



# ADDIS LIAISON OFFICE E-Newsletter

United Nations Educational,  
Scientific, and Cultural  
Organization

BUILDING PEACE IN THE MINDS OF MEN AND WOMEN

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## Inside This Issue

September—October 2013

- Extraordinary Assembly of the African Union.
- “Retaining Girls in lower secondary schools and increasing their learning outcomes in Ethiopia” Project has been signed.
- UN week activities in Addis Ababa.
- Women in Science Award.

## Message from the Director

Dear readers,

Many interesting activities and events took place in Ethiopia in September-October, such as the creation of the Network of Peace Research Institutions for Culture of Peace in Africa, and UNESCO mission to one of the nine World Heritage sites in Ethiopia, Fasil Ghebi, in the Gondar Region, to assess its condition. The UN Week took place in Addis Ababa with all the 25 UN Agencies present.

Pleasant reading,

**Firmin Edouard Matoko**

*Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office and  
Representative to Ethiopia*

## UNESCO/AU News

Network for promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa has been established in Addis Ababa on September 20th...read more on [Page 2](#).

## Education

UNESCO in partnership with IFAD designed a project on “Learning Knowledge and Skills for Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods”. ...read more on [Page 4](#).

## Science

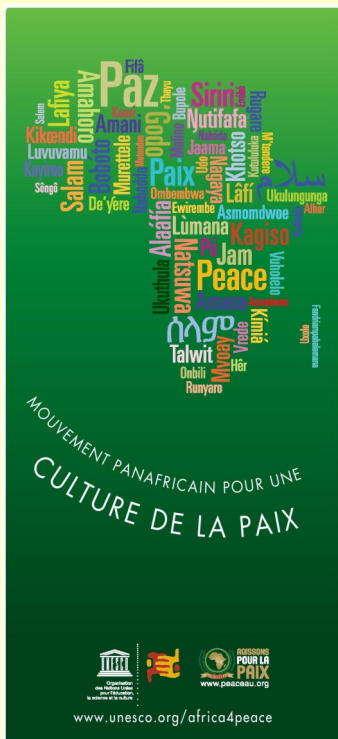
UNESCO Addis Ababa and UNESCO Nairobi attended meeting of the fifth African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology...read more on [Page 5](#).

## Culture

A mission to assess the condition of the World Heritage site of Gondar was undertaken by the Director and Cultural Specialist of UNESCO...read more on [Page 6](#).

## Communication/Information

UN Agencies in Addis Ababa celebrated the UN Week with various activities and the UN Day with flag raising and a tree planting...read more on [Page 7](#).



### Mission of the Office:

- Advocates for UNESCO mandate, strategic program priorities and orientations
- Presents the Organization’s positions and views on issues of relevance to the work of the African Union Commission and UN Economic Commission for Africa
- Acts as a clearing house for information of relevance to UNESCO
- Develops partnerships that contribute to foster the cooperation between UNESCO and these two institutions
- Acts as UNESCO’s Representation to Ethiopia

## UNESCO / AU NEWS

### **Network for the promotion of Culture of Peace in Africa established**

Addis Ababa, 20 September, 2013



Participants of the meeting at the AUC premises, Addis Ababa.

UNESCO and the Félix Houphouët-Boigny Foundation for Peace Research created an initiative which united representatives of 26 foundations, and peace research institutes who met on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa and established a Network of Foundations and Research Institutions for the promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa.

The general objective of the meeting was to get together to federate foundations and research institutions for the promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa, in order to define a similar vision and a converging approach on how to build a culture of peace at national and international level.

“One day before the International Day of Peace which is celebrated on 21st September, we united here to establish the Network for the promotion of Culture of Peace. We at UNESCO believe that education is the foundation of any lasting peace and it is the driving force behind freedom and tolerance,” said Mr. Firmin Matoko, Director of UNESCO Addis Ababa quoting part of the message from the Director-General Irina Bokova published on the occasion of the International Day of Peace.

Over 40 experts from more than 20 African countries and Italy gathered to create the Network which would further the objectives of a Culture of Peace meeting set in Luanda, Angola in March 2013. One of the key conclusion of the Luanda Forum was



Opening Speaker's panel chaired by Mr. Enzo Fazzino, UNESCO Senior Program Specialist.

the launch of a multi-stakeholders' partnership for the implementation of this Action Plan through a series of coordinated actions at national, sub-regional and regional level.

The main goal of the recently created Network is to coordinate the work of foundations and research institutions for the promotion of a Culture of Peace in Africa, enhance greater visibility among national and international institutions, and to implement the Culture of Peace in Africa Programme, as defined by UNESCO and the African Union.

### **Extraordinary Assembly of the AU**

Addis Ababa, 12 October, 2013

Extraordinary AU Summit was held October 12th in Addis Ababa with two goals: to discuss Africa's approach towards the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to vote for a new Commissioner for Peace and Security.

The summit resulted in a decision to suspend the ICC discussion about two high level politicians from Kenya until they complete their term in office. And Mr. Smail Chergui from Algeria was appointed a new Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union.

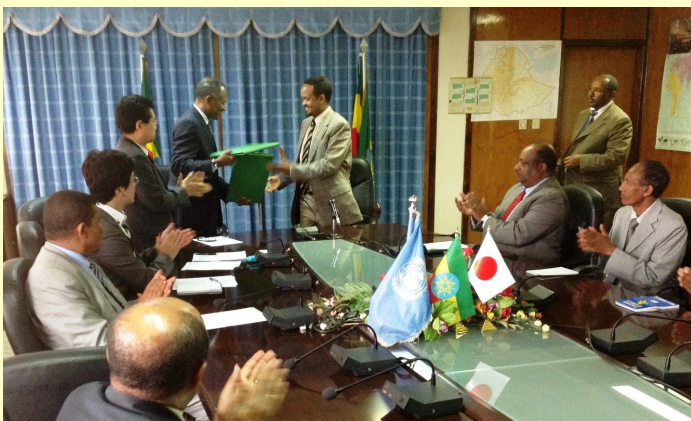
## Education News I.

### **Retaining Girls in Secondary Schools in Ethiopia**

Addis Ababa, October 1, 2013

The Plan of Operations for the Girls Education Project in Ethiopia has been signed by Mr. Ahmed Shide, State Minister of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) and Mr. Firmin Matoko, Director of the UNESCO Addis Ababa on October 1st. The signing ceremony was also attended by Mr. Takehiro Okubo, Minister Counselor of the Embassy of Japan in Addis Ababa, Director of the Gender Directorate in the Ministry of Education, Mme Mekdes Eyouel, and the Director of the Emerging Regions Directorate of the MoE, Mr. Mohammed Abubeker.

The project entitled: Retaining Girls in Lower Secondary School and Increasing their Learning Outcomes, which aims to assist girl students in the two regions of Ethiopia so that they stay in school, and also perform better in their studies. The project, of the total amount of 400,000 USD, is funded by the Government of Japan and the funds were made available through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust. The UNESCO International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA) will be implementing the project in Gambela and Somali Regional States during 36 months from the date of signing. IICBA in consultation with the Gender



Signing ceremony at the MoFED premises.

Directorate and the Emerging Regions Directorate of the MoE and the Regional Education Bureaux of the two regions will identify the pilot schools in which the project will be implemented.

The Japanese funded project will complement the ongoing Girls Education Project in Ethiopia that is being implemented in Afar and Benishangul Gumuz Regional States with the financial assistance of the Government of Italy.

### **Joint Monitoring Mission with the Packard Foundation**

October 14-16, 2013

A joint monitoring visit was undertaken by UNESCO and the Packard Foundation/donor to assess the progress of the Crowd Sourcing Girls' Education project in Ethiopia. The monitoring team visited three pilot secondary schools in Amhara Region, namely Damot, Injibara, and Chagni secondary schools. The team discussed with relevant stakeholders which included school principals, project focal teachers, girls, members of Parent-Teacher-Association and others about the project's contribution to girls' retention, academic performance, and improved sexual and reproductive health issues.



Discussion in the Chagni Secondary School,

The outcomes of the mission revealed that pilot schools showed remarkable progress in girls' retention and academic performance. They also demonstrated good progress in strengthening of school clubs to promote gender issues with some income generating activities to assist economic disadvantaged girls; establishment of safe space for girls' including provision of sanitary pads; equipping students with basic computer skills; raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) issues; utilization of school media to uphold girls education; greening schools with indigenous and fruit trees and building technical capacity of school principals and teachers.

## Education News II.

### **UNESCO-IFAD Country Study Consultation Workshop in Ethiopia**

Adama, October 3-4, 2013

UNESCO in partnership with IFAD has designed a research project on “Learning Knowledge and Skills for Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods”. The study aspires to respond to concerns through deepening understanding of how teaching and learning for agriculture and rural livelihoods is taking place in rural communities and what kind of knowledge and skills are communicated to rural youth.

The knowledge gained through this research project is expected to contribute to detecting innovative teaching and learning, promote a new ways of rural employment and reinforce and stimulate policy-dialogue on the role of education for rural development. In this regard, UNESCO Addis Ababa in collaboration with the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) convened a two day consultation workshop at Adama town October 3 and 4 to discuss its concept, shape the research design and methodology and optimize relevant stakeholders’ contribution for the high-quality research outcomes.

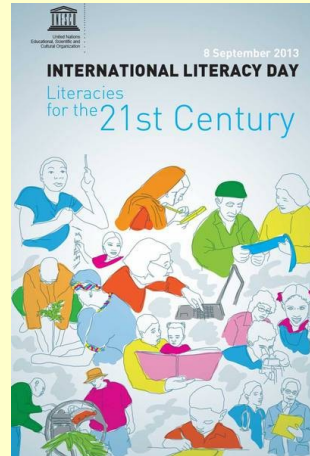
Hence, 19 (3 female and 16 male) participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs, UNESCO Addis Ababa, UNESCO’s international consultant, FAO, EIAR, Addis Ababa University, Bahir Dar University, Haremaya University, NGOs and others attended.

All participants were engaged in the process which demonstrated the intended deliverables. The workshop resulted in reaching common understanding among key stakeholders on the concept of the research project, developing research design and methodology which focused more of an ethnographic approach. Furthermore, data collecting was discussed among the stakeholders, as well as, setting up a country research reference group to leverage technical and advisory support for quality research output, and developing action plan to effectively undertake the study.

### **Celebrating the International Literacy Day**

Debrebirhan, October 13-14, 2013

The Ministry of Education, UNESCO Liaison Office, DVV International, PACT-Ethiopia, Code Ethiopia, AFAE and BEN-Ethiopia have organized the celebration of the International Literacy Day in the city of Debrebirhan for over 280 participants including 100 graduates from the Amhara Region.



Celebrating and promoting the International Literacy Day is a tool to improve and combat illiteracy situation of the country. The Government of Ethiopia is aware that the long term vision of turning Ethiopia into a middle income economy country requires a literate adult population.

The lesson learned from the celebration day is that sharing ideas and experiences among regions to improve the literacy rate of the country especially from the presentation of best practices from the selected best performing regions which was organized by Ministry of Education. The other good issue which was appreciated in the date was rewarding of graduates which will initiate others to join the Adult Education classes.



**Ethiopian scouts celebrating the International Literacy Day.**

## Science News

### **African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology**

Addis Ababa, October 1-4, 2013

UNESCO Liaison Office Addis Ababa and UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa Nairobi, Kenya attended the 1st Bureau meeting of the fifth African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST V), which was held from 1-4 October in Addis Ababa.

The meeting reviewed decisions taken during AMCOST V and provided update on progress of various Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) initiatives in Africa including Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA).

A number of decisions were made including the hosting of AMCOST VI 2014 in Namibia. AMCOST is a Specialized Technical Committee of the African Union to promote Pan-African activities in STI. UNESCO has a partnership role since 2003 with the AMCOST, particularly to contribute to the implementation of CPA.

#### **Women in Science**

Johannesburg, September 25, 2013

Each year the UNESCO - L'Oréal international fellowships are granted to promising young female scientists, doctorate or post-doctorate from various regions.

In Sub-Saharan Africa this year, ten female scientists have been selected as the winners of the Regional Fellowships for Women in Science (FWIS). UNESCO Addis Ababa director, Mr. Firmin E. Matoko, attended the awarding ceremony, which took place in Johannesburg, South Africa 25 September.



#### **Benno Böer—New Science Team Member**

Benno Böer has joined UNESCO Addis Ababa's Science Team in September 2013, relocating from Doha. As Ecological Sciences Advisor, he will be focusing on UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, urban and natural ecosystem management, environmental awareness and science for sustainable development.

### **Improving available information and drilling success rate at the Afar Regional State**

Adama, August 15, 2013

UNESCO Addis Ababa jointly with the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Water and Energy organized an inception workshop on 15 August in Adama, to initiate a two-phased groundwater assessment, development, and management studies in the Afar Regional State.

The inception workshop aimed to identify and scope existing groundwater related works and projects, identify capacity gaps and rapidly compile all existing geological, hydrogeological, water resources, geophysics and water geochemistry data from existing sources. The output of the first phase intended to provide baseline information for the upcoming large project under the phase II initiative.

A team of local consultants were selected to collect, collate the information, and develop a report that will critically view the existing information, identify knowledge gaps, institutional structures and available capacity.

A validation workshop is to be organized in November, in order to have consensus by all identified stakeholders on the results and recommendations of the study.

#### **JICA visit**

Addis Ababa, September 16, 2013

A team of Hokkaido University, Japan and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) visited UNESCO Addis Abeba to discuss collaboration for the sustainable development of the Simien Mountains National Park.

The park was listed as UNESCO World Heritage in danger. UNESCO plans to work for community-based tourism with partnership of local universities and international aid agencies including JICA and possibly to develop a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

## CultureNews

### **Assesment of the World Heritage site of Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region**

Gondar, October 2-4, 2013

The mission of UNESCO Addis Ababa Director Mr. Firmin E. Matoko and Culture Officer, Mr. Getu Assefa, to the World Heritage site (WHs) of Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar was organized in collaboration with Gondar Zone, the Culture and Tourism Bureau to assess the condition of Fasil Ghibi found in Gondar town and to discuss with authorities the possible areas of cooperation.

The main WHs includes six castles and churches of the 17<sup>th</sup> century built by kings, who ruled Ethiopia from the then capital city, Gondar. "The site is important for its historical, cultural



and architectural significance. Due to age and absence of proper restoration, some of the buildings are not found in a good condition," said the Site Manager, Mr. Kassa Mezen. Currently, the Site has no management plan, legal protection or legally defined Site boundary.

[WHs of Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region.](#)

Tourist safety regulations are missing, they are not even in the areas where the structure is in an insufficient condition. There is also an issue whether the WHs includes sites outside of Fasil Ghibi, such as Fasil bath, Castle of Guzara, Doro Bet, Tsadiqu Yohannes, Debre-brehan Silassie and Qusquam Churches found inside the Gondar town and its vicinity. These structures are from the same period and have an architectural resemblance.

Gondar town also has a sister city cooperation with the French city of Vincent, from which some funds were already raised for the restoration of Ras Gimb, one of the oldest structures.



[WHs of Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region.](#)

The Zonal administration is aware of all the serious issues which need urgent attention. Among the key issues for the local administration are finances, expertise for maintenance, and development of a site management plan.

### **The Cultural Policy Finalized**

Debre-Brehan, October 26-27, 2013

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism organized a two day expert meeting on October 26-27 in Debre-Brehan town to finalize the Cultural Policy, which has been under revision for a long time. The meeting was held in the presence of H.E. Mrs. Fatya Yousuf, Chair of Culture Information Standing Committee in the Parliament and H.E. Mr. Mulugeta Seid, State Minister of Culture and Tourism. The meeting is supported technically and financially by UNESCO/ADI and the participants of the meeting have reached at an agreement on the final version of the Policy to be presented to the Council of Ministers for endorsement.

## Communication/Information

### UN week in Addis Ababa

Addis Ababa, 21-26 October, 2013

This year's UN week in Addis Ababa was filled with several different activities from interviews with the UN Heads of Agencies for the local radio station Afro FM to a historically first Media Forum held at the ECA compound where representatives of the UN agencies met with local media and started a dialog on better cooperation and communication between the UN and media in Ethiopia. On the occasion of the Media Forum, a Media Award was announced.



The UN Flag raising in Addis Ababa.

The yearly UN Media Prize Award will promote excellence in development reporting, in both the quantity and quality of development reporting in Ethiopia. It will help recognize journalists, communicators, C/I specialists or photo journalists in Ethiopia. Over 20 media representatives, as well as most of the UN agencies employees, celebrated together the UN Day held October 24 in Addis Ababa.

The Master Ceremony opened with the Federal Police Brass Band and a message by the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, delivered by Mr. Eugene Owusu, RC Coordinator, UN Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative. The Secretary-General's Message for 2013 mentioned among other issues that: "The fighting in Syria is our biggest security challenge. Millions of people depend on UN humanitarian personnel for life-saving assistance. And we are pushing for a diplomatic solution to end suffering that has gone on far too long. Our most urgent development challenge is to make sustainability a reality.

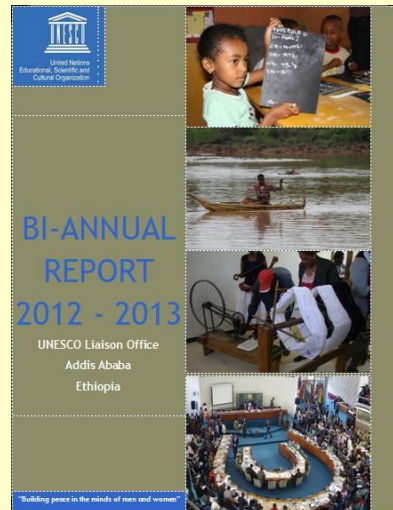
The Millennium Development Goals have cut poverty in half. Now we must maintain the momentum, craft an equally inspiring post-2015 development agenda and reach an agreement on climate change." The UN flag raising ceremony was followed by a traditional annual tree planting ceremony to promote environmental awareness.

The UN Family Day on Saturday closed down the UN week of celebrations with sports and children activities for the UN employees and their families.

### Bi-Annual Report 2012/2013—coming soon!

Addis Ababa, October, 2013

Inspired by other UNESCO field offices, UNESCO Addis Ababa prepared a Bi-Annual Report 2012/2013 which will be released soon, in both electronic as well as a hard copy version.



Title page of the Bi-Annual Report 2012/2013.

Addis Ababa website: [www.unesco.org/new/en/addisababa](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/addisababa).

The Bi-Annual Report covers mainly the key projects and programmes implemented in Ethiopia in all UNESCO sector of expertise in cooperation with various UNESCO Addis Ababa partners and donors.

The Bi-Annual Report will also be available for download on UNESCOAd-

## Upcoming Events

### **UNESCO / AU News**

- 14th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) under the theme “United Nations Support to Agenda 2063”, Addis Ababa, 21-22 November, 2013
- Regional Workshop on SMEs Development in Africa and Celebration of Africa Industrialization Day, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 18-20 November, 2013
- 3rd African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resources Development, Maputo, Mozambique, 13-17 December, 2013

### **Education**

- Annual Review Meeting on Joint Programme Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Phase II, 18-19 November, 2013

### **Science**

- 7th International Conference of the Africa Material Research Society, 8-13 December, UNCC-AA, Ethiopia

### **Culture**

- Expert meeting - to discuss the draft Management plan, Debre-Zeite Town, November 2013
- Validation workshop - the site management plan for the World Heritage site of Lalibela
- Donors Meeting – for current and potential collaborators which will focus on development activities in Lalibela WHs, November, 2013.

### **Communication / Information**

- Panel Discussion: The UN Agenda for Peace, Addis Ababa, 20 November, 2013
- The Great Ethiopian Run, Addis Ababa, 24 November, 2013
- Global Forum on Media and Gender, Bangkok, Thailand, 2-4 December, 2013



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