New technologies, including mobile telephones, also offer fresh opportunities for literacy for all. We must invest more, and I appeal to all Members States and all our partners to redouble our efforts – political and financial – to ensure that literacy is fully recognized as one of the most powerful accelerators of sustainable development. The future starts with the alphabet.”

Extract from the message by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

Upcoming International Days

5 October 2015- World Teacher's Day

2 November 2015 - International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

10 November 2015- World Science Day for Peace and Development

19 November 2015- World Philosophy Day

25 November 2015- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

International Day of Peace

21 September 2015

“For seventy years, our message has been the same. Peace must be built in the minds of women and men, on the basis of human rights and dignity, through cooperation in education, the sciences, culture, communication and information. Solidarity and dialogue are the strongest foundations for peace, guided by equality, respect and mutual understanding.”

Extract from the message by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

CALENDER OF EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Consultation Workshop on ROOTS: Repositioning Human Agriculture Relation in Biosphere for Securing Food and Nutritional Security

New Delhi (India)

8 October 2015

Contact: Ram Boojh (r.boojh@unesco.org)

The Sub-regional Conference on EFA Unfinished and Post-2015 Education Agendas in SAARC Countries

Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi (India)

13-14 October 2015

Contact: Shigeru Aoyagi (s.aoyagi@unesco.org)

Workshop on Digital Inventory System by University College, London for the Division for Conservation of Heritage Sites in Bhutan

Thimpu (Bhutan)

November 2015

Contact: Moe Chiba (m.chiba@unesco.org)

Art Competition for Children with Disabilities

New Delhi, India

16 November 2015

Contact: Moe Chiba (m.chiba@unesco.org)

Conference to Commemorate the International Year of Light

IIT, Guwahati (India)

23 November 2015

Contact: Mitrasen Bhikajee (m.bhikajee@unesco.org)

Launch of 'UNESCO Science Report'

New Delhi (India)

23 November 2015

Contact: Mitrasen Bhikajee (m.bhikajee@unesco.org)

UNESCO Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Ensuring Water Security in Changing Environment Scenario for Water Professionals of the Cluster Countries

IIT, Mumbai (India)

26-27 November 2015

Contact: Ram Boojh (r.boojh@unesco.org)

Regional Dialogue on 'Science and Technology Policy for Sustainable Development in the context of Biotechnology'

RCB, Faridabad (India)

2-3 December 2015

Contact: Ram Boojh (r.boojh@unesco.org)

7th Meeting of the South & Central Asia MAB Network (SACAM)

Almaty (Kazakhstan)

2-5 December 2015

Contact: Ram Boojh (r.boojh@unesco.org)

Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Risk Reduction for Cultural Heritage

Penang (Malaysia)

7-9 December 2015

Contact: Moe Chiba (m.chiba@unesco.org)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
Education Policies for 2030
Paris, France 18-20 January 2016

PAST EVENTS**Awards Ceremony of the Community Radio Video Challenge 2015**

India International Centre, New Delhi, India

30 June 2015

Contact: Anirban Sarma (a.sarma@unesco.org)

National Conference on Open Educational Resources 'OERs for Inclusive Development: Addressing Challenges, Identifying Opportunities'

New Delhi, India

July 2015

Contact: Anirban Sarma (a.sarma@unesco.org)

Workshop on Cultural Landscape in Bhutan

Thimpu, Bhutan

22 July-7 August 2015

Contact: Moe Chiba (m.chiba@unesco.org)

Performance of Rural Artists from West Bengal

Paris, France

28 July 2015

Contact: Anirban Sarma (a.sarma@unesco.org)

National Consultation Workshop on Children and Internal Migration

New Delhi, India

22-23 September 2015

Contact: Marina Faetanini (m.faetanini@unesco.org)

STAFF NEWS**ARRIVALS****Ms Delphine Soucail** (July 2015)
Intern, Culture**Mr Volker Hein** (August 2015)
Intern, Culture**Ms Chhavi Doonga** (August 2015)
Intern, Social and Human Sciences**Ms Juliette Leverd** (August 2015)
Intern, Social and Human Sciences**Ms Monica Berti** (September 2015)
Intern, Social and Human Sciences**Ms Priyanka Sinha** (September 2015)
Intern, Education**DEPARTURES****Ms Sailza Kumari** (August 2015)
Intern, Documentation and Public Information**Mr Volker Hein** (September 2015)
Intern, Culture**Ms Ragini Chaurasia** (September 2015)
Intern, Natural Sciences**Ms Shreya Kumar** (September 2015)
Intern, Natural Sciences

PUBLICATIONS AND E-RESOURCES



CONSOLIDATED REPLY

Query: Domestic Remittances in India: Estimates and Use?
Examples & Advice

Compiled by Malika Basu and Marina Faetanini on behalf of GYM

Issue Date: 10 August 2015

Responses were received, with thanks, from:

1. Ram Bhagat, Department of Migration & Urban Studies, International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, Maharashtra
2. Deboline Kundu, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi
3. Chennay Tumbel, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Hyderabad, India
4. Sanjay Kumar Mohanty, International Institute of Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai, Maharashtra
5. Soumyajee Banerjee, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal
6. Shavik Das, School of Oceanographic Studies, Jadavpur University, West Bengal
7. Priya Deshingkar, Geography/School for Global Studies, University of Sussex, United Kingdom
8. Anvita Dutta, Institute for Human Development (IHD), New Delhi

Summary

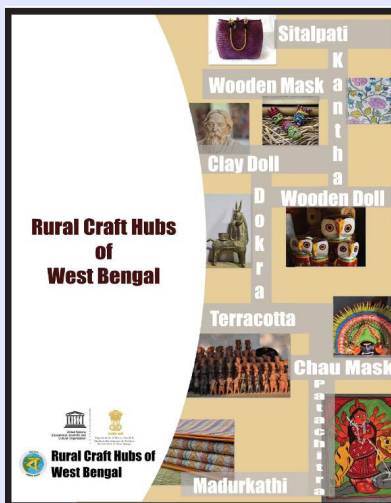
An e-query soliciting experts' and practitioners' comments on "Domestic Remittances in India: Estimates and Use" initiated by UNESCO in June 2015 received only eight but highly significant responses. The discussion, also drawing upon additional desk research, brought to fore three key issues:

- a) Despite their significance to the domestic economy, internal migrants and the remittances by them have not attracted much academic or even policy attention. Thus, internal migration remains grossly underestimated; the only comparable representative data of remittance patterns in India is available from the 64th Round (2007-2008) IFS survey.
- b) Research carried out in India and elsewhere reveals significant impact of remittances on economic growth and poverty reduction through fulfilling consumption needs, smoothening consumption, and creating wealth and asset accumulation besides developing adaptive capacities of migrant households.
- c) Limited research on domestic remittances in India however disallows a comprehensive understanding of its direct and indirect effects on a person's lives, and poor households. While most studies see a positive correlation between remittances and poverty; a few have noted

UNESCO GYM consolidated reply on the query Domestic Remittances in India: Estimates and Use

Compiled by Malika Basu and Marina Faetanini on behalf of GYM. An e-query soliciting experts' and practitioners' comments on "Domestic Remittances in India: Estimates and Use" initiated by UNESCO in June 2015 received only eight but highly significant responses. The discussion, also drawing upon additional desk research, brought to fore three key issues.

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Rural Craft Hubs of West Bengal (Brochure)

"The Department of MSME&T, Government of West Bengal in collaboration with UNESCO New Delhi is developing 10 rural craft hubs in the State. The vision is to develop the villages with families traditionally skilled in craft traditions like Sitalpati, Madurkathi, Terracotta, Patachirtra, Dokra, Wooden and Chau masks, etc. as vibrant craft hubs connected to national and international market.

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