



ADDIS LIAISON OFFICE E-Newsletter

United Nations Educational,
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Organization

BUILDING PEACE IN THE MINDS OF MEN AND WOMEN

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Message from the Director

June — December 2015

Dear readers,

The second half of the year 2015 has been quite eventful for the Office. Firstly Mme Robertine Raonimahary, former Director, Africa department at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris was appointed Director a.i. of the office, after the departure of the Director, Mr. Matoko. She stayed till early August. Secondly, I became Director a.i. and Representative to Ethiopia at the end of August. Thirdly, the country welcomed the new Cabinet and Government officials.

I have been particularly impressed that during the period of transition and waiting, work in the office proceeded with exceptional efficiency. And, for this, I would like to say a big 'THANK YOU' to the staff and our partners in Government, the AU, the UNECA, and the country at large for the support. This newsletter shares some highlights from the last six months. Further details can be found on our website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/addisababa/home/>

Happy reading!

Prof. Alaphia Wright



© www.msm.nl Minister of Education of Ethiopia, H.E. Shiferaw Shigute

The Minister of Education of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia delivered a speech to the plenary session of the 38th. General Conference of UNESCO in Paris (November 2015). In his speech he noted that:

"Ethiopia has long-standing cooperation with UNESCO since its establishment. The UNESCO's mandates which are Education, science, culture and communication are also priority sectors in Ethiopia's national agenda.

Fully cognizant of the valuable role education plays in the nation's life Ethiopia has overhauled, reformed and transformed it's system and achieved commendable results. In the two decades of the existence of Priority Africa member states have continuously pointed out the lack of delivery and effectiveness.

The same comment can be made for the priority on gender equality. In overcoming some the challenges Ethiopia is ready to engage in candid dialogue that can enable UNESCO to meet the aspirations and the interests of it member states.

Thanking all who contributed to the development efforts of Ethiopia I am looking forward to work with all member states of UNESCO to work with collaborative spirit in the future."

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© UNESCO H. E. Mrs Crystal Nix-Hines with the Directors and some staff of UNESCO Liaison office and IICBA

H. E. Mrs Crystal Nix-Hines Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of USA to UNESCO, paid a visit to UNESCO Liaison Office with African Union Commission and ECA and IICBA on 8 December 2015. Short presentations on the work of the offices were done. During her intervention she highlighted her core priorities at UNESCO as advancing literacy, education to prevent violent extremism, and women and girls education – particularly science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) education – in Africa. She expressed her willingness to start a new public-private partnership (PPP) to scale up efforts and cooperation with UNESCO on women and girls education in Africa, and to explore the possibilities of future STEAM camps with UNESCO as a core partner, in other African countries.

UNESCO has already collaborated with the United States mission to UNESCO to conduct a Youth Mobile activity during the “WiSci (Women in Science) Girl’s STEAM Camp” that took place in Rwanda from 26 July to 15 August 2015.

UNESCO / AU NEWS

Ethiopian Airlines and UNESCO, sponsors young Ethiopian youth, Teshager Amare to the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum



© UNESCO Teshager at the UNESCO Youth Forum

Profile: At only 19, Teshager is a member of *Youth Network for Sustainable Development (YNSD)* as well as an active member of the Addis Ababa Youth Council. Moreover, he is also an ambassador of Ethiopia in the dance4life international advocacy group *Reproductive Health and Youth Empowerment* and also the co-founder of the *Kidan Readers' Association*, a book club created in 2010 aimed at instilling the culture of reading within the Ethiopian youth.

He is currently completing a Bachelor's Degree at Addis Ababa University, College of Business & Economics, School of Commerce. Passionate about environmental issues, he has organized multiple environment rehabilitation campaigns within and around Addis Ababa and plans to do more in the future.

Following his return from the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum which was held from the 25 -28 October 2015, in Paris, France, Teshager had a one-to-one interview with Lucile Denizot, UNESCO intern for the youth Forum.

Lucile: Do you have any special message to Ethiopian airlines and UNESCO, your co-sponsors?

Teshager: I would like to express my deep gratitude to both UNESCO and Ethiopian airlines recognizing that they have given me an opportunity to widen my horizon of viewing things. Moreover, they have opened an international gateway between the youth of Ethiopia and the rest of the world, through supporting me, because I would share whatever I learnt with others on the ground.

They are examples of socially responsible organizations and will be exemplary to other organizations, I say thank you & keep up the good work!



Lucile: You attended the Africa capacity-building session on the specific climate changes and peace issues concerning the continent, what are your overall impressions and did you learn anything new?

Teshager: Yes I did learn a lot of things from the Africa Capacity Building Session organized by UNESCO, UNECA and African Union Commission. The session was youth led, very interactive as well as informative. The presenters there were very critical of the climate issue and interestingly have come up with feasible solutions for combating climate change. With regards to action, I strongly believe the African minds in that room are exemplary for the rest of the world.

Lucile: How can you use the experience that you got in Paris in the future in Ethiopia?

Teshager: The thing I learnt most at forum is that it's now time for action. Many ideas have been proposed at both the individual level and aggregate level for action. My job is to choose the best practices of the rest of the world and introduce them here. We have the potential, we just need direction.

Lucile: Any last words to Ethiopian youth?

Teshager: Switch off the TV and start reading, it could be anything – just read! Information is the future. Go out there and engage, your voice, your spirit of volunteerism, your ideas, actions in your community can make a difference.

Education News

UNESCO-HNA Group awarded Ethiopia a five years Girls and Women Education Project

The International Seminar on Girls and Women Education that took place in Beijing, China from September 1 to 5, 2015 allowing countries, including Ethiopia to share experiences and learn from China in promoting gender equality and ICT integration in education.

The event brought theory and practice on the relevance of gender equality for global and national development and the post 2015 education agenda. Equally, the international seminar marked the official launch of the two complementary projects established under the UNESCO-HNA Funds-in-Trust (HFIT).

The partnership was formed in support of UNESCO Global Partnership for Girls and Women's Education: Better Life, Better Future. Under global and regional advocacy, networking and communication to ensure girls right to education, the girls and women education project Ethiopia, is aimed to further strengthen institutional and organizational capacities of teachers and leaders for quality gender-responsive education at all levels.

Ghana, the sister African country is also the beneficiary of the project. Based on the context of the countries, particular focus will be given on gender-responsive teacher training and professional development.

While UNESCO Headquarters coordinates the project, UNESCO Liaison office Addis Ababa will directly manage and implement the country project and UNESCO /IICBA will play the role of technical backstopping and knowledge generation.

The five days seminar was attended by 52 participants from 14 countries in Africa and Asia, where projects under the HFIT and CFIT have been or will be implemented.

Six Ethiopian delegates representing the Federal Ministry of Education (Gender and Teachers Development directorates), Oromia regional education bureau and three public Higher Learning Institution attended the seminar.

Without prioritizing education and a step change in financing, the ambitious agenda the world is set to adopt to eradicate poverty by 2030 will not be realized, asserted a high-level panel organized by UNESCO and the Governments of Ethiopia, Republic of Korea and Norway, on 14 July 2015 during the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa.

"Education is the most transformative force there is in any society," said [UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova](#), underlining the significance of the Incheon Declaration, adopted at [the World Education Forum](#) in May 2015 by 160 countries, which commits to 12 years of free, publicly funded, equitable primary and secondary education, including at least nine compulsory.



© UNESCO The International Seminar on Girls and Women Education

Education is at the core of Ethiopia's ambition to achieve middle-income status, said the Minister of Education, Mr Shiferaw Shigute.

The country has developed strong education sector plans, invested heavily in building schools and training teachers, encouraged girls' education, vocational skills training and teaching in the 25 mother tongue languages.

The comprehensive approach has resulted in rapid expansion, with the big challenge lying in ensuring quality education opportunities, and mobilizing resources.

Science News

In Addis Ababa, UNESCO underlines the critical role of STI for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda



© UNESCO Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, Deputy Director-General Getachew Engida, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences Flavia Schlegel at the third International Conference on Financing for Development

Speaking at a side event organized by the European Commission (EC) on the margins of the third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3), Flavia Schlegel, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences, underlined the critical role of science in designing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and in providing the substance and the tools for its implementation and monitoring.

She called for breaking the disciplinary and sectorial silos and for engaging in a new multi-stakeholder multidisciplinary STI partnership to deliver the new sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Noting the need for countries to assess their current STI capabilities and map their STI systems in view of tailoring them more resourcefully for the implementation of SDGs, she highlighted some tools which already exist to help countries in this exercise, such as the UNESCO's GO-Spin and UNESCO Science Report.

QUEST 4 Africa

The UN Secretary General Mr. Ban ki moon underlined during the Rio +20 Conference in 2012, that the environmental and interconnected issues of mankind cannot be solved by Governments alone, and that the private sector and every single one of us has an active role to play.

The inter-connectedness of the most important issues for sustainable human living is very well demonstrated by the new UN SDGs. It is clear that the individual SDGs cannot be viewed as stand-alone goals, but that any activity supporting an SDG will automatically also consider all the other 17 UN SDGs.



© UNESCO A youth participant addressing a session in Quest 4 Africa II

QUEST 4 Africa, an event series that has been organized by UNESCO in partnership with the African Union Commission and HOAREC, and with support of private sector and foundations.

QUEST 4 Africa has three essential elements in support of the UN SDGs:

Active involvement of the youth on all levels of the event, and seriously listen to their ideas.

Develop new recommendations for implementation on an annual basis and establish real working groups to implement these ideas.

Turn from rhetoric to action, and review the action and pledges for action on an annual basis.

Quest4Africa II was held in Addis Ababa on 16 and 17 November 2015.

Culture News

UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison office Director attended the Erecha Festival



© UNESCO Professor E. Alaphia Wright, Director a.i. giving a speech at the Erecha festival celebration.

Professor E. Alaphia Wright, Director a.i. for UNESCO Liaison Office to the Africa Union Commission (AUC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and Representative to Ethiopia attended the Erecha festival celebration which took place at Bishoftu on the 4th of October, 2015.

On the occasion, Professor Wright said that the Erecha Festival is an important and colorful traditional event celebrated every year by a very large number of people including elders, children and women.

He further said that the festival carries a special meaning to all gathered there and beyond as it aims to strengthen the ties among all peoples based on mutual respect and promote the culture of peace.

The celebration was attended by the President of the Oromia National Regional State, Speaker of The Federal House of Representative, the Minister of Culture and Tourism and other eminent government officials, members of the Diplomatic Communities and over 3 million people.

Skill Training for the Local Community Of Amhara Regional State

The first training targeted the local community association including 19 women and 15 men on topics related to entrepreneurship,

business development and financial management, while the second training was on project proposal writing, Monitoring & Evaluation for experts working in different governmental, NGOs and park administration, who are supporting the associations.

The members of the associations are highly dependent on natural resources utilization from the SMNP. The support given to the communities is crucially important to conserve the environment, which already is highly degraded.



© UNESCO Participants at the first training targeted the local community

Communication/Information News

Internet Universality underlined as key for Sustainable Development at the 4th African Internet Governance Forum

"If you are not at the table, you will be on the menu" stated Jan Moolman from the Association for Progressive Communications during a panel of the African School on Internet Governance dedicated to underlining frameworks, principles, charters, and spaces linking internet governance and human rights. The need for the African region to be at the table, and not on the menu, as it concerns issues of internet governance and the necessity to ensure the region is equipped not only as consumers, but as producers on the internet took center stage during the 4th African Internet Governance Forum at the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 6 to 8 September.



© UNESCO Participants at 4th African Internet Governance Forum

Following the CONNECTing the Dots conference and outcome document underlining the significance of the Internet for human progress and its role in fostering inclusive Knowledge Societies, UNESCO presented the "internet universality" concept during the African School on Internet Governance, which brings together civil society professionals from across the continent prior to the Internet Governance Forum to discuss emerging issues in the changing ecological landscape of the internet in Africa.

AfriSIG 2015, held in conjunction with APC's Gender in Internet Governance Xchange (GIGx) for Africa, was founded to ensure African multi-stakeholder participation in internet governance processes and a forum on the continent where government, civil society, businesses and technical people from across the region can develop strategies to ensure the internet assumes its rightful role in the post 2015 development agenda.

Following UNESCO's presentation during AfriSIG and prior to the African Internet Governance Forum, UNESCO held a side event entitled "UNESCO's Priority Africa and the Internet Study – Relevance to Human Rights Online."

Linking current work by UNESCO to the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms, a Pan-African initiative to promote human rights standards and openness principles in internet-policy making on the continent, panelists from Nigeria, Gambia, and South Africa and participants of the African IGF recommended the need to use "internet universality" and the Declaration as guiding principles for emerging issues in the changing ecology of the internet in Africa to ensure the internet plays a central role in post 2015 development work.

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The UN in Ethiopia



15th December 2015 Signing ceremony for the 2016-2020 UNDAF_H.E. Ahmed Shide, State Minister for Finance and Economic Development (Center) and Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa (The New United Nations Residence Coordinator)

The Five UNDAF Pillars:

Pillar I: Inclusive growth and structural transformation

Pillar II: Resilience and green economy

Pillar III: Investing in human capital and expanded access to quality and equitable basic social services

Pillar IV: Good governance, participation and capacity development

Pillar V: Equality and Empowerment