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Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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NEWSLETTER

Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates

Justine Henin joins as first woman the ranks of UNESCO Champions for Sport

The Belgian tennis player, Justine Henin, was designated UNESCO Champion for Sport by the Director-General, Koïchiro Matsuura, on 14 December 2006 at Roland Garros in Paris in the presence of Ms Marie Arena, Minister-President of the Government of the French Community of Belgium, Mr Claude Eerdekens, Minister of Public Office and Sport of the French Community of Belgium and Mr Christian Bîmes, President of the French Federation of Tennis.

This choice recognizes Ms Henin's personal commitment to the values of excellence, fair play and integrity throughout her athletic career.

This decision also comes in the context of UNESCO's efforts to fight against doping, educate tomorrow's athletes in the ethics of sports, and consolidate essential links between education, prevention, ethics and human rights. Ms Henin will help to promote the International Convention Against Doping in Sport, which entered into force on 1 February 2007.

"There is maybe less doping in tennis than in other sports, but from the moment when only one person is doped, it is already too much. As UNESCO Champion for Sport, I will be able to speak about doping in a more open way. I always wanted to

win in an appropriate way. It is very important to make adolescents aware of doping from their youngest age because even if a career in sports is one thing, private life is another and it should not destroy them. It is better to win a few less medals", said Justine Henin in her address during the ceremony.

Former number one WTA player and three-time winner of the French Open in four years, Ms Henin has won

29 titles to date, including the US Open, Australian Open and a Gold Medal in the 2004 Athens Olympic games.

"I am delighted this exemplary champion has accepted to use her fame to serve the fight against doping in sport and the education of young people. These are major societal challenges that require our entire attention and commitment", declared Mr Matsuura in his address during the designation ceremony.

Sixth Annual Meeting of UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassadors

From 15 to 16 March 2006, UNESCO Headquarters in Paris was the venue for an impressive gathering of the Organization's Goodwill Ambassadors.

The 2006 Annual Meeting of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, convened by the Director-General, brought together a large number of these outstanding personalities, who come from the worlds of art, film, music, literature, charity and public affairs.

The two-day meeting aimed at reviewing activities undertaken by the Goodwill Ambassadors since the previous year's meeting and enlisting their support for the Organization's priorities.

Celebrated French musician Jean Michel Jarre and HRH Princess Firyal of Jordan, both long-standing Goodwill Ambassadors for the Organization, were the moderators of the Annual Meeting.

The agenda highlighted three main areas: first, UNESCO's initiatives in the field of Education for All, in particular the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE), the Teacher Training Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa (TTISSA), and EDUCAIDS, the UNESCO-led Global Initiative on Education and HIV and AIDS; second, UNESCO's initiatives for the promotion of Books and Libraries; and, third, UNESCO's work regarding post-crisis and post-disaster situations.

During the opening session, the Director-General thanked the Goodwill Ambassadors for their continuing support and highlighted the Organization's priorities for the coming biennium: "I am convinced that the principal priorities we have chosen are the right ones for the Organization at this time." He called upon the Goodwill Ambassadors "to continue helping us to fulfil the Organization's important missions, especially in regard to the five principal

programme priorities." He also asked them to help increase UNESCO's visibility worldwide: "Your participation in UNESCO's programmes certainly helps to achieve this visibility. A kind of virtuous circle comes into play when this happens – the more support you give to our work, the more visible it becomes; and, as it becomes more visible, our work becomes stronger and attracts further support."

Evoking the 60th anniversary of the Organization, the Director-General encouraged the Goodwill Ambassadors to take an active role in the anniversary celebrations by raising awareness of UNESCO's history and actions and by attending or organizing major events.

Following the Director-General's opening speech, the Goodwill Ambassadors presented their respective activities and expressed their enthusiasm and readiness to continue to actively assist the Organization.

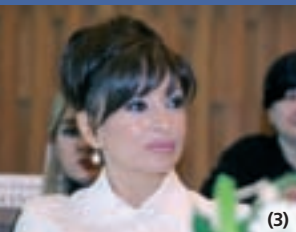


(1) From left to right: HE Mr Claude Eerdekens, Minister of Public Office and Sport of the French Community of Belgium, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, Ms Justine Henin, UNESCO Champion for Sport, Mr Christian Bîmes, President of the French Federation of Tennis, and Mr Marcio N. Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO

(2) From left to right: Mrs Marie Arena, Minister-President of the Government of the French Community of Belgium, Ms Justine Henin, UNESCO Champion for Sport, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and HE Mr Claude Eerdekens, Minister of Public Office and Sport of the French Community of Belgium



UNESCO Director-General Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, surrounded by the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors at the Annual Meeting, 15-16 March 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters. From left to right: Mrs Marianna Vardinoyannis, Mr Ikuo Hirayama, Mrs Milu Villela, Mr Ömer Zülfü Livaneli, Mrs Basma Irsheid, Chief of Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates, Lady Owen-Jones, Mr Ara Abramian, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, Mr Kitin Muñoz, HRH Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, Mr Wole Soyinka, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Mrs Claudia Cardinale, Mrs Kim Phuc Phan Thi, HRH the Princess of Hanover, Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, Mr Patrick Baudry, HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, Mr Zurab Tsereteli, HRH Princess Firyal, Mrs Susana Rinaldi, Mr Jean Michel Jarre, Mr Ivry Gittis, Mr Madanjeet Singh, Mr Pierre Bergé. Goodwill Ambassadors who attended but were not in the photo include: HRH Princess Lalla Meryem of Morocco, Mr Cheick Modibo Diarra and Mrs Bahia Hariri

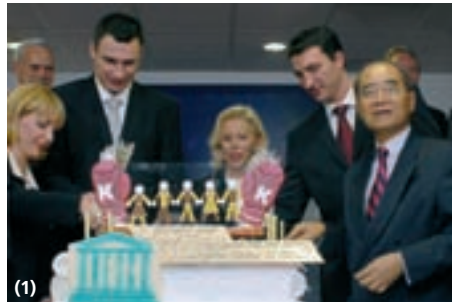


A dinner in UNESCO's restaurant, hosted by the Director-General and HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker in honour of the Goodwill Ambassadors, was also the occasion to celebrate the Organization's 60th anniversary together with many other distinguished guests.

A multicultural event with 40 artists from 8 South Asian countries, sponsored by Goodwill Ambassador Mr Madanjet Singh, concluded the meeting. The show presented traditional music and dance performances from the oral and intangible heritage of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, and included ancient music instruments.

- (1) UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors HRH the Princess of Hanover and HRH Grand-Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, surrounded by UNESCO Artist for Peace Mr Chico Bouchikhi and his band
- (2) UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors HRH the Princess of Hanover and HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, surrounded by UNESCO Artist for Peace Mr Chico Bouchikhi and his band
- (3) Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador
- (4) Mr Wole Soyinka, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador
- (5) Mr Madanjet Singh (right), UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, thanks UNESCO Director-General Mr Koichiro Matsuura for bestowing on him the medal of the 60th Anniversary of UNESCO.
- (6) Mrs Bahia Harii and Mr Patrick Baudry, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors
- (7) Mr Cheick Modibo Diarra, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador
- (8) HRH Princess Lalla Meryem of Morocco, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador
- (9) UNESCO Director-General Mr Koichiro Matsuura surrounded by UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, from left to right: Mrs Claudia Cardinale, HRH the Princess of Hanover, HRH Grand-Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, Mrs Milu Villela and HRH Princess Firyal

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Vitaly and Wladimir Klitschko designated UNESCO Champions for Sport

(1) From left to right: Mrs Kateryna Yushchenko, First Lady of Ukraine, Mr Marcio N. Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Vitaly Klitschko, UNESCO Champion for Sport, Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven, UNESCO Special Ambassador for the Education of Children in Need, Mr Wladimir Klitschko, UNESCO Champion for Sport, and Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, during the ceremony on 4 December 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France

The Director-General designated the Ukrainian brothers Vitaly and Wladimir Klitschko UNESCO Champions for Sport in tribute to their exceptional success in boxing, their long-term commitment on behalf of the less fortunate, their exemplary efforts to promote and support UNESCO's Programme for the Education of Children in Need, and their valuable contribution to furthering the Organization's ideals and objectives. The ceremony took place on 4 December 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters in the presence of the First Lady of Ukraine, Mrs Kateryna Yushchenko.

"I am sure that in your capacity as UNESCO Champions for Sport you will continue to set an inspiring example to young people – teaching them to understand the meaning of fair play; to achieve a healthy balance of body and mind; to enjoy victory and accept defeat; and to respect fellow competitors. These are values...that are important not just for sport, but for life", said the Director-General in his address during the designation ceremony.

In August 2006, Vitaly and Wladimir Klitschko went to Namibia with UNESCO experts to promote educational activities for children of the San community, who are among the most underprivileged in the north and west of the country. They also visited numerous UNESCO projects in Romania and Brazil.

In 2004, Vitaliy Klitschko won the World Boxing Council's heavyweight championship. He retired at the end of 2005 with an impressive record: 43 victories and only three defeats. Wladimir Klitschko became Olympic boxing champion in 1996 and is the present IBF heavyweight champion. He won the title from Chris Byrd in April 2005, and successfully defended it against Calvin Brock on 11 November 2006. On that occasion, he announced his intention to donate part of his winnings to UNESCO's Programme for the Education of Children in Need in order to fund projects in Namibia and other parts of Africa. During the 4 December ceremony, Wladimir and Vitaly Klitschko presented a cheque for US\$ 285,000 to the Director-General.

"In sport children can learn about fairness and how to respect their opponent. They can also set up their goal in life, work hard and reach it. In Ukraine the Klitschko foundation has brought a lot of help to children but thanks to UNESCO we can help worldwide – for children in need. And this is only the beginning. We were in Brazil, Romania, Namibia and we are still by their side. And I tell you that if in future children in need will need our help, you can count on us", said Wladimir Klitschko in his address during the ceremony.

First Lady of Ukraine Mrs Kateryna Yushchenko, First Deputy Minister for Communication and Science Mr Boris Zhbrovsky, karate champion Ms Laurence Fischer, the boxer Mr Mahyar Monshipour and Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven, UNESCO Special Ambassador for the Education of Children in Need, attended the designation ceremony.



“Water for Life” was the theme UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Jean Michel Jarre chose for an exceptional concert among the sand dunes in Merzouga in Morocco on 16 December 2006, organized with the support of the Kingdom of Morocco and held under the auspices of UNESCO. The Modern Arab Orchestra of Casablanca, the Morocco Philharmonic Orchestra and a number of eminent soloists joined Jean Michel Jarre on stage for this unique concert. It was also one of the highlights of the part of the UN Water for Life Decade (2005-2015) and marked the end of the United Nations International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

Using his hallmark state-of-the-art visual and sound technology, the French musician stressed the importance of protecting and properly manag-

ing the planet’s limited freshwater resources and halting the advance of desertification: “We want this concert to be a wake up call. We want to make people more aware of just how precious water is and the critical need to look after what we have. If everybody understood just how little water the earth has, or how many people are going without it – and dying as a result – or how much of it is being wasted, we might be able to find better ways of managing and sharing it. The problem of desertification is intimately linked to this situation and also requires urgent action.” Jean Michel Jarre said.

Desertification affects the lives of more than 250 million people and threatens another 1.2 billion people in 110 countries. An estimated 60 million of those affected in sub-Saharan Africa

Jean Michel Jarre celebrates “Water for Life” in the Sahara

are expected to move towards northern Africa and Europe by 2020, according to the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

About 6,000 spectators attended the spectacular concert in the Moroccan Sahara, which was also broadcast live across the region by Moroccan public television and to the rest of the world via the internet and on High Definition channels.

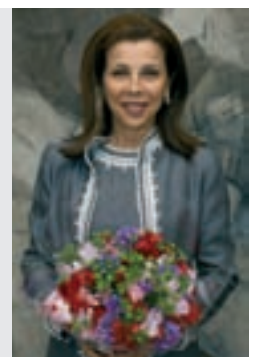
HRH Princess Firyal meets with the Director-General to discuss education issues

Her Royal Highness Princess Firyal, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the Education for All initiative, met with the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, on 1 March 2007 in New York, USA.

During the work meeting, Her Royal Highness and the Director-General also talked about Princess Firyal’s activities to promote the Education for All initiative as well as her support for the upcoming regional literacy conferences organized by UNESCO.

Within the framework of the UN Literacy Decade (2003-2012) and UNESCO’s Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE) and as a follow-up to

the White House Conference on Global Literacy (September 2006, New York, USA), two of six regional conferences on world literacy will be hosted by UNESCO Celebrity Advocates in 2007 and 2008. Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, hosted the regional conference for the Arab region in Doha, Qatar in March 2007. Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, will host the regional conference for the Caucasian region in Azerbaijan in 2008.





Her Highness Sheikha Mozah supports the “Reach Out To Asia” initiative and welcomes the Director-General of UNESCO during his state visit in Qatar

Upon his arrival on 30 April 2006 in Doha for his state visit to

Qatar, the Director-General opened the Second Symposium on Innovation in Education (from 30 April to 2 May 2006) in the company of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, First Lady of Qatar and UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education. This symposium was co-sponsored by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, a private non-profit organization, and chaired by Her Highness and UNESCO. It brought together teachers from across the Arab world, leading international experts and education specialists in a series of panels and debates on access to technology, education and democratic participation.

In a separate meeting with Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned and in the presence of her daughter Her Highness Sheikha Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, chairperson of the non-profit Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) initiative launched

by the Qatar Foundation, the Director-General discussed general matters of cooperation between the Qatar Foundation and UNESCO, including emergency assistance to Iraqi universities, promotion of dialogue among cultures and civilizations, inclusive and vocational education and safeguarding of the cultural heritage. Mr Matsuura also thanked Her Highness for setting up a Fund for Asia in order to support the EFA goals and assist Asian countries in developing their national action plans. The first meeting of the Board of Governors of the Fund for Asia, chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, took place during the Director-General’s visit.

Furthermore, Mr Matsuura was received on 1 May 2006 by the Emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani. Mr Matsuura expressed his profound gratitude for the strong support that Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, gives to UNESCO’s activities, especially in her function as UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, in the area of education, not

only in the Middle East, but also in other parts of the world.

On 4 November 2006, the second Reach Out To Asia (ROTA) Charity Gala Dinner was held in Doha, Qatar, under the auspices of The Her Apparent, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, brother of Her Highness Sheikha Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, ROTA chairperson. Their parents, The Emir of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, First Lady of Qatar and UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, honoured the event with Their presence. Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven, UNESCO Special Ambassador for the Education of Children in Need, also attended the second ROTA Charity Gala Dinner.

The proceeds of the evening of US\$ 11.25 million will be donated to ROTA and UNESCO in favour of educational programmes and community development in Asia.

Claudia Cardinale participates in ETF Conference “Skills for Progress” and the International Scientific Conference on Desertification and Drylands Research

Mrs Claudia Cardinale, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, spoke about women’s rights at the European Training Foundation (ETF) Advisory Forum plenary meeting “Skills for Progress”, on 7 June 2006 in Turin, Italy. During her opening speech to the forum she highlighted the skills gaps between men and women in parts of the world where the ETF operates. She concluded: “If it is indeed progress you want, you will sooner or later need to utilize this rich resource of skills by actively empowering girls and women to make their own choices.”

Some 200 policy-makers and labour market experts from 55 countries discussed the skills necessary for tomorrow’s labour markets.

The ETF Advisory Forum plenary meeting is a triennial event bringing together European Union Institutions, Member States and partner countries

that functions as a platform for discussion and sharing of ideas and experiences in the field of vocational education and training,

Two weeks later, Mrs Cardinale attended the International Scientific Conference on Desertification and Drylands Research, from 19 to 21 June 2006, in Tunis, Tunisia. The Conference was one of the landmark events of the United Nations International Year of Deserts and Desertification, celebrating 50 years of UN research in this area. Delegates, field experts and decision-makers from the world’s drylands regions met to explore ways of managing sensitive zones in a more sustainable way and to combat desertification.

During her speech, Mrs Cardinale drew attention to the critical need for water in ecological

balance. “Water must become an element of peace and exchange rather than conflict”, Mrs Cardinale said at the opening of the Conference, using as an example the deforestation of the Amazon region of Latin America.

The Conference, which was also part of the celebrations for the World Day to Combat Desertification (17 June), was held under the High Auspices of the President of Tunisia, HE Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, and sponsored by UNESCO, the Tunisian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, GEF, DDPA, and The Flemish Government of Belgium.



Mrs Claudia Cardinale, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, during the ETF Meeting “Skills for Progress” on 7 June 2006 in Turin, Italy

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Designation of Jean Serge Essous as UNESCO Artist for Peace

HE Mr Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of Congo, Mr Jean Serge Essous, UNESCO Artist for Peace, and Mr Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, during the designation ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters on 11 October 2006

On 11 October 2006, the Director-General designated the Congolese musician, Jean Serge Essous, as UNESCO Artist for Peace during a ceremony at the Organization's Headquarters. The President of the Republic of Congo, HE

Mr Denis Sassou Nguesso, on official visit to UNESCO on the occasion of the 165th session of the Executive Board, attended the ceremony. Congolese personalities, among them the Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Jean-Claude Gakossoas, and the Cameroonian musician, Manu Dibango, who is himself a UNESCO Artist for Peace, attended the event.

Saxophonist Jean Serge Essous is a cofounder of the Brazzaville band "Bantous de la Capital" and the "Afrika Team" in Paris. He was designated UNESCO Artist for Peace in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of the ideals of UNESCO through his artistic activities. Jean Serge Essous is one of the living legends of Congolese modern music.

Sumo wrestler Hakuho designated UNESCO Artist for Peace

UNESCO Director-General Mr Koichiro Matsuura and Sumo wrestler Hakuho, UNESCO Artist for Peace, during the ceremony on 27 July 2006 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



The Director-General designated Sumo wrestler Hakuho Sho, born Munkhbat Davaajargal, as UNESCO Artist for Peace on 27 July 2006 at a ceremony held in Ulaanbaatar in the framework of the UNESCO Children's Performing Arts Festival of East Asia.

Born on 11 March 1985 in Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia, Hakuho's family comes from the Mongolian wrestling tradition. His father Jigjid Munkhbat won a silver medal in freestyle wrestling at the 1968 Olympics. He is the sixth foreign-born wrestler to attain the rank of Ozeki. He arrived in Japan at the age of 15, and

first entered the ring in March 2001. His results in tournaments were sufficient for him to obtain a promotion to Ozeki in March 2006, just a few weeks after his 21st birthday, making him the fourth youngest wrestler and the sixth foreign-born wrestler to reach the rank Ozeki in modern Sumo history.

Hakuho is the first Mongolian to receive the title of UNESCO Artist for Peace, and was honoured for his dedication to activities for young people in East Asia to promote a better future and in recognition of his support for the ideals and objectives of UNESCO.

Missa Johnouchi designated UNESCO Artist for Peace



Ms Missa Johnouchi, UNESCO Artist for Peace, and Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, during the designation ceremony on 21 August 2006 in Tokyo

Missa Johnouchi, the Japanese composer, pianist, conductor and singer, was designated UNESCO Artist for Peace on 21 August 2006 by the Director-General at a ceremony in Tokyo.

An internationally recognized musician, Ms Johnouchi is best known in Japan as a peerless composer of film and television soundtracks. She has composed over four thousand pieces throughout her career, for which she has won several national and international awards.

Through her concerts, Ms Johnouchi will promote the importance of preserving cultural

heritage and safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. She has also agreed to donate a percentage of her CD sales to UNESCO and will participate in the commemorative project of the 1300th Anniversary of Nara Heijo-kyo Capital, Japan in 2010.

Ms Johnouchi began her career as a composer while attending the renowned Toho College of Music in Tokyo. She spent several years in France studying orchestration and conducting under French film and television composer Jean-Claude Petit. Her works include the latest best-selling album "Canon" and "Asian Blossoms".

Designation of Vladimir Spivakov as UNESCO Artist for Peace

The Director-General of UNESCO chose the Russian violinist Vladimir Fiodorovich Spivakov as UNESCO Artist for Peace in recognition of his commitment to the arts and artistic creativity and his support for UNESCO's ideals. The ceremony took place on 7 November 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters in the presence of Vladimir Kalamonov, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Russian Federation to UNESCO.

Mr Spivakov established the Moscow Virtuosi chamber orchestra in 1979 and, ten years later, the International Colmar Music Festival (France). President of the Pablo Sarasate Violin

Competition in Spain, he has also been Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the National Philharmonic of Russia and President of the Moscow Performing Arts Centre since 2000.

In 1984 the violinist set up the Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Foundation, whose objective is to assist artistically gifted young people and develop cultural values and traditions. The charity also assists orphanages and children's hospitals.

During the ceremony, several talented young musicians of his foundation performed in his honour.



Mr Vladimir Spivakov, UNESCO Artist for Peace, and Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, during the designation ceremony on 7 November 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters

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HE Vigdís Finnbogadóttir addresses the first International Mother Language Day celebration

HE Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, during her speech on 21 February 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters

International Mother Language Day, proclaimed by UNESCO's General Conference in November 1999, was celebrated for the first time with a special ceremony on 21 February 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters.

The event was opened by the Director-General, who stressed that "by deciding to celebrate mother tongues, UNESCO's Member States wished to recall that languages are not only an essential part of humanity's cultural heritage, but the irreducible expression of human creativity and of its great diversity."

Her Excellency Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and former President of Iceland, delivered a speech during the first celebration of International Mother Language Day. She highlighted the value of languages both as means of communication and as expressions of culture and identity. Mrs Finnbogadóttir qualified languages as "humanity's most precious and fragile treasures."

The film *In Languages We Live – Voices of the World* (Denmark 2005) – a documentary film made at the initiative of Mrs Finnbogadóttir – was presented at the Conference. Directed by Billeskov Jansen

and Signe Byrge Sørensen, the film recounts the impact of the disappearance of languages through a number of individual stories.

In a message read at the ceremony, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, expressed support for International Mother Language Day which, he said, raises awareness among all peoples regarding the value of languages. Reaffirming the capital importance of preserving language diversity, he called for increased efforts to conserve languages as a shared heritage of humanity.

Vyacheslav Fetisov elected Chairman of the first Conference of States Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport

The first session of the Conference of States Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport was convened by the Director-General from 5 to 7 February 2007 at the Organization's Headquarters. It brought together the 41 States that ratified the Convention by 31 December 2006 and took place just a few days after its entry into force, on 1 February.

Mr Vyacheslav Fetisov, UNESCO Champion for Sport and President of Russia's Federal Agency of Sport, Physical Education and Tourism, was elected as the chairman of the Conference. "We need to cooperate and to coordinate a lot of things... and work together to get the fastest possible results", declared Mr Fetisov in his address to the delegates.

Furthermore, a message from Ms Justine Henin, UNESCO Champion for Sport who is entrusted with the task of helping to promote the International

Convention Against Doping in Sport, was screened during the opening of the Conference.

Adopted unanimously by the General Conference of UNESCO on 19 October 2005, the Convention was ratified by 41 States in record time. The fight against doping was thus inscribed for the first time in international law, and governments, sports federations and civil society – as well as the Olympic movement – have been provided with a binding legal instrument.

Mr Phil Craven, President of the International Paralympic Committee; Mr Jean-François Lamour, Vice Chair of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and French Minister for Youth, Sports and Associations, also attended the conference, which was described by the Director-General as a "decisive step in the process undertaken by the international community to wage war at all levels against the scourge of doping in sport."



Mr Vyacheslav Fetisov, UNESCO Champion for Sport, during his speech at the Conference of States Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport, on 5 February 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters

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Lady Owen-Jones assists the L'Oréal-UNESCO programme "Hairdressers of the World Against AIDS"

On 18 September 2006, the L'Oréal-UNESCO programme "Hairdressers of the World Against AIDS" was launched in China in Beijing's Tianlun Dynasty Hotel. Lady Cristina Owen-Jones, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS Prevention Education, opened the ceremony and gave an overview of the programme in the presence of UNAIDS Special Representative Serge Dumont, GBC (Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS) China Director Michael Shiu, and Representatives of the Chinese Health Ministry.

This year the China campaign seeks to train more than 50,000 hairdressers on key HIV/AIDS prevention and anti-stigma messages. Since 2005, the programme "Hairdressers of the World Against AIDS" has been introduced in Africa, India, Brazil, France and Great Britain, where it trains hairdressers and salon owners

on key HIV/AIDS messages, empowering them to educate their vast clientele. In 2007 the programme will be launched in numerous other countries, for example in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Worldwide L'Oréal forms 2 million hairdressers, whose clientele is estimated to be around 500 million persons. Related to this programme and at the invitation of the Education Sector of UNESCO, Lady Owen-Jones made a speech in favour of collaboration between the private sector and the United Nations Agencies during the 2006 High-Level Meeting on AIDS at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 31 May 2006, in the presence of the UN Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan. As an example and model of excellence Lady Owen-Jones presented the innovative programme "Hairdressers of the World Against AIDS".



Lady Owen-Jones congratulates young hairdressers at the launching of the Hairdressers of the World Against AIDS programme on 18 September 2006 in Beijing, China

Scott Momaday contributes to the debate "Pathways of Thought" and attends the inauguration of the Musée du Quai Branly

Mr Scott Momaday, American-Indian writer, founder and president of the Buffalo Trust, Pulitzer Prize Winner and UNESCO Artist for Peace, discussed the preservation and transmission of the heritage of indigenous traditions, and in particular those of the Americas, in a meeting on 22 June 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters.

To reflect on these issues with crucial implications for intercultural dialogue, Mr Momaday was joined by Ms Michèle Therrien (Canada), specialist of Inuit cultures and languages

and Professor at the Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations of France (INALCO), and Mr Philippe Descola (France), anthropologist and Professor at the Collège de France.

The debate was opened by Mr Marcio Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, presided by Mr Maurice Aymard, Secretary-General of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPSH), and moderated by Mr Jérôme Bindé, Director of the Office of Foresight.

Furthermore, Mr Scott Momaday attended the inauguration of the Musée du Quai Branly on 20 June 2006 as well as a conference organized on 21 June in Paris. The President of the French Republic, His Excellency Mr Jacques Chirac, officially inaugurated the Musée du Quai Branly in the presence of numerous distinguished international personalities, among them Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Contribution of HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker to the UNESCO project of the Cultural Space of the Boysun District in Uzbekistan



Opening ceremony of the Crafts Centre at the Community Arts Centre of Boysun, Uzbekistan, in May 2006

His Excellency Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, donated US\$ 50,000 for the UNESCO project "Cultural Space of the Boysun District in Uzbekistan". The objective of this project is to protect and promote the local traditional culture of the district of Boysun in Uzbekistan.

This project made possible the opening of the Academy of Folk Arts in May 2006 at the community arts centre of Boysun. The purpose of the Academy is to train young dancers and musicians in local folklore traditions.

Another aspect of the project is the development and the conservation of the traditional architecture of Boysun, which will draw on the assistance of SAMGASI (Samarkand State Architectural and Civil Engineering Institute), as well as the creation of a tourist information centre in Boysun.

The remaining funds were used to establish a permanent exhibition of crafts and traditional objects in the Museum Centre for Development of Crafts in Boysun.

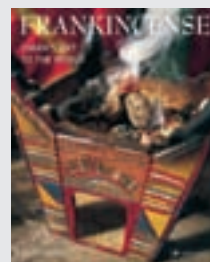
Thanks to financial support from His Excellency Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, and the Japanese Funds-In-Trust, the European project for the development of the rural economy and UNESCO's cross cutting theme project for the promotion of indigenous construction technologies, several centres for traditional art opened in Boysun in May 2006, offering training in carpet-weaving, embroidery, wood and metal work and pottery.

In May 2006, three books were published on the projects in Boysun: *The Atlas of Artistic Crafts*

of Boysun by A. Khakimov (Vol. 1), *Traditional Musical Culture of Boysun* by R. Abdullaev (Vol. 2) and *Masterpieces of Central Asia – Boysun* by A. Arapov (Vol. 3).

His Excellency Sheikh Shaker has also financed two other recent publications. The book *Frankincense – Oman's Gift to the World*, written by Julia Highet, is a profound and detailed presentation of the history of this ancient perfume, its trade routes and production sites in Oman, which were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000 under the title "Land of Frankincense".

His Excellency Sheikh Shaker also supported a UNESCO publication on the Al-Sirah Al-Hilaliyya Epic in Egypt, one of the UNESCO Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.



Participation of UNESCO Artists for Peace at the 31st International Theatre Institute World Congress

The 31st International Theatre Institute (ITI) World Congress, whose main theme was "From Ancestral Roots to New Routes of Artistic Expression: Mobilizing Cultural Diversity to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals" took place from 22 to 28 May 2006 in Manila, the Philippines. For the first time, the ITI Congress was honoured by the presence of the Director-General, who chaired the Leaders Forum on 23 May.

UNESCO Artists for Peace Ms Bibi Russell, Mr Horst Tögel, founder of the Brenz Band, and Countess Setsuko Klossowska de Rola participated in the ITI Congress. The Congress was marked by performances by exceptional music ensembles, among them the Earthsavers DREAMS Ensemble,

UNESCO Artists for Peace. The Conference addressed how theatre artists could contribute in terms of culture to the fight against poverty within the framework of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and the Millennium Development Goals of the UN.

The International Theatre Institute (ITI), an international non-governmental organization, was founded by UNESCO and the international theatre community. ITI aims at promoting the international exchange of knowledge and practice in theatre arts in order to consolidate peace and solidarity between peoples, deepen mutual understanding and increase creative cooperation between all people in the theatre arts.

HRH the Princess of Hanover presides the 2006 UNESCO Digital Arts Award in association with the Monaco Dance Forum

On 16 December 2006, Her Royal Highness the Princess of Hanover, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and the Director-General of UNESCO awarded the 2006 UNESCO Prize for the Promotion of the Arts – New Technologies to Ms Ivani Santana from Brazil for her creation entitled “Man Has Made His Difference”. The award ceremony was organized on the occasion of the fourth Monaco Dance Forum from 9 to 16 December 2006 in Monaco where, as the Director-General said, “artistic and cultural modernity is rooted in the common soil of tradition and exchange.”

For the nomination of the 2006 prizewinner, an international jury of UNESCO reviewed 20 works,

pre-selected by the “Monaco Dance Forum”, under the presidency of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Hanover.

The UNESCO Prize for the Promotion of the Arts, founded by Mr Kaii Higashiyama, a well-known master of Japanese traditional painting, is awarded to young artists or groups of artists in the fields of the visual arts, the performing arts and new technologies in recognition of outstanding creative achievements and to encourage their future artistic development. The New Technologies Prize is awarded annually in the framework of an international or regional cultural and artistic event. The total amount of the Award is US\$ 10,000.



From left to right: Ms Ivani Santana, prizewinner, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Hanover, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, during the ceremony on 16 December 2006

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From left to right: Mr Abulfaz Qarayev, Culture and Tourism Minister of Azerbaijan, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Marcio N. Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, and Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, during the inauguration of the photo exhibition, 19 October 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters

Mehriban Aliyeva delivers a speech at the inauguration of the first session of the General Assembly of the States Parties of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and at the Photo Exhibition “Azerbaijan, crossroads of civilizations and cultures”

Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for oral and musical traditions, participated at the inaugural ceremony of the first session of the General Assembly of the States Parties of the Convention for the Safeguarding of

to resolve a number of problems of modern society in the wider sense. This is why protection of the universal cultural heritage is so necessary for us.”

The first session of the General Assembly of the States Parties marked the beginning of the operational life of the Convention, which was adopted by the 32nd session of the General Conference in 2003. As of 18 January 2007, 73 States have already deposited their instruments of ratification, approval or acceptance. In the words of the Director-General, the exceptionally rapid ratification of the Convention bears witness to “the great interest in intangible heritage all over the world... and the widespread awareness of the urgent need for its international protection, given the threat posed by contemporary lifestyles and the process of globalization.”

Furthermore, Mrs Aliyeva attended the photo exhibition “Azerbaijan, crossroads of civilizations and cultures” which was held in the framework of the week “Dialogue among Civilizations”, which was dedicated to the 60th anniversary of UNESCO on 19 October 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters. Mrs Aliyeva and the Director-General gave inauguration speeches in the presence of Mr Abulfaz Qarayev, Culture and Tourism Minister of Azerbaijan. Following this, a number of Azerbaijani artists and the world-famous singer, Patricia Kaas, gave a remarkable concert.

the Intangible Cultural Heritage, held from 27 to 29 June 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters. The Director-General of UNESCO inaugurated the first session and paid tribute to Mrs Aliyeva, “who is playing an outstanding part in the promotion of oral and musical traditions not only in her own country but throughout the world.”

Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva delivered an address during the inaugural ceremony on 27 June, in which she said: “There is a need today for protecting not only art objects but also traditions, rituals - in a word - the most ancient forms of expression of culture.” She concluded that “the culture is a universal tool able

HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, UNESCO Special Envoy for Water, addressed the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO on the occasion of the 2nd World Water Report



(1) Front row, from left to right: HE Mr Ziad Bin Abdullah Aldrees, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Saudi Arabia to UNESCO,

HE Mr Musa Bin Jaafar Bin Hassan, President of the General Conference and Permanent Delegate of the Sultanate of Oman to UNESCO, HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, UNESCO Special Envoy for Water, and Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, on 26 June 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters

(2) HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, UNESCO Special Envoy for Water, Mrs Basma Irsheid, Chief of Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates and Arab Funding Sources, and Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, during the information meeting on 26 June 2006 at UNESCO Headquarters



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sible without the encouragement of UNESCO's Member States, nor without the support of HRH Prince Talal, "who has shown himself to be not only a most effective ambassador on behalf of freshwater but also a good friend of UNESCO".

In his speech, HRH Prince Talal said, "No vital mainstay is more threatened than water, and for this reason, this key element for human life, and indeed for all forms of life on earth, must have top priority as we seek to implement the concept of sustainable development." Under the title "The Culture of Water Maintenance", Prince Talal then proposed to the audience a number of mechanisms for the solution of water problems, ranging from educational tools, awareness raising measures and the development of ethical standards to the modernization of water management systems.

His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, UNESCO Special Envoy for Water, gave a speech at an informational meeting, convened by the Director-General on 26 June 2006 to update the Permanent Delegations to UNESCO on one of the Organization's principal priorities, Water.

The Director-General recalled UNESCO's vital and leading role in the management of freshwater resources, a role that is well recognized both within the UN system and by governments and external partners. The Director-General noted that such leadership would not have been pos-

During a bilateral meeting held before the information meeting on water, HRH Prince Talal and the Director-General also discussed other subjects in the fields of UNESCO's competences. They exchanged views notably on education, sustainable development, conflict prevention and culture.

Contributions in 2006 to UNESCO projects by AGFUND, presided by HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, UNESCO Special Envoy for Water

The Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) is a regional development institution, established in 1980 upon the initiative of His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, President of AGFUND and UNESCO Special Envoy for Water. Since the creation of AGFUND, UNESCO has been one of its main partners and UNESCO projects have been a major beneficiary of AGFUND's funding activities. AGFUND supports sustainable human development programmes targeting the poorest groups in developing countries, in cooperation with UNESCO and other organizations and institutions active in this field.

To date, AGFUND's financial support has enabled UNESCO to plan and implement 71 projects, the majority in the field of education, with a special focus on education for women and girls, early childhood care and education, literacy, life skills training and teacher training. Eighty-five countries have benefited from AGFUND's contributions, to a total amount of more than US\$ 25 million.

In 2006, AGFUND donated US\$ 150,000 for the co-financing of two UNESCO projects: «Improving continuing education in Viet Nam's communities through ICT» and "Enhancing the Capacity of Teachers and School Administrators for the Implementation of Inclusive Education (IE) in Cambodia".

HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg continues her support for the empowerment of girls and women

Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, has strongly supported the cross-cutting theme project entitled "Breaking the poverty cycle of women: Empowering adolescent girls to become agents of social transformation" in South Asia, since it was launched in 2002. With the donation provided by the "Fondation du Grand-Duc Henri et de la Grande-Duchesse Maria Teresa", activities under the final phase of the project were reinforced and consolidated in 2006.

As an example, in India project activities in 151 villages in Rajasthan have been carried out

thanks to this generous contribution. Through four-month long residential camps, short duration supplementary training and issue-based specific trainings, learning opportunities have been generated for girls from disadvantaged families. The programme has integrated basic education with life skills, information on basic and reproductive health as well as legal rights, complemented by access to ICTs and training in management of self-help groups for setting up micro-enterprises and microfinancial services.

At the request of the community members, adolescent boys have been included in various

activities. This has contributed to the harmonious development of all adolescents, girls and boys, who are participating increasingly and actively in community development issues. In addition, thanks to this donation

the final phase of project activities in Nepal will be resumed from March 2007.



HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn supports measures for linguistic minorities and the preservation of heritage and in the Asia-Pacific region

From 22 August to 1 September 2006, a teacher-training workshop on heritage management concepts for teachers from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam was held in Sakhon Nakhon Province, Thailand, under the auspices of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the Empowerment of Minority Children and the Preservation of their Intangible Cultural Heritage. On the final day of the workshop the participants and representatives from the project were granted an audience with HRH at Chitralada Palace in Bangkok, Thailand, to report on the achievements of the workshop and future plans.

The workshop marked the launching of the project "Improving the Quality of Life of Children and Youth in the Asia and Pacific", a joint effort between the Office of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Projects (OPSP), UNESCO and the UNESCO National Commissions of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. This two-year project seeks to empower minority children and youth through best practices developed by ongoing programmes conducted by HRH and UNESCO.

Furthermore, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn received Mr Hamed A. Hakeem, Coordinator of APPEAL (Asia-Pacific Programme of Education for All), who also represented the Director of UNESCO Bangkok, for a discussion on language and education for linguistic minorities. Joining the audience were Mr Chaturon Chaisaeng, Minister of Education of Thailand, Khunying Kasama Varavarn, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education of Thailand, the Director-General and two directors of the Office for the Non-Formal Education Commission (ONFEC) and the President and linguists from SIL International and Mahidol University.

During the meeting the participants discussed the lessons learned from pilot projects in initial learning in the mother tongue in Thailand and other countries in the region. The meeting with Her Royal Highness and the subsequent discussions with the Minister of Education of Thailand reaffirmed the urgency for an advocacy toolkit on multilingual education (MLE) for policy makers and practitioners.

Marianna V. Vardinoyannis encourages the construction and equipping of the Multicultural Children's Centre "Athena"

Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, organized a press conference on 26 June 2006 at the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel in Athens on the occasion of the completion of the Multicultural Children's Centre "Athena" in Belgrade. This project was completed under the auspices of UNESCO and supported by the ELIDA Association and the Foundation for the Child and the Family, both chaired by Mrs Vardinoyannis.

In a message read at the press conference, the Director-General of UNESCO said: "I would like to take this opportunity to convey my deep appreciation to Mrs Vardinoyannis for her work in bringing this important initiative to fruition, and for her ongoing commitment to the pursuit of peace." He added: "I hope that the "Athena" Children's Centre serves to promote greater intercultural understanding and respect, creating in young minds that spirit of dialogue upon which lasting peace is built."

In the framework of this project, UNESCO will provide educational materials that promote tolerance, intercultural dialogue and respect for human rights.

During her visit to Paris, the Director-General welcomed Mrs Vardinoyannis on 18 January 2007 in UNESCO Headquarters for discussion of common projects.

Ikuo Hirayama attends the inauguration ceremony of the 5th Children's Performing Arts Festival (CPAF)

Hundreds of children from five countries in East Asia – China (including Macao SAR and Hong Kong), the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea - participated in the UNESCO Children's Performing Arts Festival (CPAF) from 27 to 30 July 2006 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Professor Ikuo Hirayama, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, attended the inauguration ceremony of the festival, at which the Director-General gave the opening speech. During his address, the Director-General said, "With minds open to the world, and free from prejudice, children are our best ambassadors for peace."

The CPAF serves as a platform for intercultural dialogue. Through the common language of arts, music and dance, children from the diverse cultures of East Asia can freely experience the different cultures of the subregion, sharing and appreciating each others' traditions, talent and creativity.

Ms Komaki Krihara, Japanese actress, and Mr Davaajargal Munkhbat, Hakuho, the Sumo wrestler who was designated UNESCO Artist for Peace during the Festival, participated in the inauguration ceremony.

News in brief

► Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, gave a piano concert on 20 December 2006 at the Organization's Headquarters to commemorate the end of the year 2006, which marked the 60th anniversary of UNESCO. On this occasion and to celebrate Human Rights Day (10 December), His Excellency Mr Eric Calcagno, Ambassador of Argentina in France, Ms Alicia Bonet-Krueger, President of the "Collectif pour la mémoire", and Mr Miguel Angel Estrella thanked various personalities for their solidarity with the Argentinean people during the military dictatorship.

► On 16 March 2006, Countess Setsuko Klossowska de Rola, UNESCO Artist for Peace, attended the ceremony for the first fellows of the university-level training programme for "World Heritage Managers" at UNESCO Headquarters. The programme is a public-private cooperation that seeks to form a whole new generation of professionals in the protection of the world's heritage.

► Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the Education of Children in Need, participated in the second Reach Out To Asia Charity Gala Dinner in Doha, Qatar on

4 November 2006. The evening's proceeds of US\$ 11.25 million will be donated to Reach Out To Asia and UNESCO in favour of educational programmes and community development in Asia.

► On 28 February 2007, a sculpture designed by UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Mr Zurab Tsereteli of Ichiro Hatoyama, the Japanese statesman and three times Prime Minister between 1954 and 1956, was inaugurated in Tokyo, Japan. A message from the Director-General was read to the audience during the inauguration ceremony. As Prime Minister, Ichiro Hatoyama signed the peace treaty with the Soviet Union in 1956.

► Mr Ara Abramian, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, organized the festival "Flower of the World", which was held from 31 August to 2 September 2006 in Moscow, under the patronage of UNESCO. The festival brought together more than 200 florists from different regions of the Russian Federation, CIS States and European countries, for the purpose of promoting peace and understanding through the common cultural denominator of flowers.

The Newsletter of the Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates

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