

# SHSviews

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## CONTENTS

pp. 3-4 **BIOETHICS** A challenge for Africa • Ethics and bioethics to the fore in Asia and the Pacific / pp. 9-12 **HUMAN RIGHTS** 30<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day • International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination • 4 anti-discrimination studies • European Coalition of Cities against Racism meets in Nuremberg • International conference on human security in Africa • UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education • Youth and AIDS – workshop in Burundi / p. 21 **POVERTY** Review of PRSPs from human rights perspective / pp. 22-28 **SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS** “Together with migrant children” in China • Radio 18-12 – over 50 online broadcasts • Kenyan meetings for development • The most Networks • Fight against doping in sport – States now have means to act / p. 29 **CHAMPIONS FOR SPORT** Justine Hénilin and the Klitschko brothers UNESCO Ambassadors for sport / pp. 31 **PUBLICATIONS** / p. 32 **CALENDAR**



## TWO-WAY DISCUSSION pp. 5 to 8

Nouzha Guessous-Idrissi  
and Saadia Belmir

## SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS p. 22

The challenges of African  
migration (by Babacar Sall)

## DOSSIER pp. 13 to 20

# Let's get philosophical!

# Taking responsibility

1 February, 2007. UNESCO Headquarters is overrun by TV crews and correspondents busy reporting on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Meeting at UNESCO, it has concluded that the evidence for global warming must henceforth be regarded as “unequivocal” and that human activity is “very likely” to blame.

Climate change is not a core issue for the Sector for Social and Human Sciences – although its consequences may impact on many of our areas of concern. It is, however, a physical manifestation of the essential practical and ethical unity of humankind. No doubt dealing with climate change will be costly, but the issue is not just one of resources. It entails taking responsibility, not just for our own actions, but for the very future of the planet.

It may not be fully appreciated that *all* questions of responsibility are ultimately ethical.

Quite naturally, the word “ethics” tends to be associated with only one aspect of the work of SHS: the ethics of science and technology, which has been our main strategic priority since 2002. Indeed, we work with countries from every region of the earth to strengthen their analytical capacity to respond to ethical questions arising from scientific and technological developments. This spring, the focus will be on Africa, as the International Bioethics Committee meets in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss the African perspective on bioethics issues.

The field of ethics is, however, much broader. Since the essence of our work concerns human beings, nearly everything SHS does has a powerful ethical thrust.

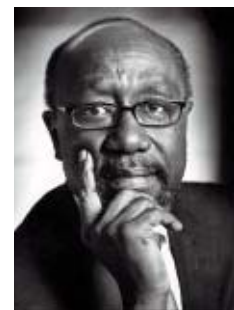
This is especially evident in our work in the field of human rights. Our rights and our responsibilities towards others – including but not limited to respecting their rights – derive precisely from universal principles that make sense only in ethical terms. Similarly, ethical principles guide our programmes with regard to the advancement of human rights, to the promotion of gender equality, and to the struggle against discrimination.

The human rights dimension of poverty is of profound ethical significance. SHS activities to combat poverty from a human rights perspective coordinate and streamline UNESCO’s efforts to empower the poor to bring about positive changes in their lives.

This ethical approach also applies to the larger social transformations linked to globalization. The Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme is designed to enhance the analytical capacity of Member States to understand and anticipate the implications of a fast-changing world for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations. In other words: to design ethical policies.

Similarly, the anti-doping programme is an integral part of our ethical mandate – the use of performance enhancing drugs directly undermines the ethical principles that underpin sports. With the entry into force in February 2007 of the International Convention against Doping in Sport, we have taken this ethical principle a step further.

And ethics, of course, has always been central to philosophy – an area in which we have a unique mandate as an intellectual organization. The dossier in this issue shows the real ethical implications, in the international context, of the philosophical questions we deal with. For without an ethical perspective, policy is ultimately rudderless. Not only do ethical and analytical capacities not conflict: each is indispensable to the other. ¶



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Assistant Director-General for  
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In a world undergoing great change, the “conscience” aspect of the United Nations, which has been UNESCO’s since its inception, is becoming increasingly important. Among UNESCO’s five priority programmes, **the Ethics of Science and Technology, implemented by the Organization’s Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) aims, through ethical reflection, to guide progress in the life sciences and technological development.** This ethical reflection takes into account the cultural, legal, philosophical and religious heritage of the world’s different communities. Through normative action, awareness-raising and strengthening the capacities of its Member States, UNESCO is striving to fulfil its mandate as the “lead” international organization for ethical issues.

# Ethics and bioethics – a challenge for Africa

**After COMEST in December 2006, it will be the turn of the International Bioethics Committee to hold its meeting in Africa, in May 2007. The African Union recently pledged to ensure a scrupulous application of scientific ethics to prevent all practices harmful to populations, natural resources and the environment.**

Last January, Ethiopia hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union, which focused on “Science, Technology and Scientific Research for Development”.

By adopting the Addis Ababa Declaration, more than 50 Heads of State and Government committed themselves to “ensure scrupulous application of scientific ethics in Africa with a view to preserving the continent’s environment and



“Medicine man” – a peddler of medicines in the streets of Niamey, Niger.

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natural resources and preventing all practices harmful to African populations”.

While advances in science and technology have been and can be the source of great benefits for humanity, such progress cannot be conceived without reflection on the ethical, legal, cultural and social implications.

Access to health care, research, disease prevention, protection of the environment, biodiversity and biotechnologies are some of the bioethical challenges facing Africa. The African Summit thus provided African decision-makers with an excellent opportunity to formulate and coordinate responses to these challenges.

The recent toxic waste crisis in Côte d’Ivoire, exposing the vulnerability of populations and ecosystems in Africa, illustrates not only the urgent need for African countries to strengthen their scientific, technological and organizational capacities, but also to question the impact of science and its technological applica-

tions on human health and the environment, as well as their implications for respect for human dignity and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

On the one hand, there is the need for African countries to build a consensus and strategies so as to maximize the benefits of technologies while taking into account the potential risks for the environment and health and the ethical issues that might be raised. But on the other hand, African countries need to take an active part in the ethical reflection and evolution of debate at international level and develop an informative and democratic debate within their own societies.

Initiatives such as the Pan-African Bioethics Days for West and Central Africa, organized in July 2005 in Senegal, and then in Cameroon in June 2006, are doubtless a step in this direction. →

## GEObs 4 – Database on ethics-related legislation and guidelines

In the context of expanding the fourth Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs) database, a meeting of experts will be held in Paris, from 28 to 30 March 2007.

The international launch of this database, gradually putting online the different legislation that already exists, will be held during the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the International

Bioethics Committee (IBC). ¶

Please email any questions to: [geobs@unesco.org](mailto:geobs@unesco.org)  
GEObs is accessible on: <http://www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs>

➔ Given this context, what should be UNESCO's role? While it is up to African States to review and evaluate independently the use of advanced technologies, so that they have the means to take their own decisions on these issues, the Organization should work to strengthen Africa's capacities and address the ethical concerns raised by scientific and technological developments. UNESCO's action aims to:

- increase African countries' public awareness and capacity to deal with the ethical and social issues triggered by science and technology;
- support African countries in implementing the provisions of UNESCO Declarations on bioethics;
- encourage the setting up of national bioethics committees and strengthen their functioning; and
- promote ethics teaching on the African continent.

A number of projects have been launched and several events already organized on the African continent: the development of curricula on environmental ethics in cooperation with the University of Lomé, Togo; a resource centre for Africa, in cooperation with the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at Egerton University in Kenya, which will host the second teacher-training course in ethics in July 2007; two pilot projects for the establishment of national bioethics committees in Malawi and Ghana; and a regional meeting of experts in ethics teaching for Maghreb countries is foreseen for summer 2007.

#### IBC meeting in Kenya

At the invitation of the Government of Senegal, the UNESCO World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) held its Fifth Ordinary Session in December 2006 in Dakar. Among the topics addressed: ethics education, environmental ethics, ethics of science and scientists' responsibility, and African perspectives on the ethical dimensions of the interaction between biodiversity, GMOs and biotechnology. During the session there was also a youth forum on the subject of researchers' social responsibility in Africa, and Senegal's Ministry of Scientific Research organized a regional meeting of Ministers, which adopted the Dakar Declaration on the Ethics of Science in Africa.

These issues are of particular importance and the 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the International Bioethics Committee, to take place from 17 to 19 May 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya, is also a major event for the countries of Africa. Organized by the Government of Kenya and UNESCO, this meeting will provide an opportunity to debate two of the principles set down in the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted in 2005: the principles of consent, and social responsibility and health.

The IBC will be completing its work on these two principles and a whole session will deal with the Africa perspective of bioethics. ¶

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See pages 5 to 8 for the interview with Nouzha Guessous Idrissi, Chairperson of IBC.

## Ethics and bioethics to the fore in Asia and the Pacific

With several meetings on the education of ethics planned for February and April in Japan, Pakistan, Indonesia, Fiji and Samoa, some 150 regional experts are expected to take part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Table on Bioethics organized by the UNESCO Office in Bangkok, from 19 to 23 March 2007.

Taking place at the same time in Thailand's capital is the 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Bioethics Conference, extending a series of round tables that have been organized in the region over the past two years. All these meetings confirm that an important stage has been reached with regard to the development of ethics in Asia and the Pacific. A UNESCO Asia-Pacific school of ethics has recently been established, thus reaffirming the dialogue that has developed since the first UNESCO Asian Bioethics Conference was held ten years ago. This school will bring together several institutes and individuals involved in the ethics of the environment, medical

ethics and, more generally, ethics education, which is one of the main regional priorities. Last July, the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Conference on Bioethics Education, organized in Seoul in partnership with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, developed a regional plan defining the goals and targets for bioethics education. The different meetings foreseen for the first quarter of 2007 should help define this plan further and encourage networking among the various partners. Whatever their format, these meetings are open to everyone, and will provide a space for critical reflection, thus enabling the cultural realities of the region to be better taken into account, while at the same time strengthening a multidisciplinary, holistic community that is determined to work with UNESCO to build a more ethical future. ¶

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For two years, the UNESCO Bangkok Office has been increasing the number of meetings held in the region. The photo is of the Consultation on codes of ethics held in 2006, in India.



# Bioethics and women's rights: a meeting of minds

One chairs the International Bioethics Committee (IBC). The other is a judge, adviser to the Moroccan Minister of Justice, and the first woman from an Arab State to have been appointed to the International Committee against Torture. Both have fought for human rights for many years, each on the basis of her own history, convictions and personality.

To mark International Women's Day 2007, *SHS Views* interviews two eminent Moroccans: Nouzha Guessous-Idrissi and Saadia Belmir.

**In May this year the IBC will be meeting in Africa for the second time in its history. Do you think people are interested in bioethics issues – people in the developing countries in particular?**

**Nouzha Guessous-Idrissi:** There is a dawning awareness, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, on the part of governmental and other authorities and the public at large, following some dramatic events. In 2004, an international clinical trial was carried out in Cameroon, Nigeria and Ghana comparing an anti-retroviral drug against a placebo, totally disregarding the ethical rules – and many women were infected with the AIDS virus as a result. More recently, the dumping of toxic waste in Abidjan in August 2006 has raised major issues of bioethics and social responsibility and brought bioethics into the arena of public debate. The research ministers of ECOWAS countries, at their meeting in Dakar last January, showed awareness of these issues' importance and undertook to promote bioethics in their countries by establishing ethics committees or providing support and encouragement to existing ones, and by promoting bioethics education and awareness among teachers and the media. In North Africa, these issues are not yet a matter of public debate except among health professionals and academics. Owing to the public authorities' inadequate awareness of and commitment to bioethics issues, Africa and the Arab countries have become a priority for UNESCO and the IBC in 2007. Holding the IBC meeting in Africa is but one step.

**Saadia Belmir:** We lag behind the developed societies in awareness of bioethics issues among the public and in civil society. These questions are simply not on the agenda. One of the disadvantages facing the developing countries concerns access to information in general, and access to law in particular. There is a gap between the people who design or promulgate decisions and those who are required to apply them and to take part in

Interview



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their implementation. Everyday events are quite instructive in that regard. Ideas and strategies are being proposed all over the world in order to bridge these gaps; but civil society is only beginning to be active in the developing countries, and has not yet reached the stage at which it can be effective either in making or implementing decisions.

Bioethics raises as many moral, religious and legal issues. In the Arab Muslim world these issues are being considered in depth, both by Ulema and by jurisprudential councils. A piecemeal approach is being taken to some issues, and it will be a long time before solutions are devised for enactment by lawmakers in these countries. Professionals are already being called on to think about these matters, but other aspects must be considered as well and all stakeholders must be involved.

**N.G-I.:** By definition bioethics calls for a pluralist debate, since it raises societal issues, and therefore the involvement of society as a whole in any standardization project. Ethics committees must consist of professionals, but they must also include representatives of existing cultures, religions and philosophies. Uneasiness about such a pluralist debate and the sensitive issues that it might raise, regarding religion in particular, may perhaps deter the promotion of bioethics in Arab or Muslim countries. →

→ **Some aspects of bioethics concern women in particular, for example, questions connected with reproduction. Is it your impression that thinking about bioethics – and ethical issues raised by scientific and technological progress generally – is contributing to the promotion of women's rights?**

**S.B.:** Other important aspects, such as access to information, education, essential everyday services and, above all, respect for human dignity must be taken into consideration too. If bioethics issues or reflection address these needs, then they will perform contribute to the promotion of human rights in general.

**N.G.I.:** Bioethics entails the application of human rights principles to the life and health sciences, and to technology. The founding principles of both human rights and bioethics include personal autonomy, the primacy of the interests of the individual person and exclusion of any consideration of race, gender or biological, social, cultural or economic characteristics. The progress and applications of science and technology must be assessed in the light of these principles. In medically assisted reproduction, for instance, prenatal and pre-implantation diag-



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**“On bioethics issues we are out of step with developed societies.”**

nostic techniques have been developed to provide solutions for barren couples or for persons at risk of giving birth to a baby affected by genetic disease. It has been noted, however, that the techniques are being misused in some countries for the purposes of gender selection and the destruction of female embryos. This practice is gender-discriminatory and has been declared unethical by the **IBC**. It is clear from this example that bioethics protects the rights of women by condemning practices that discriminate against women.

**What do you consider to be the worst remaining obstacles to gender equality in the world and in the Arab world in particular?**

**S.B.:** Ignorance, illiteracy, prejudice and collective representation, especially in the Arab world. I do not mean women's illiteracy only, but also general illiteracy which prevents one from knowing the law and from having a culture of human rights. The cumulative effect of value judgements is a lack of confidence in women's effective and positive participation in the management of their own families and in public affairs. As long as women are not sufficiently involved in providing information, raising awareness and promoting participation, things will not change, however sophisticated the weapons in the legislative arsenal.

**N.G.I.:** The laws in force in the Arab States in particular are still very discriminatory. Though they have long been fairer in Tunisia, and in Morocco since the Family Code was enacted in 2004, there are still inequalities in most Arab countries. Even where the laws are more equitable, women do not necessarily enjoy rights, owing to the lack of information and to institutional, social and cultural resistance of various kinds, thus raising the question of the adoption of national policies on education for a culture of equality. More generally, though, women's economic situation and greater exposure to poverty and precarious livelihoods make them so vulnerable that they are forced to accept, and even sanction and perpetuate, discriminatory practices, as if ordained by fate. This highlights the need to promote economic, political, social and cultural measures in support of any legislative reform so that women may appropriate and enjoy rights granted them by the law.

**S.B.:** Some of the obstacles are raised by women themselves and stem from their attitudes. Frustration, prejudice and negative value judgements together make women's behaviour towards other women less than positive. They themselves lack confidence in the woman's role in the family and in society. This matter must be studied and an attempt must be made to find a remedy.

**N.G.I.:** Yes. Women are not only subjected to discriminatory practices, but sometimes perpetuate them in their relations with other women and, in particular, in the upbringing of their sons, in whom they instil a culture of superiority. This is definitely a problem of mentality, in regard to which awareness must be raised. →



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**“Yes, women are subjected to some discriminatory practices but they can also perpetuate them.”**

→ **The question of women’s role and position in Muslim societies is often poorly understood and wrongly portrayed. How are the stereotypes to be deconstructed? And what do you think of the idea of Muslim feminism?**

**N.G-I.:** Despite and perhaps also because of the explosive growth in the means of communication and the political instrumentalization of religion, the role and position of women in Muslim countries is still dominated in the Western imagination by images of the harem. To deconstruct these stereotypes, the spotlight must be turned on the ongoing debates and struggles in Arab and Muslim countries, in particular on whether “Islam” allows women to be given greater rights. The essence of religion is of course divine, but its practices are strictly human and subject to change temporally, spatially and contextually. I am basically convinced that there is no intrinsic opposition between Islam and gender equality since the founding principles of Islam are human dignity, justice, equality and equity. A historical and contextualized interpretation of the Koran can pave the way to radical reforms leading to gender equality. In Morocco, great strides have been made towards greater equity

in the Family Code, which is based on the principles of Islam, to move in the direction of greater fairness. By advocating a rereading – by women in particular – of the basic texts of Islam, the movement that promotes the concept of “Muslim feminism” could lead to the development of arguments that all feminists in Muslim countries could use in furtherance of their cause. It could increase dialogue among Muslims themselves and between Muslims and others and thus deconstruct the stereotypes. It should also aim to reinstate what I call “Feminist Islam” and raise its profile. I am still convinced, though, that such a movement can achieve these goals only if it is also wholly consistent with the universal standards of human rights. This amounts, in fact, to asserting these universal requirements while demonstrating that the requirements of Islam do not conflict in any way with those principles.

**S.B.:** One interpretation of the texts suggests that our religion opposes women’s rights, though of course it does nothing of the sort. I earnestly advise women to read and learn from the texts and thus arrive at their own interpretation. In regard to the issue of stereotypes, the current attitude is somewhat schizophrenic: on the one hand there is a desire for women to be enlightened, beautiful and presentable but, on the other, it is undesirable for them to be fully involved in public life. In Arab and Muslim countries, changes are emerging to varying extents, either as a result of international pressure and the mechanisms established to protect human rights or as a result of active involvement by civil society.

**You both hold high office in international institutions. Do you think that there is a satisfactory balance today between men and women in the decision-making process? Do women have to make greater efforts to be heard and acknowledged by their peers?**

**N.G-I.:** At the level of international institutions, especially in the United Nations family, women’s participation is encouraged, or even statutorily required, although full parity has still not been achieved. In national decision-making bodies a great deal remains to be done if women are to be fairly represented. Clearly, women must become more involved and stake their claims more assertively, but responsibility also lies with the public authorities and the legislators, who must take positive steps to boost women’s participation. In society at large, educational and awareness-raising efforts must be made to build confidence in women and their capabilities, in particular, to take part in political life and stand for election. Men and women must change their way of thinking. Women hold only 10.8% of the seats in the Moroccan Parliament and only 0.58% in local authority councils! Not for lack of candidates, but because they are not supported by their political parties. Yet it is crucial that women take part in executive and legislative institutions and in the organizations that defend human rights, for there are far too many excuses for discrimination against them, especially in the name of “cultural speci- →

→ ficity". Of course the prevailing criterion of merit must apply to all, but it is applied rather too readily to exclude women, who have to prove again and again that they are capable, competent and professional, even though the international evidence shows that women in positions of power are not only perfectly competent and productive, but also less corruptible.

**S.B.:** After one year on the Committee against Torture, I am amazed at the calibre of the women in international bodies. They have a high level of expertise and contribute efficiently to decision-making. At national level there is much to be done to train women who must, moreover, argue convincingly and actually work. It is only through their work and through genuine participation that they can contribute to decision-making. If women are considered to form part of society, clearly their participation is essential because of the important role that they play both in the family and in public life generally. This is also a matter of change over time: we are often reminded by the way people behave that they are far from believing fully in equality; they have to be convinced that women deserve, because of their knowledge and skills, to participate genuinely in public affairs.

**Do you feel that significant steps to achieve gender equality have been taken around the world since 8 March 2006?**

**S.B.:** There has been progress in the world, and even in the developing countries. Governments and civil society have made efforts to that end, but with reference to objective criteria, there has been far more in the way of violation than progress, given that women suffer, for instance, from wrongs perpetrated in wars. Violence against women's physical and moral integrity is gaining ground and is evident in both the developed and developing countries. Furthermore, many women are dying as a result of violence from husbands, relations or others.

**N.G-I.:** There was one big symbolic advance in 2006: a woman was elected President of Chile. Also, the right to vote and to stand for election has been granted recently in some Arab countries. When we look at the situation of women around the world, though, there has not been any spectacular progress. In many regions, the situation is still predominantly one of poverty, illiteracy, discriminatory laws and social practices, and the under-representation of women in positions of power. Women are still the main victims of poverty, disease and war; they often live in precarious circumstances. International awareness is growing, however, and there is increasing pressure for human rights in general and women's rights in particular. In any case, there is no other choice if we are to move forward. ¶

Interview by **Souria Saad-Zoy**



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➔ **NOUZHA GUESSOUS-IDRISSI**

Nouzha Guessous-Idrissi is a biochemist, a former professor and head of parasitology at the Faculty of Medicine and the Casablanca University Hospital. In 1999 she became a consultant with WHO, and in 2006 a member of the Grand Jury of the European Commission Descartes Prize for Scientific Research. Nouzha Guessous-Idrissi became a member of UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee (IBC) in 2000 and was elected Chairperson in December 2005. She is also a member of the Moroccan Association of Bioethics and of the Biomedical Research Ethics Committee of Casablanca. She took part in the founding of the Moroccan Organization of Human Rights and acts as consultant to NGOs for women's rights. She has also been a member of the Royal Advisory Commission for reform of Family Law in Morocco, and in 2003 His Majesty King Mohamed VI awarded her the "Wissam du Mérite National du grade de Commandant". ¶



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➔ **SAADIA BELMIR**

Saadia Belmir holds a doctorate in Public Law (University of Paris-II), a DES in Political Science (Mohamed V University) and an International Diploma in Human Rights (IUH Strasbourg). She held the positions of High Court Judge in Rabat, deputy public prosecutor, and Adviser to the Court of Appeal, before being seconded as Adviser to the Minister of Justice of Morocco, in September 2005.

A Justice of the Supreme Court, Saadia Belmir has also sat on the Constitutional Council. She taught at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, was a member of the Francophone International Institute of Law and of the Advisory Board on Human Rights. In November 2005 Saadia Belmir was appointed to the United Nations Committee Against Torture. ¶



The promotion of human rights as inscribed in UNESCO's Constitution is one of the main assignments of the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS). Within the United Nations reform strategy, which places human rights at the heart of all its programmes, SHS works to encourage and disseminate human rights research; to promote education in human rights; to lead action in the fight against all forms of discrimination at national, regional and international level; to encourage cooperation among all actors and networks; to promote democracy and to further reflection on new forms of violence, notably by drawing up regional plans for human security.

## 30<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day

**For International Women's Day, the United Nations and UNESCO invite the whole world to end impunity for violence against women.**

A few months ago the Secretary-General of the United Nations published an "In-depth study on all forms of violence against women",\* and "16 days of activism to end violence against women" was organized between the last International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November) and International Human Rights Day (10 December).

By the symbolic linking of those dates, the United Nations is underlining how violence against women is a human rights violation and in calling on the international community to end impunity for violence against women, on 8 March 2007, the UN has shown it is giving more visibility to this combat.

As the UN Secretary-General says in his study: violence against women impoverishes communities and reinforces other forms of violence in society. Deeply rooted in the structural inequalities between women and men, violence against women is no longer a private matter, but one of public interest which requires State accountability.

As part of the international community, the UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector is playing a role to help develop Member States' capacities to end the structural inequalities that cause violence against women and to promote women's rights and gender equality. SHS is drafting and disseminating policy recommendations on:

- globalization and women's socio-economic, political, and cultural conditions and rights;
- socio-cultural institutions, laws and practices, and ways in which they inhibit or promote gender equality; and
- women and gender relations in situations of armed conflict and tensions and ways to promote women's involvement in conflict resolution, peace-building and reconstruction.

To tackle violence against women who are victims in conflict or post-conflict areas, SHS is also helping to set up Women's Research and Documentation Centres that promote the development of evidence-based policies, act as an observatory on women's rights issues and as a clearing house on women's rights and gender equality.



Despite the after effects, rape victims from South Kivu (DRC) try to rebuild their lives. Photo from a study by a doctoral student in history and philosophy at the University of Paris X.

The first such Centre was inaugurated in the Palestinian Territories in January 2006. A second Centre is being established in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to serve the Great Lakes region in Africa. ¶

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\* A/61/122/Add.1

### TOOLS

**The Maghreb – online data**  
Launched in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 2005, during a workshop on the economic, social and cultural rights of women in the Maghreb, the database on human rights from a gender perspective will be extended to Libya and Tunisia

in 2007. This tool groups together relevant information on Ministries, research centres, universities, Chairs and associations in Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania, and promotes the dissemination of the various partners' activities. ¶  
[www.unesco.ma/droits\\_humains](http://www.unesco.ma/droits_humains)

# 21 March 2007 - Internation

## No centralized event this year, but some highly committed National Commissions.

**As action is taken daily to combat discrimination, the International Day against racism is an opportunity to honour the National Commissions for UNESCO, which take such initiatives throughout the year.**

### North America

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 21 March, is also Poetry Day in many countries. For two years running the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCU) has chosen to combine the two celebrations. In 2005, it inaugurated Poetry Day for Intercultural Dialogue in Ottawa, and the chosen theme was African-inspired poetry. The theme in 2006 was Latin American-inspired poetry. In 2007 the CCU is supporting the Anti-Racism Caravan, a public awareness campaign in schools conducted by the Youth-Family Alliance of the Alberta Society, which will also be putting up posters on Montreal street corners warning people to be vigilant and resist discrimination.

Indeed the CCU's activities are going from strength to strength, with more partners every year. Following its report on UNESCO's Recommendation against Discrimination in Education jointly with the Canadian Council of Ministers of Education, the initiative that it coordinates with a view to the establishment of a Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism has forged ahead in recent months.

In cooperation with the Human Rights Commissions of Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, Canadian municipalities' associations (FCM, AUMA, UMQ, AMO) and the National Association of Friendship Centres, 11 municipalities have already signified their willingness to share their experience and promote respect for human rights. A comparative study of assessment indicators for municipal anti-discrimination policies, conducted by CRIEC (the immigration, ethnicity and citizenship research centre in Montreal), already provides a reference framework.

Many meetings have been scheduled for 2007 to identify the research areas of most use to these municipalities; from 21 March onwards these will each be a milestone in action to combat racism in Canada.

### Africa

The UNESCO Office in Bamako, which disseminates knowledge and information on racial discrimination among the population groups most actively involved (victims of discrimination, opinion-formers and policy decision-makers), also celebrates 21 March each year. Since 2004, when it organized a conference on *New forms of slavery: the impact on development in Africa*, the International Day has brought opportunities for extending the Office's action against all forms of slavery. In 2005, when UNESCO launched a wide-ranging project based in Mali to combat human trafficking in West Africa, an exhibition of contemporary art was held at the National Museum in Bamako to make some 500 university students and teachers aware of the new forms of slavery.

In 2007, with the assistance of the Mali National Commission for UNESCO, a round table will be attended by various societal stake- ➔

## UNESCO puts online 4 anti-discrimination studies



A few months ago, as part of its capacity-building contribution to efforts by UNESCO Member States to combat racism and under its policy of making research findings accessible to all, the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS)

launched a series of Discussion Papers in partnership with the International Coalition of Cities Against Racism.

The first four Papers are now available on the SHS website. Their purpose is to help municipalities to improve the formulation of their policies against discrimination and stimulate public debate on the issues.

Two of the studies have been compiled by UQAM researchers (University of Quebec at Montreal, Canada) and are available in French:

Discussion Paper No.1 is a glossary on racism, containing operational definitions on racism and related matters, and Paper No.3 concerns assessment indicators for municipal anti-racism and anti-discrimination policies.

Discussion Papers No.2 and No.4 are available in English, both produced by the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (Graz, Austria). They contain two surveys of the measures taken by municipalities together with recommendations

for further action to combat racism through education, on the one hand, and to achieve greater vigilance against racism, on the other. ¶

To download these studies, please consult the website:

[www.unesco.org/shs/citiesagainstracism](http://www.unesco.org/shs/citiesagainstracism)

To request hard copies, please contact:  
**Jun Morohashi**, [j.morohashi@unesco.org](mailto:j.morohashi@unesco.org),  
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# al Day against Racism



→ holders who are keen to break the taboo on this subject and to establish, within African societies, a culture of peace in which everyone will be treated with dignity and respect. Despite the many public awareness campaigns that have been conducted for a number of years, slavery is still practised in Africa under various guises. Indeed, some believe that young Africans are still being “deported” to the developed countries.

## Europe

Although the 2006 World Cup has shown that Germany is an open and welcoming country, racial discrimination is still a burning issue there and in many other European countries. Discriminatory behaviour

continues to exist and many hundreds of racially motivated assaults are committed in Europe each year.

The year 2006 marked an important milestone, as European directives to combat discrimination came into force, but further steps, such as national action plans, are still necessary and public awareness, especially among the young, must be raised.

In these circumstances, the German decision to celebrate a national Fortnight of Action Against Racism was a sign of the determination of the country’s Government and NGOs to fight harder against this scourge. Most of the churches were involved in promoting an “inter-cultural week” in September 2006, and this year’s International Action Week Against Racism (20-24 March) will be marked by some 40 organizations, including the German Commission for UNESCO and the country’s network of UNESCO Associated Schools, which will be distributing to a better targeted readership the information material produced for the general public by the German NGO “Interkultureller Rat”. The material will include an 80-page booklet containing information about racism in Germany, outlining best practices for fighting it and suggesting topics for discussion and class work on the subject. ¶

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## European Coalition of Cities against Racism meets in Nuremberg

On 30 January last, in Berlin, Germany, the year 2007 was proclaimed “European Year of Equal Opportunities for All” at the Equal Opportunity Summit when the European Coalition of Cities against Racism was presented to the gathering as a Coalition that now groups around sixty municipalities across fourteen countries.

2007 should be the year for strengthening the cooperation of this network of cities with the various European entities. It is in fact within the framework of the German

presidency of the European Union that the city of Nuremberg (headquarters of the Secretariat of the European Coalition since it was established in 2004) will host the 1<sup>st</sup> General Conference of this Coalition from 10 to 12 May. “Sharing competence and empowering communities: the role of cities in challenging racism and discrimination” is the title of the Conference, co-organized by UNESCO, which will group together member cities of the Coalition and other municipalities engaged

in this challenge, as well as the various civil society actors. Besides a panel on recommendations to municipal authorities in order to overcome racism, several debates are planned on different subjects varying from the major challenges confronting municipalities to exemplary action that has already been taken with regard to education, employment, housing and health, and the way cooperation can be improved between the different European, national and local levels, as well as cooperation with civil society actors.

Young Europeans will also be invited to take part in a Youth Forum. At this 1<sup>st</sup> General Conference, suggested group action for cities that are members of the Coalition will be discussed, in order to strengthen the network’s capacities in communication and research. After the adoption of the draft statutes of the European Coalition, a new Steering Committee will be elected. ¶

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## International conference on human security in Africa



Education and promotion of the role of women in development are one of the priorities for Africa.

of the most important networks and initiatives dealing with human security in Africa.

One session was devoted to the presentation of the activities of intergovernmental organizations such as the African Union, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC, NEPAD, United Nations Specialized Agencies and the Human Security Network. During a subsequent working session, NGOs (WANEP, SAIIA, SAHRIT, SARPN, etc.) reported on their activities. At the closing session of the Conference, presentations were given by CODESRIA, the University of Peace, the African Futures Institute, the African Leadership Forum and the African Human Security Initiative (AHSI).

As is the case at each of these UNESCO conferences on human security, continent by continent, there was lengthy discussion on a study combining ethical, normative and education structures promoting human security in Africa. Participants in the Pretoria Conference proposed amendments to the study, to be published in the UNESCO series of studies – those on Latin America and the Caribbean, Central Asia, East Asia, Arab States have already been published – which was launched in 2004.

In their report, Jakkie Cilliers of the ISS and Jo-Ansie van Wyk from the University of South Africa, were agreed on proposing the following as priorities for Africa: strengthening systems for conflict prevention, management and resolution; promotion and protection of democracy and human rights; extending education and health care; promotion of the role of women in social and economic development; capacity-building for States to maintain law and order; and monitoring and reporting on States' activities. ¶

For more information, please contact: **Claudia Maresia**, [peace&security@unesco.org](mailto:peace&security@unesco.org), tel.: + 33 1 45 68 45 53

### Priorities for the continent decided early March 2007 in Pretoria, South Africa.

An international conference organized by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) and UNESCO, in Pretoria, South Africa, on 5 and 6 March 2007, gave the first overall view of all activities – under way and foreseen – on human security in Africa, in order to decide on priorities for this region of the world. Chaired by Jakkie Cilliers, Executive Director, ISS, and Pierre Sané, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, the conference brought together representatives

### TOOLS

#### New online tool

The Internet site of the UNESCO/ISESCO Arab Research-Action Network on economic, social and cultural rights (ARADESC) was set up in 2006. This site is a really useful tool. It contains documents on cultural rights, education and human rights. The Network is made up of national human rights institutions, associations, UNESCO Chairs, universities and research centres (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia). ¶ [www.unesco.ma/ARADESC](http://www.unesco.ma/ARADESC)

## UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education

The Centre for Human Rights, at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, has been awarded the 2006 UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education. There were two honourable mentions: one went to the *European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation* of the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation in Venice, Italy; and

the other to the *One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival* in the Czech Republic. The award ceremony will be held in Pretoria on 21 March 2007 on the occasion of National Human Rights Day in South Africa. ¶

For more information: [uphre@unesco.org](mailto:uphre@unesco.org) **website:** [www.unesco.org/human\\_rights](http://www.unesco.org/human_rights)

## Youth and AIDS – workshop in Burundi

From 16 to 20 March 2007, the UNESCO Office in Bujumbura, Burundi, in partnership with the Government of Burundi, several United Nations Agencies, and many youth organizations committed to fighting for the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, will be organizing a subregional workshop on HIV/AIDS capacity-building for young people, gender equality and human rights in the countries of the Great Lakes region (Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda). This workshop will be open to representatives of the above organizations, students and young people affected by and/or infected with the AIDS virus, and to people

from marginalized groups. It should help establish a network of youth organizations of the subregion and set up a platform for action on HIV, gender equality and human rights. The workshop should thus help raise young people's awareness and encourage their commitment with regard to HIV/AIDS, particularly prevention and the fight against discrimination linked to the virus. ¶

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## Let's get philosophical!

This dossier was prepared by the **Human Security, Democracy and Philosophy Section**.

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**UNESCO was responsible for instituting a World Philosophy Day, now an event whose popularity is growing year by year. On this year's International Women's Day, 8 March 2007, UNESCO is calling for a worldwide network of women philosophers. This initiative shows how philosophy at UNESCO is constantly striving to bring to the fore the great issues at stake in the modern world.**

**Indeed, the Organization itself arose out of the desire to explore the necessary conditions for lasting peace and security in the world and it has always maintained close links with "philosophy", not in the sense of a speculative or rule-making system, but as a critical spirit of questioning which enables us to give meaning to life and conduct in the international arena.**

**This work, far from being an exhaustive account, gives an insight into an organization which, by providing an institutional response to a philosophical question, is itself a philosophical institution in many ways.**

# The history of a Philosophical Institution

**Year after year, UNESCO's concern with philosophy has galvanized philosophical reflection as a means of acting, rather than standing idly by, while the modern world is transformed – and has enhanced its visibility in the process.**

In 1948, not long after the atrocities of the Second World War, the philosopher Jacques Maritain, Head of the French Delegation to the Mexico City Conference, argued cogently that there was a vital need for a surge in active humanity and to combat the spread of fatalism and feelings of powerlessness that were so widespread at that time.

Exactly what role could UNESCO play in such a situation?

Maritain was forthright about what he saw as the trouble: how could there be a basis for common thought – for a common philosophy, that is – when there was such open dissension among certain States? Was such a project not merely Utopian, doomed to failure? Was it necessary to iron out all cultural, intellectual and political differences? Can such differences ever be ignored?

That was a dilemma actually faced by UNESCO from the outset. The Organization's philosophical mission may not thus be restricted to analytical observations of theory, for its *raison d'être* is action and philosophy is its essence.

This brings to mind the Organization's great debt to Jeanne Hersch, the woman who founded the Philosophy Division in 1966 at the request of the then Director-General, René

Maheu. For it was she who, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, edited a seminal work, *Birthright of Man*, collecting and collating quotations on human rights from all of the world's cultural traditions.

Much has been written about the system of "idealist" values for which UNESCO's Constitution, adopted in 1945, stands. That value system has, however, for nearly six decades, been subjected to strains and called into question, which have both often inspired new thought.

Philosophy has recently become once more a real and driving force for the Organization and for the public. Its new lease of life is symbolized by the celebration, in more than 100 Member States, of World Philosophy Day.

The variety of the events held to mark Philosophy Day illustrates a keenness to engage in genuine philosophical reflection and debate on the issues facing the modern world, namely cultural diversity, social justice, ethics, the media, democracy, citizenship and so on. Humanity – "neither beast nor angel", to quote Pascal – is never so human as in such shared moments of philosophical disputation when students and professionals gather together with less expert members of the public, all motivated by a common urge to discuss matters in a critical and exploratory spirit.

Opening up one's thoughts to scrutiny by another is the very essence of the philosophical exercise and must often be repeated to avoid the false security of knowledge deemed to have been acquired forever.

Year after year, in fact, UNESCO's action to promote philosophy injects new energy into philosophical reflection and enhances its visibility, as it takes centre stage, unfolding in many acts composed of different but inseparable moments.

The very first matter of moment is one of space for UNESCO, in the same way as a modern agora or forum, has opened its doors wide to hold up to view the burgeoning vitality of philosophical reflection, a demanding but uplifting exercise in which everyone is warmly invited to partake.

The second equally fundamental matter of moment is acceptance of open and generous dialogue within that space dedicated to philosophy and it entails radically combating wilful ignorance which is the delight of all dogmatists who still let it be known, in the name of this school or that tradition, that they possess Truth and, what is more, the one right method of verifying knowledge. This second moment is quite properly the one of openness to dialogue, discussion, exchange and even polemical cut and thrust, all key moments in the exposition and development of philosophical ideas and concepts. →

**The Philosophy, as supported by UNESCO, is in no sense a collection of knowledge transferred to an audience despised as "inferior".**

**What are your Chair's priorities in the promotion of philosophy? Prof. Humberto Giannini, UNESCO Chair of Philosophy, University of Chile (Chile)** "The aim of the UNESCO Chair of Philosophy in Chile is to reposition philosophy and raise its profile in social dialogue throughout the country, by encouraging critical thought about contemporary issues. We also think it necessary to foster communication links between philosophy at university and philosophy in schools. To do this, the Chair plans to develop and introduce a postgraduate diploma (*Postítulo*) for secondary school teachers of philosophy and intends to promote a philosophy curriculum for schoolchildren through courses on the subject during basic teacher training." ¶

**Website:** [www.uchile.cl/facultades/filosofia/frameset.htm](http://www.uchile.cl/facultades/filosofia/frameset.htm)

→ The third crucial moment is educational, being the moment when philosophy can play its most vital, and its most risky, role. *Vital* in that philosophy education remains one of the keys to developing the faculty of judgement – and consequently of ethical discernment. *Risky* in that owing to current events and changes that are increasingly fraught with history and spirituality, education can no longer be all-embracing, for everyone has witnessed the accelerating, and sometimes near-hysterical, pace of times in politics, religion, social change, and consequently education and teaching, as demands for technological progress grow and the confused outflow of information swells daily. The latter is anti-philosophical, for philosophical thought requires firstly inner reflection and then disclosure to permit examination by others, and such exercises demand patience, time and self-criticism.

Philosophy, it must be remembered, is critical in the original Greek sense: it must always involve the labour of sorting, of informed selection and, in a sense, filtering raw information. Information does not amount to training. This has led UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector to review the current state of philosophy education worldwide, which should inform guidelines and recommendations based on an overall view of achievements and shortfalls in this field.

UNESCO can but answer the question “What life is worth living?”. The question can be couched in terms of rights, above all the right to education, in terms of support for multilateral endeavours by States, and above all by civil society, to avoid resigned and powerless acceptance of conditions imposed on whole continents or peoples as if by fate.

These three philosophical moments show that UNESCO does not merely acknowledge the importance of philosophy as a formality, while doing no more than voicing support. On the contrary, these

**What are your Chair's priorities in the promotion of philosophy?** **Prof. In-Suk Cha, UNESCO Chair in Philosophy at Seoul National University (Republic of Korea)** “Established in 1995 in accordance with UNESCO's programme of “Philosophy and Democracy in the World,” the Asia-Pacific Philosophy Education Network for Democracy (APPEND) has the capacity to assist in developing model transcultural curricula, texts and materials for democracy education at each level of the region's various school systems”. ¶

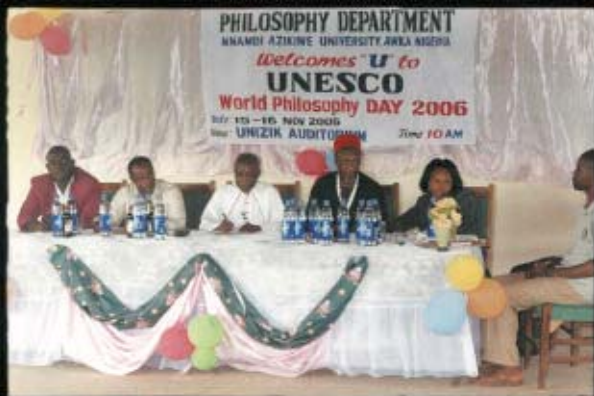
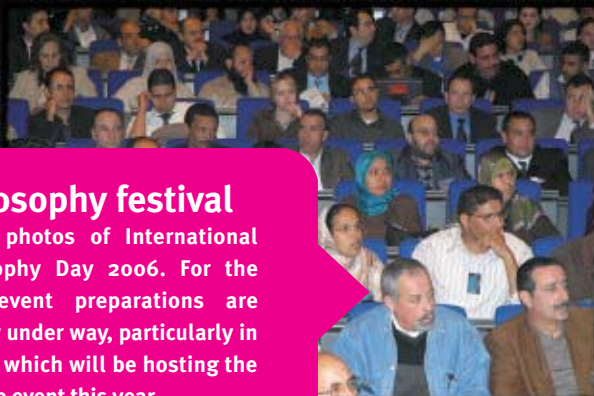
efforts are undertaken within the framework of UNESCO's Intersectoral Strategy on Philosophy, adopted by the Executive Board in 2005.

Philosophy, as framed and supported by UNESCO, is in no sense a collection of knowledge transferred to an audience despised as “inferior”. Quite the contrary. UNESCO regards philosophy as a means of interpreting major contemporary issues – well aware that there are often much older factors behind their modernity – or, at least, of not failing to react to them. Philosophy provides a means of being an actor rather than an onlooker. ¶

**Moufida Goucha**, Human Security, Democracy and Philosophy Section.

## Philosophy festival

A few photos of International Philosophy Day 2006. For the 2007 event preparations are already under way, particularly in Turkey, which will be hosting the flagship event this year.



Round table discussion in Nigeria.

5A

16/11/2006

6A

16/11/2006



## “Philosophy must help us reflect on topical issues”

Morocco was behind the initial idea of having a World Philosophy Day – celebrated each year on the third Thursday in November – and for 2006 Morocco organized a flagship event. Her Excellency Mrs Aziza Bennani, Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Morocco to UNESCO, reminds us of the importance of opening up philosophical reflection to as wide a public as possible.

**Today, just after World Philosophy Day 2006 was celebrated in Morocco, what is your view of the impact this event has had at both national and international level?**

This celebration was not merely a festive response to a world event as far as Morocco was concerned. World Philosophy Day has answered one of Morocco’s needs and it has become a wonderful opportunity to reach a wide public and increase their awareness about the importance of philosophy. More particularly, the Rabat celebration did, of course, conform to the structure of reflection of researchers within the Moroccan context, but the aim was also to reinvigorate the philosophy teaching in Morocco and give it new impetus. That project is already far advanced. Indeed, philosophy in Morocco today falls into a complementary role of the country’s societal and political choice. The strong links connecting philosophy and democracy, and philosophy and the law, do indeed need to be reaffirmed and strengthened. Morocco’s national interest thus fully concurs with the main concerns of UNESCO and the international community. The major strengths of World Philosophy Day, celebrated in Rabat, was the mobilization of over a thousand hard-working, prepared students from all over the country, and also having a large number of media representatives present. The tribute paid to Mohammed Abed Jabri on this occa-

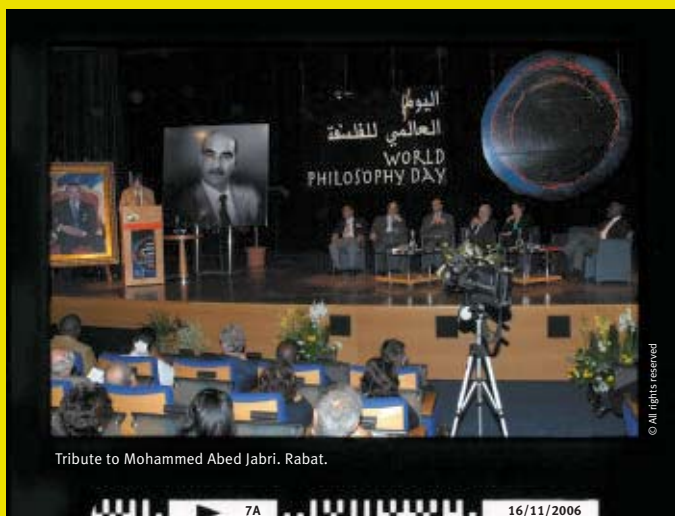
sion, highlighted the important contribution of Arab-Moslem philosophy to reflection on the main themes of humanity, while the posthumous tribute paid to Hannah Arendt stressed the contribution of philosophy to reflection on modernity. Thus, in my view, this Philosophy Day successfully balanced East/West, Man/Woman and past reflection/present reflection through a wide range of subjects debated in the programme, and by repeating over and over again the need for this discipline more than ever to be a guide for action and not be confined within elitist reflection. In short, this Day was a marvellous space for reflection, dialogue and exchange.

**For International Women’s Day on 8 March, UNESCO will be taking steps to create the first international network of women philosophers. What do you think of such an initiative?**

I have always campaigned for the construction of networks that group together committed, mobilized people for equality, peace, education for peace and acceptance of the Other in all regions of the world. In my view, such a process is in fact what reflects human depth and what must guide all UNESCO procedures and decisions when carrying out its projects and activities. If such a network is established, then I sincerely hope it will not be a simple structure that limits women philosophers to expressing purely identitarian claims. Philosophy is sexless! Which is why any initiative should be encouraged that calls on women philosophers from all countries – working, of course, with their male counterparts – strongly engaged in reflection on the great challenges and issues of concern to humanity, as well as on research and peace-building. →



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Tribute to Mohammed Abed Jabri. Rabat.

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**What are your Chair’s priorities in the promotion of philosophy?** Prof. Jacques Poulain, UNESCO Chair of Philosophy Paris 8 University (France) “Our priority is to promote critical, philosophical dialogue at university level, both within and between cultures and to begin such dialogue by establishing a European University of Culture to combine the various disciplines of philosophy, literature, the arts, aesthetics and communication. Another aim, in collaboration with Latin American universities, is to establish a Latin American University of Culture.” ¶



→ **The Kingdom of Morocco initiated a project that aims to undertake, through UNESCO, the first status report on philosophy teaching in the world, to be made public in autumn 2007. What is the focus of this study?**

I am delighted to hear that and to hear about Morocco's role. I should like to take the opportunity to warmly congratulate the Social and Human Sciences Sector for the way in which it has carried out this project on such a scale and to say to what extent the drafting process of the Intersectoral Strategy on Philosophy, which initiated the Study project, has been an absolute model of cooperation and synergy among Permanent Delegations, National Commissions and UNESCO's Secretariat. Education does indeed have a more than basic role to play not only as a taught subject, as information and teaching, but above all, for training a person to become a national citizen and a citizen of the world. A philosophical education can contribute to that. Philosophy is an attitude, an exigency that allows one to reflect on the challenges of our world; but perhaps first and foremost, it is an essential barrier to everything that is based on obscurantism, exclusion of the Other – whatever form that may take. In addition, philosophy is a real channel for spreading universal values and for living together in harmony. It is also with that perspective that UNESCO Chairs have a fundamental role to play. I am delighted about the UNESCO Chair in Philosophy which is soon to be established in Morocco.

I am also particularly pleased about the happy coincidence of this Moroccan institutional project with the work being carried out by the Social and Human Sciences within the framework of UNESCO's intersectoral strategy on philosophy, notably the study on the current status of philosophy teaching in the world – of which we are expecting great things.

**What message would you like to send out to philosophers?**

First of all, one cannot stress enough how important it is for philosophy not to be closed in on itself, and limited to a small inner circle of specialists; but rather it should open out to the widest public possible. Only in such a way can philosophy carry out its role of helping to awaken people's critical reflection and teach them how to structure their thinking.

I would also particularly like to emphasize the consubstantial element linking philosophy, democracy and peace. Philosophy can and must help us reflect on topical issues. I believe UNESCO is well placed to work alongside philosophers in this essential task. Peace is not a natural state. Man is more inclined to competition, which can at times degenerate into conflict. It is precisely because peace is not an innate component of the human being, but an expectation, a voice, a path and a horizon that we should constantly be seeking out and pursuing. Man can strive for peace through reason, critical thought and the law.



**What are your favourite philosophical sayings?**

Some people have said that our civilization knows how to make war but no longer knows how to make peace. That fatalistic view, which I do not at all share, puts me in mind of a sentence from Voltaire's poem on natural law where he says something along the lines: "the greatest of duties is to be just, and the greatest good is peace in our hearts". To my mind the human being's first duty is to seek for peace as a moral imperative of reason. At this point I must mention the considerable contribution of Averroës to reflection on reason, and Kant, who called on us to "seek for peace". Owing to its mission, UNESCO's role is certainly to strive for peace; indeed, that search is its very *raison d'être*. The Action Plan and Recommendations of the United Nations High-Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations might in this regard be considered an extraordinary platform for this global process in search of peace. Albert Camus said that peace was the only thing worth fighting for; UNESCO is leading that fight and must increase its efforts to help build peace.

Finally, I would like to add the key concept of love for one's neighbour, by quoting Ibn Arabi who said: I believe in the religion of Love, wherever Love's caravans may lead, for Love is my Religion and my Faith. May that saying always rule human relations. Knowledge, reason, dialogue and love – that is where UNESCO can do so much by calling for the mobilization of volunteers the world over to become committed builders of peace. ¶

Interview by Mouflida Goucha, Feriel Ait-Ouyahia and Arnaud Drouet.



Dialogue: Asia – Arab world. Rabat.

9A

17/11/2006



Philosopher Semou Pathe Gueye (left). Rabat.

10A

16/11/2006

## Dialogue between Asia and the Arab States

**As a contribution to UNESCO's campaign for "Dialogue among Civilizations, Peoples and Cultures", the Social and Human Sciences Sector organizes "Interregional Philosophical Dialogues" to promote exchanges among philosophers from Latin America and Africa, and also among Asian and Arab philosophers.**

An Africa-Latin America Interregional Philosophical Dialogue will be held in Luanda (Angola) in May 2007. Philosophers from Asia and the Arab world met in Rabat on 17 and 18 November 2006 to continue another dialogue initiated between these two regions of the world.

Under the title "Encounters of Asia and the Arab Regions with Modernity", the exchange among philosophers from very different cultural traditions and backgrounds was, among other things, part of the preparations for the forthcoming World Philosophy Congress, to be held in Seoul (Republic of Korea) in 2008.

The dialogue was based on three particular subjects ("Philosophy facing the challenges of modern technology", "Challenges of globalization to philosophy and democracy" and "The roles of philosophy in war and peace") and provided an opportunity for scrutinizing the various attitudes to modernization observed in Asia and in the Arab States. Several participants welcomed the invitation to reflect upon "post-modernity with a human face".

Many, indeed, were moved to speak on the dichotomy between modernity and tradition and the potential imbalances between the two in an age of globalization and technological ascendancy. A call was

also made for genuine dialogue to be held between the two regions without the West necessarily taking centre stage. Above all, there was a call to address the twin issue of tradition and modernity itself, by restating the question of what constitutes differences, by reinventing lost communities, renewing the inquiry into questions of faith and practice, rediscovering the common basis of the three monotheistic religions, reconstituting the archive of cultural memory, and so forth.

Each of the three working groups made recommendations.

The working group on "Challenges of globalization to philosophy and democracy" stressed the need to establish benchmarks in order to define the terms in question, especially "globalization". It also emphasized the predominant part played by economic considerations in the globalization process. As to the role of philosophy in this context, the participants recognized the disparate situations of philosophy in their various regions: Buddhism and Confucianism in Asia, medieval Arabic philosophy in the Arab States, and widespread availability of translations of the works of contemporary philosophers (Foucault, Sartre, Heidegger) in countries such as Egypt, Japan, Morocco, Thailand and Tunisia.

While some participants expressed the view that a democratic momentum of "government by the people, for the people", and a culture of debate and public deliberation should be set in train, others stressed the need to study and assess the influence of religion in the context of democracy. The key question of "How can democracy be sustainably established in our societies?" was discussed at length. Support was expressed for a variety of means such as recourse to criteria to →

**The Africa / Latin America Interregional Dialogue, which began in Chile in 2005, will be continuing in Angola from 21 to 23 May 2007.**

**What are your Chair's priorities in the promotion of philosophy?** **Prof. Josiane Boulad-Ayoub, UNESCO Chair in Studies of philosophic foundations of justice and democratic society, University of Québec in Montréal (Canada)** “We aim to make the Chair a centre of excellence for living philosophy. We aim to bring the rigour of philosophical thought to bear on the problems of today's world and to give as many people as possible access to such thought. We intend to play an essential part in raising awareness of the values of democracy and the culture of peace, while accepting the pluralism of standards and traditions in the quest for dialogue that transcends all boundaries.” ¶

**Website:** [www.unesco.chaiephilo.uqam.ca](http://www.unesco.chaiephilo.uqam.ca)



School debate in Nepal.

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➔ determine participation, transparency, means of countering insecurity and the demand for a minimum level of security. Many speakers called for inquiry into the very notion of “citizenship”, but emphasis was laid in particular on the task of education, especially in connection with the tragic conditions that often affect women and girls in Asia and in the Arab and Muslim areas generally.

Several suggestions were made on the subject of “Philosophy facing the challenges of modern technology”, regarding in particular the opportunities afforded by new information and communication technology to promote the sharing of ideas and encourage exchanges and discussions between the two regions, not least through an Internet-based “Youth Forum”. The project for a “digital library of philosophy” was submitted to UNESCO, which is giving detailed consideration to its technical and conceptual feasibility. It was also suggested that an “Open University for Philosophical Dialogue” be established and that a dean be appointed for each of the two regions. A steering committee, to carry out the project and initiate a feasibility study, was immediately proposed.

Many questions were raised on “The roles of philosophy in war and peace”, the foremost being “What philosophy should we draw on when studying and trying to understand war and peace – and why do we need philosophy in this situation?” Whereas the ancients, both in the Arab world and in Asia, laid stress on philosophy's practical aspects, including aesthetics, the participants agreed that that aspect tended to be marginalized in the modern age. Several said that this kind of inquiry, questioning and dialogue ought to be revived today.

The Asian and Arab philosophers who attended these meetings were at pains to point out that while philosophers did not wield political power they nevertheless had opportunities to raise their voices against injustice by addressing those who did, and reminding them of their responsibilities. They considered that it was necessary to work

for greater institutionalization of philosophy. The participants therefore called for a public philosophy, a philosophy of civilizations and a reinterpretation of other parts of the discipline (philosophy of history, philosophy of law and so on).

The results of the groups' discussions will be published as three separate works, based on the recommendations made by the participants as well as some further contributions received from Asian and Arab philosophers. ¶

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**What are your Chair's priorities in the promotion of philosophy?** **Prof. Ioanna Kuçuradi, UNESCO Chair in Philosophy, Hacettepe University (Turkey)** “The work of the chair focused on the promotion of philosophy which attempts to shed a strong light on problems we are faced with in life –mainly on conceptual and ethical problems related to human rights. We did it by providing an M.A. and subsequently a Ph.D. programme in human rights, by offering human rights courses for the in-service training of the security personnel and of other target groups, and by organizing national and international philosophical conferences on human rights and publishing the proceedings”. ¶

# Further reading

## Qu'est-ce que la philosophie ?

Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari.  
224 pp., UNESCO/Éditions de Minuit, 1997.  
ISBN 92-3-603338-5  
(in French only)

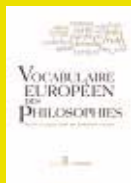
## La Raison puérile : Philosopher avec les enfants ?

Geneviève Gilles. Foreword by Michel Onfray.  
403 pp., Éditions Labor / Université populaire de Caen, 2006.  
ISBN 2-8040-2376-1  
(in French only)



## La Philosophie saisie par l'UNESCO

Patrice Vermeren.  
160 pp., UNESCO, 2003.  
SHS/2003/P1/H/1  
(in French only)



## Vocabulaire européen des philosophies: Dictionnaire des intraduisibles.

Edited by Barbara Cassin.  
1532 pp., Éditions Seuil / Le Robert, 2004.  
ISBN 2.020370308  
(in French only)

## PHILOSOPHY DAYS

Every year, the discussions organized around International Philosophy Day are published in booklets, which are available on request from the Human Security, Philosophy and Democracy Section: [philosophy&human-sciences@unesco.org](mailto:philosophy&human-sciences@unesco.org), or by telephoning + 33 1 45 68 38 32.

See below a selection of some of the booklets already published:



### Comment philosopher en Afrique aujourd'hui ?

**Proceedings of 2004 Philosophy Day at UNESCO, booklet no. 2**

Diagne, Souleymane Bachir; Bolivar, Faubert; Diagne, Ramatoulaye; Douailler, Stéphane; Emongo, Lomomba.  
129 pp., UNESCO, 2006.  
(in French only)

### Existe-t-il une philosophie latino-américaine ?

**Proceedings of 2004 Philosophy Day at UNESCO, booklet no. 5**

Brondino, Laura; Dávila, Jorge; Jaramillo-Mahut, Mónica; Roig, Arturo Andrés; Tatián, Diego; Vermeren, Patrice.  
129 pp., UNESCO, 2006.  
(in French only)

### Justice globale : la philosophie face aux questions du XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle.

**Proceedings of 2003 Philosophy Day at UNESCO, booklet no. 6**

Kemp, Peter; Ferrari, Jean; Kaltchev, Ivan; Kuçuradi, Ioanna; McBride, William M.  
64 pp., UNESCO, 2005.  
(in French only)

### Monde arabe et Monde occidental: un dialogue philosophique par une approche transculturelle.

**Proceedings of 2003 Philosophy Day at UNESCO, booklet no. 3**

Botbol-Baum, Mylène; Herra, Rafael Angel; Lalèyè, Isiaka Prosper; Trottmann, Christian; Sandkühler, Hans Jörg; Wahba, Mourad  
102 pp., UNESCO, 2005.  
(in French only)

### Philosophie, science et éthique

**Proceedings of 2002 Philosophy Day at UNESCO, booklet no. 8**

Dupuy, Jean Pierre; Hountondji, Paulin J.; Rouanet, Sergio Paulo; Scarantino, Luca M.  
79 pp., UNESCO, 2004.  
(in French only)

### La philosophie et la protection des droits humains

**Proceedings of 2004 Philosophy Day at UNESCO, booklet no. 6**

Baser, Murat; Kuçuradi, Ioanna; Lenk, Hans; Turan, Selçuk.  
74 pp., UNESCO, 2006.  
(in French only)

### Philosophie et libération des femmes

**Proceedings of 2004 Philosophy Day at UNESCO, booklet no. 3**

Auffret, Séverine; Dorlin, Elsa; Leclerc, Annie; Orsoni, Paule.  
43 pp., UNESCO, 2006.  
(in French only)

### Philosophie et savoirs

**Proceedings of 2002 Philosophy Day at UNESCO, booklet no. 11**

Debru, Claude; Malolo Dissaké, Emmanuel; Picavet, Emmanuel.  
74 pp., UNESCO, 2004.  
(in French only)

## TOOLS

### UNESCO strategy on philosophy

In 2005, for the very first time, the General Conference agreed on an intersectoral strategy on philosophy for UNESCO.

This strategy sets out the main lines of action for UNESCO in the field of philosophy:

- (i) philosophy facing world problems;
- (ii) philosophy teaching worldwide; and
- (iii) the promotion of philosophical thought and research.

## TOOLS

### The latest issue of *Diogenes* has just been published in French.

Issue 216 of *Diogenes* comprises a section on the theme "From one world to another".

It compiles the principal contributions to the seminar on Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir, which was organized in 2006 at UNESCO in Paris. This interdisciplinary review, which was founded in 1952, is published by the Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS),

a non-governmental organization which, with financial support from UNESCO, forms an association of several hundred scientific organizations working



To obtain a copy of this strategy (available in English and French), please contact:  
**Fériel Ait-Ouyahia,**  
[f.ait-ouyahia@unesco.org](mailto:f.ait-ouyahia@unesco.org),  
tel.: + 33 1 45 68 38 12



at international level, in the fields of philosophy, human sciences and related disciplines. ¶

*Diogenes* no. 216, 12 €  
128 pp., ICPSH, 2007  
ISBN 2130557325

For more information, please see the website:  
[www.unesco.org/cipsh/re/diogene.htm](http://www.unesco.org/cipsh/re/diogene.htm)



# UNESCO helps review PRSPs from human rights perspective

**Following the guidelines established by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and human rights, and on the effects of structural adjustments and foreign debt on human rights, UNESCO is setting up a working group to help Member States in their negotiations with funding agencies.**

The system of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), established in September 1999 by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, today constitutes the reference framework for nearly 60 of the least advanced countries, and the national strategy is the founding principle for all social construction.

Initially, these PRSPs were designed to outline social, structural and macro-economic policies and programmes that a country should undertake over several years, to encourage

growth and reduce poverty by exposing the needs for external funding and related funding sources.

Within the framework of its contribution to the No. 1 Millennium Development Goal – halving poverty by 2015 – the Social and Human Sciences Sector is setting up a working group of international experts to develop minimum standards for the PRSPs, reviewed from a human rights perspective, so that they will be a decision-making tool in funding negotiations.

The first meeting of this working group is scheduled for 19 and 20 March 2007, with two independent experts from OHCHR also expected to take part.

The aim of the meeting is to define minimum standards beyond which human rights would be compromised. These standards could then be used by governments as guarantors of the rights of their people, in conducting negotiations with the funding agencies.

Such action aims to help Member States in drafting the second set of PRSPs so the system would be participatory and the most distributive possible, and would take into



UNESCO wants to help its Member States negotiate more humane structures for poverty reduction.

account the rights of the poorest and those who are excluded from the social participation process. ¶

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[www.unesco.org/shs/poverty](http://www.unesco.org/shs/poverty)

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## Indian forum for community radio

Following a decision by the Indian Government allowing community radio stations to broadcast, UNESCO organized a forum in India at the beginning of February 2007, which brought together more than 200 participants to encourage this kind of broadcasting. In addition, in partnership with the Indian Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and some United Nations Specialized Agencies, a national consultation process will get under way in the first week of March, for operators who have already set up a community radio station or who wish to do so. ¶

## Empowering girls and young women in South Asia

Since 2003, as part of the pilot project “Breaking the poverty cycle of women – empowering adolescent girls to become agents of social change in South Asia”, UNESCO has been working with local organizations of young people in the follow-up and evaluation of this project. By using an innovative approach – follow-up and evaluation by peer groups – UNESCO is hoping to create a process of reflection to study how the projects are progressing from their beneficiaries’ points of view and thus help strengthen the capacities of youth organizations active in social development. ¶

## African Conference on HIV and AIDS

In line with one of UNESCO’s cross-cutting projects – UNISOL (Universities in Solidarity for the Health of the Disadvantaged) – the 4<sup>th</sup> African Conference on social aspects of HIV and AIDS will take place in Kisumu, Kenya, from 29 April to 4 May 2007, in cooperation with SAHARA (Alliance for research into social aspects of HIV/AIDS). The aim is to share information and good practices on the social aspects of HIV/AIDS, highlighting new ideas in access to prevention, health care and socio-economic support for people affected by the virus. ¶

## Argentine workshop on public policies

Following the example of national consultations organized in sub-Saharan Africa on the human rights-based approach to poverty, a national consultation took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 12 and 13 December 2006, which brought together more than 200 people. In cooperation with the Tres de Febrero National University and the Argentine Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, one seminar, five panels and two workshops tackled the connection between poverty and human rights, particularly from the public policy responsibility angle. ¶

International migration, urban development, local populations keen to become involved in drawing up public policies, etc. **Today's world keeps changing.** Through its support for social science research and its efforts to share the findings with as many people as possible, **UNESCO contributes to a better understanding of current trends on the part of the international community,** thus helping to improve countries' responses to the challenges posed by change. In UNESCO it is **the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) which is responsible for coordinating the only United Nations programme on management of social transformations** (the MOST Programme). It strives to strengthen the links between researchers and, in the broadest sense of the term, the policy-making community.

# The challenges of African migration

by Babacar Sall

**In April, with the UNESCO Executive Board examining the first proposals of the working group on “African migration and development”, SHS Views is giving a column to writer Babacar Sall, editorial director at L’Harmattan publishing house, and teacher at the *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS)*, in Paris, France.**

African migration has become front-page news for the international media. Young Africans' desperate attempts to smuggle themselves into Europe, whether via the Canaries or the frontier between Morocco and the Spanish enclaves in the north, illustrate the human tragedies of contemporary waves of migration.

Although it is certainly urgent to improve the lot of these young migrants, we need to take into account the whole of African migration, not just these dramatic events. Human mobility is indeed a permanent feature in the history of the continent and, given the current context of globalization, illustrates a growing complexity.

## Breaking popular beliefs

Contrary to popular belief, African migrants are not always poor or without any training. The nature of the migrant population has changed a great deal: more people are from urban areas than rural and they are particularly young with a high level of education. They are well trained and dynamic but frustrated with the lack of opportunities available to them in Africa, so these young people try to leave Africa and go abroad.

African education systems need to receive support particularly with regard to professional training adapted to local economic realities. It is illusory to think that their improvement – and, in a more general fash-

ion, the development of the continent – could, in the short-term, help reduce the pressure of migration. And this is all the more so when we look at the difficulties faced by traditional receiving countries in Africa like Gabon, Côte d’Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which have ended up partially redirecting the waves of migration towards Europe.

Another popular belief is that migrants leave for other countries unaware of the risks to which they will be exposed. And yet, those who

try to go abroad have access to the media and to Internet; they know people who have already tried and who have told them about the harsh realities of migration. So they do know they are risking their lives. This becomes even clearer when we learn that often these migrants have made several attempts to reach Europe.

## Rethinking cooperation

Despite heightened border controls and daily loss of life, there is still the same will to leave. Behind this phenomenon are the families who have mobilized all their savings to fund the very high cost of the journey. So labour migration seems to be both a personal challenge for these young people as well as a collective investment. It should also be added that if the migrants leave, it is because they are expected: in Europe there is a demand for cheap, available labour and in this respect, Europe needs these waves of migration as much as Africa does.

The answer to these challenges needs to question the logic behind the security at border controls. These measures clearly do not stem the constant flow of migration but

instead they lead the migrants to take even greater risks. The answer to the phenomenon of African migration lies in its very problem: the urgent need to redefine the development and cooperation policies between North and South. ¶



**The lack of opportunities in Africa pushes more and more young people with a high level of education to try to leave their country.**

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# Together with migrant children in China

**Last December, the UNESCO Office in Beijing reviewed the progress to date of an extrabudgetary project run on ten different sites. The project has been helping migrant children since 2005.**

Protect the right to education of migrant children in cities; improve the living conditions of migrant children; and have an impact on policy-making at both local and national level – these are the aims of the extrabudgetary project “Support for migrant children in need, in China”.

To achieve these objectives, the project seeks to enhance migrant children’s potential capabilities, self-confidence and self-esteem, to train migrant parents in family education and urban life skills, and to train teachers of both public and private schools in teaching skills as well as relevant laws and regulations on migrants. The project covers four pilot sites in Beijing and six in Chengdu.

## Regional inequalities

In order to review the whole project: good practices, lessons learned and to discuss further action and policy adaptation, there was a meeting in Beijing on 17 and 18 December 2006, co-organized by the National Working Committee on Children and Women (NWCCW) and UNESCO.

Among topics discussed by the policy makers, administrators, researchers and teachers taking part in the meeting were the effects of administrative procedures on the protection of migrant children, social and legal discrimination, and the variance in



The UNESCO project endeavours to strengthen migrant children’s self-confidence and self-esteem.

policy implementation in the different regions of China.

The meeting put forward several policy recommendations. The main recommendation advocates setting up in all communities a system to protect migrant children’s rights based on a three-tier community model: first, a cross-cutting support system within the various government agencies; second, appropriate school activities; and third, participatory activities in community centres.

The meeting provoked lively discussions on the gaps between policies and their implementation, and on the factors that bring about such a situation. Participants also spoke of their concern about the lack of data and regu-

lar information on the situation of migrants under 16 years of age in the cities, the quality of migrant schools and the guidelines needed for establishing qualified schools for migrant children.

Professor Han Jialing is leading a research team to look into these issues. His report, which should come out in 2007, will present a methodical analysis of the gaps between national policies and local implementation, and will formulate policy recommendations from a professional point of view. ¶

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## Radio 18-12 – over 50 radio programmes now online

It was a first, and by all accounts a great success, with many organizations now saying they are ready to do it again in 2007. On 18 December 2006, to mark International Migrants Day, *Radio 18-12* organized a marathon global radio programme with 53 radio stations in 27 different countries broad-

casting programmes to do with migration. “December 18”, an international resource centre for the human rights of migrants and migrant workers began the whole idea with support from the Flemish Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, NGOs Inter-Pares and Oxfam Novib, and UNESCO.

All the programmes broadcast that day have been put online and will remain accessible until next International Migrants Day so the general public can download the programmes. ¶

*Radio 18-12* is accessible on [www.radio1812.net](http://www.radio1812.net)



# Kenyan meetings for devel

**A meeting entitled “From Research to Policy to Action” was held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 22 to 24 January last under the auspices of the UNESCO MOST Programme. It was organized concurrently with the World Social Forum and touched on the Forum’s issues.**

Everyone is agreed that the social development objectives of the international community are a matter of political will; but political will alone is not enough. The best intentions may lead to nothing, or may even make things worse, if there is no capacity to act, and such capacity presupposes accurate information on the issues to be tackled and an understanding of the consequences of the various courses of action that are open. This means that no action can be contemplated in the field of social development without considerable input from the social sciences.

Awareness of the role of social science in government activity is the basis for the inter-governmental programme on the Management of Social Transformations (MOST), but it can only be effective when all the players concerned are fully committed to it. The Regional Forums of Ministers of Social Development, established on UNESCO’s initiative (see boxouts), together with the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus launched in 2006, have already established new opportunities for the various players to meet and ensure that action is informed by knowledge. The Nairobi meeting “From Research to Policy to Action”, held in Nairobi from 22 to 24 January 2007, extended and enhanced these initiatives.

It was no accident that the MOST Programme and the Government of Kenya were keen to hold the meeting in Nairobi at the time when the Kenyan capital was host to the first ever meeting of the World Social Forum to be held on African soil. Quite the contrary. The aim was to highlight the essential contribution of civil society and NGOs to the

research-government action nexus. The Ministers of Social Development who lead the various existing or planned regional forums – South Africa, Argentina, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan and Venezuela – either attended in person or were represented and compared past experience and reviewed options for following up the regional initiatives. They also held discussions with academics, directors of associations and representatives of international organizations (UNDESA and UNRISD) on mechanisms for the joint production of knowledge conducive to more effective social development policies.



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One point became evident both in the ministerial meeting and in the World Social Forum itself: to produce knowledge jointly, ingrained mistrust must be overcome. It is not easy to encourage convergent efforts if NGOs are suspected of being irresponsible, researchers of being partial, and governments of exploiting partners for their own ends. The “Another World is Possible” movement voices such mistrust, of course, but it also includes many, including Africans, who are actively seeking constructive ways of overcoming it. At the World Social Forum in Nairobi, the issues discussed concerned development, human rights and “good governance”, and not only the destruction of “global capitalism”. In the defining slogan “Another World Is Possible”, Africa seemed to stress the word “possible” in particular.

Similarly, at the “From Research to Policy to Action” meeting, the participants were invited to reflect on three seemingly simple ideas:

- social science can contribute decisively to social development policies;
- no one has a monopoly on knowledge in the social sciences; ➔

## Ministers for Social Development – 1<sup>st</sup> Forum for Arab States in April

After Latin America, Southern Africa, West Africa and Asia, it is now the turn of the Arab States to have a Forum of Ministers for Social Development. On the initiative of Morocco’s Minister for Social Development, the Family and Solidarity, the Forum will be officially launched on 30 April and 1 May 2007 during a meeting in Marakesh, Morocco. This Forum of Arab States will bring together Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. It will be the fifth regional forum to have been created since UNESCO’s MOST programme first launched the initiative of providing a forum for policy makers and researchers in the social sciences. Apart from the Forum’s official launching, the Rabat meeting will in particular aim to identify the region’s priority needs and set up a sustainable structure to respond to those needs. ¶

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# opment



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1. Under the aegis of the MOST Programme, Ministers for Social Development from all regions met in Nairobi at the end of January 2007.
2. UNESCO organized several concurrent debates during the World Social Forum.

➔ • greater dynamism in the research-mobilization-government action nexus is above all a matter of innovative mechanisms.

By comparing practice and experience around the world, the participants refined these ideas and clarified their practical implications.

First of all, while everyone agreed that public programmes could fail in principle if relevant available knowledge was not taken into account, there was a dearth of detailed and documented examples that could be used to analyse such failures and draw conclusions. Similarly, the stock of “good practice” backed by systematic assessment was still not being adequately replenished. To go beyond good intentions, therefore, it was necessary to continue and step up efforts under the MOST Programme to strengthen the analytical resources available to decision-makers.

Second, nobody disputed that the various stakeholders involved in public activity had relevant knowledge. Users’ associations, owing to their detailed local knowledge, were often in the best position to specify the opti-

mal conditions for implementing policies. Similarly, the machinery of public administration – without which no policy could ever be taken beyond the “good intentions” stage – were often better understood by insiders than outsiders. Knowledge could be highly relevant, though, without being “scientific” and a widening of the scope of knowledge required that appropriate validation procedures be established.

Lastly, the goal of “greater dynamism in the research-mobilization-government action nexus” could be taken to imply that a smaller distinction would be drawn between the roles of governments, academics and NGOs. That view was generally considered to be a mistake. Representatives of associations were as adamant as ministers in stressing the importance of a proper division of labour. The associations did not wish to become mere auxiliary agents of the government, nor did academics wish to be no more than providers of “expertise”. The joint production of knowledge in furtherance of social development required each group to know and hold its proper place: no more, no less.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Latin American Forum in May

On 8 and 9 May 2007, Argentina will host the 6<sup>th</sup> Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Ministers for Social Development.

Within the framework of UNESCO’s MOST programme, this high-level forum first began in 2001 and has now become a regular event for the nineteen countries that make up the region. They are keen to share ‘good practices’ in social policy, and also to coordinate their strategies on the formulation of national policies that aim to strengthen social cohesion and democratic governance in Latin America.

This year, once again, the nineteen countries of the region are invited to attend the Forum and reflect on important issues within the current context of regional cooperation that might contribute to the economic and social development of Latin America. ¶

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If the ideas discussed in Nairobi are to bear fruit, they must be disseminated through several mechanisms, whether they already exist or are yet to be established. The Regional Forums of Ministers of Social Development provide a framework for the exchange of practical and experiential data while respecting the specific features of each region. The gradual opening of such forums to academics and associations can enhance their impact, especially if their outreach is extended to the national level, at the instigation of the governments concerned. In addition to the regional forums, an interregional forum will be established at Pakistan’s suggestion in order to make the most of regional developments and ensure linkages with the MOST Programme on the whole. Preparations are under way for the second International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus, which will provide an opportunity for systematic discussion from all perspectives. ¶

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# The most Networks: intellectual capital

**Most Programme partners are both producers and redistributors of knowledge about current social transformations; making their skills available in many different spheres to build a fairer world.**



© E. Igaraburu / UNESCO MOST

UNESCO's MOST Programme is the only United Nations programme dealing with the analysis and management of social transformations, drawing on social and intellectual capital, of which it makes optimum use through a closely connected network of academic institutions and researchers all over the world. The main asset of this intergovernmental programme is the networks that it has established and developed as both producers and redistributors of content.

Most partners thus produce basic, crucial and current knowledge in fields that are the

programme's main priorities such as poverty reduction, local development, democratic governance and comparative approaches to new social dynamics in the emerging countries.

Some may consider this to be enough, but MOST's partner institutions and academics, determined to see their research provide solutions to the challenges of current social upheavals, do not.

## Summer Schools

Accordingly, in addition to making their expertise and intelligence available to analysis of transformations in the world today, they endeavour to disseminate the results of their work among decision-makers and throughout civil society, by organizing forums (see pp. 24-25), publishing works (pp. 30-31) or carrying out various individual or institutional capacity-building programmes, including "Summer Schools".

These "summer" gatherings regularly bring young academics (teachers, researchers and doctoral students from various countries) together for keynote lectures, case studies and discussion workshops so that they may analyse major issues in the host region and suggest practical solutions and policies.

This educational programme is driven by two forces: a core contribution, in terms of methodology, and a spirit of sharing and



© Germán Solinís / UNESCO

exchanging knowledge among the participants, as each contributes to the dynamics through his or her own ideas, approaches and scientific findings to the exchange of knowledge. In all, it primarily requires an interdisciplinary approach and combines quantitative and qualitative information, practical field experience and sound knowledge of the underlying science.

## Pioneering Bulgaria

Under the first such programme introduced seven years ago, the Sofia meetings on "Comparative Research in the Social Sciences" were recognized as a groundbreaking experiment. That pioneering "Summer Schools" has now become a regular event held in the Bulgarian capital every two years and attended by over 30 young academics mainly from the developing and transition countries. In September →

## Seminar in Paris on sustainable development ...

From 21 to 23 March 2007, the Committee for International Cooperation in National REsearch in Demography (CICRED) and the MOST Programme will be organizing an International Seminar at UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris, on "Population, development and environment in regions of the South".

This seminar will explore the main findings of the international research Programme on the Interactions between Population,

Development and Environment (PRIPODE), implemented by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The seminar is for scientists and all those concerned with sustainable development issues in the 17 countries of sub-Saharan Africa, South-East Asia, the Caribbean and the Arab States. It will discuss the three main themes covered by the PRIPODE programme: rural areas, land transformation and management of natural resources; the

populations-environment-development connection in urban settings; and poverty, environment and migration.

The third day of the seminar will be devoted to prospective action plans and decision-making, as well as future-oriented discussions on research into the population-development-environment connection. ¶

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# in the service of society

## 1. and 3.

Every two years, the Sofia Summer School, first organized seven years ago, brings together young academics from developing countries.

## 2.

Participants in the first MOST Summer School for Latin America and the Caribbean met for a second session at the end of February, in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.

➔ 2006, the fourth such meeting was organized with the International Social Science Council (ISSC), one of MOST's core partners, and was regarded by all participants as yet another success.

Dr Nikolai Genov, who founded and still runs the Sofia Summer University, can thus be proud that, on that occasion, he brought together participants active in the European project PROFIT,<sup>1</sup> which studies policy responses to poverty and its connection with the inheritance of inequalities at the local and national levels. Participants from Africa, North America, Asia and Eastern Europe could thus discuss the project's methodology and initial findings. The experience of the Sofia Summer University was thus all the richer in that it not only combined the natural, social and cognitive sciences, but was genuinely intercultural in scope.

A more recent but equally fruitful MOST Summer School for Latin America and the Caribbean has been instituted by the CLAEH,<sup>2</sup> and it concentrates on strategies for local social development, its connections with democratic governance processes and possible solutions to reduce poverty in the region. At a summer university held to coincide with the gathering of more than a thousand social scientists and policy-makers at the First International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in February 2006, a compilation was presented of the main findings of the first Summer School, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 2003.

A second session (26 February - 2 March 2007) was organized by MOST, CLAEH and Bahía Federal University at Salvador de Bahía (Brazil). Under the title "Local Development Policies and Social Management. Overcoming

Poverty and Inequality in Latin America", this new meeting was attended by over 50 academics and staff of social and political institutions responsible for implementing local development projects from no fewer than 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The items on the agenda were poverty in the light of inequality in development prospects, social policy and management of development in Latin America, the research – policy nexus, strategies for cooperation between State and civil society, and local and national policies in regard to international cooperation, multilateralism and development. These topics will permit an in-depth theoretical and methodological study of various aspects of the general theme of the meeting, during which an exchange forum can be organized, probably on a permanent basis within Bahía University's School of Local Development Policy and Social Management. ¶

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See also the MOST Programme website at  
[www.unesco.org/shs/most](http://www.unesco.org/shs/most)



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- 1. Policy Responses overcoming Factors in the Intergenerational Transmission of Inequalities (PROFIT). <http://www.profit.uni.lodz.pl/>  
2. Centro Latinoamericano de Economía Humanista (Uruguay).

## ... and a "social science and development" forum

A forum, open to everyone, on "Social and Human Sciences for Development", will be held in Room XI of UNESCO House in Paris, from 28 to 30 March.

Co-organized by the French Institute for Research and Development (IRD), the French Ministry of Education and Research's scientific interest grouping: global economy, Third World and development (GEMDEV), and the Universities of Toulouse le Mirail and Paris-8 and the MOST Programme, with

the French Development Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also taking part, this Forum will continue discussions that began in February 2006 with the first International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus on the place of research with regard to policy-making and development in an international context – Europe, Africa and Latin America. The Forum will bring together researchers, field workers and representatives

of institutions, to tackle the following subjects from a multidisciplinary perspective:

- agenda for development
- development as research subject
- research – users' interaction
- interdisciplinarity in research
- science and ethics
- the North's balance of power ¶

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# Convention against doping in sport – States Parties now have the means to act

**The 41 States Parties to the International Convention Against Doping in Sport met in Paris last February for the first time to discuss implementation of the Voluntary Contribution Fund for the elimination of doping in sport.**

Barely fifteen months after the International Convention Against Doping in Sport was unanimously adopted by the UNESCO General Conference, the first Conference of States Parties to the Convention was held at UNESCO House in Paris, France, from 5 to 7 February 2007.

The Conference was also attended by 50 observers from UNESCO Member States and many personalities among whom were the President of the General Conference, the UN Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, the President of the International Paralympic Committee, and the French Minister of Youth and Sports and Deputy Chairperson of the World Anti-Doping Agency. The 41 countries that have already ratified the Convention were pleased with its entry into force on 1 February 2007.

## **A wager on life**

“Thirty States Parties were needed for the Convention to enter into force. This number was reached in record time”, noted UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura at the opening of the session. He went on to say: “UNESCO will build on the momentum behind the Convention to raise public awareness and to invest in prevention through education ... ethics, personal responsibility and integrity”.



© Niamh Burke / UNESCO

“The Convention represents the first time that governments around the world have decided to apply the force of international law against doping in sport. It provides the much-needed framework for implementing the World Anti-Doping Code and for formalizing global anti-doping rules, policies and guidelines. It is a major step forward in the fight to make sport doping-free.”

This first Conference of States Parties to the Convention elected an Executive Bureau composed of Algeria, China, Jamaica, Mozambique, Spain and the Russian Federation. Mr Vyacheslav Fetisov, head of the Russian Federal Agency for Physical Culture and Sport and a UNESCO Champion for Sport, will chair the Bureau.

Following adoption of the operational directives, the 2007 Prohibited List of performance enhancing substances established by WADA was also adopted.

The discussions opened the way for examination of the follow-up framework of the Convention, which showed that the main issue is the implementation of a Voluntary Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport. Nine States Parties to the Convention followed Canada’s lead – South Africa, China, Denmark, Spain, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden. Several other countries have announced their intention to commit themselves financially in the weeks and months ahead.

## **Already US\$300,000**

This Fund, with contributions from States Parties, public and private bodies, as well as private donations – estimated at US\$300,000 at the time of going to press – is to help States Parties to the Convention in the development of education projects for young people and sports organizations, training policy makers in the fight against doping in sport, and setting up teaching programmes for capacity-building.

At the beginning of March 2007, six more countries will be joining the initial group of signatories to the Convention: Bulgaria, France, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia and Thailand.

The next session of the Conference will be held in Paris in October 2009. ¶

For more information, please contact:

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**UNESCO Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura was very pleased with the ratification of the Convention “in record time” which meant it came into force on 1 February 2007.**





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1. In Summer 2006, Ukrainian boxers went to Namibia to support UNESCO's programme for the education of children in need.

2. The world's no. 1 tennis champion is the first woman to be named "UNESCO Champion for Sport".

## Justine Hénin and Klitschko brothers put their fame to work for UNESCO

**When they accepted to put their fame to work for UNESCO, a young Belgian tennis champion and two Ukrainian boxers undertook to defend the fight against doping in sport, and to support the children in need education programme.**

On 14 December 2006, at Roland Garros, Belgian tennis player, Justine Hénin, became the first woman to be named "UNESCO Champion for Sport" – an honour bestowed upon her by the Organization's Director-General, Koïchiro Matsuura, for her personal commitment to the values of excellence, fair play and integrity.

### **Making young people more aware**

Ranked no. 1 by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), this 24 year-old champion has already won 31 titles – the French Open (three times), the Australian Open and a Gold Medal in the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. And now she is "UNESCO Champion for Sport", she has decided to spend time on the fight against doping in sport.

"Maybe there is less doping in tennis than in other sports, but even if there is only one person involved in doping, then that is one

too many", Justine Hénin said on the day of her nomination, adding: "as UNESCO Champion for Sport, I will be able to speak more openly about doping". According to Ms Hénin, it is indeed "very important to make young people aware [of the dangers] of doping from a very young age because even if one's career in sport is separate from one's private life, it is self-destructive to take drugs. It is far better to win fewer medals".

### **A cheque for US\$285,000**

A few days before Ms Hénin's nomination, boxers Vitaly and Wladimir Klitschko also joined the "club" of UNESCO Champions for Sport, at a ceremony organized at the Organization's Headquarters, in Paris. The First Lady of Ukraine, Mrs Kateryna Yushchenko, attended the ceremony. On accepting the honour, the two Ukrainian brothers chose to put their fame to work for disadvantaged children, thus extending the campaign they are already leading in support of several children's foundations in the Ukraine.

The younger brother, Wladimir, took the opportunity afforded by the ceremony of 4 December 2006 to present the Director-General of UNESCO with a cheque for US\$285,000, which was part of his winnings after a match, a month earlier, when he had

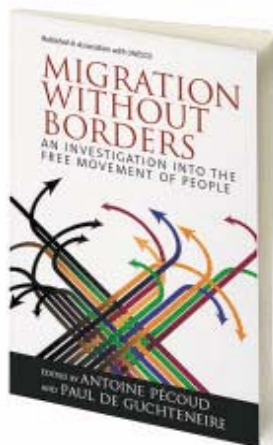
managed to hold on to his title of world heavyweight champion. The cheque was invested straight away in the programme for children in need. Both boxers had already supported this programme's activities when they travelled to Namibia in 2006.

The names of Justine Hénin and the Klitschko brothers are being added to the list of sporting greats such as French Judo champion David Douillet, German Formula One racing driver Michael Schumacher, Ukrainian pole-vaulter and record holder Sergei Boubka; and the famous Brazilian footballer Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pelé, who was named UNESCO Ambassador for Sport in 1994. ¶

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Education programme for children in need:  
Françoise Pinzon-Gil, f.pinzon-gil@unesco.org,  
tel. + 33 1 45 68 44 26

## Once upon a time there was a world without borders



An in-depth investigation to be published this summer by Berghahn Books in cooperation with UNESCO, explores the scenario of a world where people could move freely from one country to another and settle wherever they wished.

The right “to leave” a country, laid down in Article 13 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has no corresponding right “to enter” a country. This apparent contradiction has produced a publication, edited by two UNESCO programme specialists on international migration. It attempts to explore the scenario of a world where migration knows no borders. Given the current context of strict border controls and a heightened social and political awareness of the issue, this scenario of a world where each person would be free to move around from one country to another and settle wherever he or she chooses, may appear somewhat utopian. But today’s Utopia could become tomorrow’s reality and this publication attempts

to analyse the ethical and economic challenges as well as the social consequences of totally free movement all over the world. With contributions by Aderanti Adepoju, Rafael Alarcón, Graziano Battistella, Alejandro I. Canales, Jonathan Crush, Han Entzinger, Bimal Ghosh, Nigel Harris, Jan Kunz, Mari Leinonen, Alicia Maguid, Israel Montiel Armas, Sally Peberdy, Mehmet Ugur and Catherine Wihtol de Wenden, this reference work is a mine of new ideas which fuel the debate and contribute to finding new angles for research into fair and balanced migration policies that respect human rights.

This investigation into the free movement of populations constantly reminds us that nowadays access to freedom of movement reflects people’s unequal rights. Although the majority of the world’s population are able to leave their country, only a tiny minority have the right to enter whichever country they choose. Nationals of developed countries and highly qualified people can move around more or less freely, whereas others are dependent on the uncertain granting of visas and residence permits before they can cross a border. ¶

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To order the book:  
[www.berghahnbooks.com](http://www.berghahnbooks.com)

*Migration Without Borders*  
*An Investigation into the Free*  
*Movement of People*

Edited by Antoine Pécoud  
and Paul de Guchteneire  
36 €  
288 pp., Berghahn / UNESCO, 2007  
ISBN 1-84545-346-8

## IJMS: Knowledge exchange via migration diaspora networks

Issue no. 8 of the *International Journal on Multicultural Societies* (IJMS) is devoted to international networks of knowledge established via migration diasporas. Five articles examine how these networks contribute to the benefits of the migration process: in the receiving countries, by opening up access to international networks that bring in new ideas and qualifications; in the sending countries, by strengthening ties with the emigrants abroad; and, finally, by providing a platform for exchange of experiences and useful contacts for their professional and private lives. ¶

This issue is available online  
(in English only):  
[www.unesco.org/shs/ijms/vol8/issue1](http://www.unesco.org/shs/ijms/vol8/issue1)

## Countering human trafficking in Mozambique and Nigeria



The UNESCO project against human trafficking in Africa has just published two policy papers on human trafficking in Mozambique and Nigeria.

In these countries, it is mainly women and children who are victims of trafficking with poverty, inequality and discrimination forcing many to set up survival strategies that can make them even more vulnerable, pushing them into the arms of the traffickers.

Apart from trafficking, these two studies point an accusing finger at the highly lucrative trade in adoption and organ transplants, and the huge economic differentials of some towns, regions and countries making them prime targets for such trade. Both studies praise the campaigns being conducted against child-trafficking in Mozambique since 1996, the adoption in 2003 of a law to stamp out child trafficking in Nigeria, and they denounce the persistence of harmful cultural practices, forced labour and sexual exploitation, as well as the increase in the influence of organized crime. To this context, must be added a significant increase in the AIDS epidemic in Mozambique; policy makers need to react. ¶

*Human trafficking in Mozambique: root causes and recommendations*  
(in English and Portuguese)  
Policy paper poverty series; 14.1  
71 pp., UNESCO, 2006;  
SHS/CCT/2006/PI/H/3.

*Human trafficking in Nigeria: root causes and recommendations*  
(in English only)  
Policy paper poverty series; 14.2  
70 pp., UNESCO, 2006,  
SHS/CCT/2006/PI/H/2.

### CALL FOR PAPERS



The editorial board of the IJMS is calling for papers for a special issue which will focus on citizenship tests for immigrants in industrial countries. This issue will aim primarily to ask why these tests, seen as part of a nation-building strategy, are being introduced at a time when many aspects of the nation-state system are being dismantled. ¶

For more information,  
see the IJMS website:  
[www.unesco.org/shs/ijms](http://www.unesco.org/shs/ijms)

## \*\*\*\*\* Follow-up of social policies – the Brazilian experience

In partnership with the Brazilian Government, UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme is launching a special series of policy papers dedicated to the Brazilian experience in the area of social policies.

The first issue in the series has just been published in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, entitled *The system for evaluating and monitoring social development programmes and policies – the case of the Ministry of Social Development and the fight against hunger in Brazil*. Other studies will follow, based on this evaluation system, aiming to help improve the efficiency and transparency of the State's actions. ¶

To download this document:  
[www.unesco.org/shs/most](http://www.unesco.org/shs/most)

## \*\*\*\*\* East-West Dialogue – a report

The report of the international symposium entitled "Cultural Diversity and Transversal Values: East-West Dialogue on Spiritual/Secular Dynamics", held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 7 to 9 November 2005, has now been published (in English).

The symposium highlighted the wealth and fragility of cultural diversity in its many different forms of expression, especially in Europe and Asia; it looked closely at the tensions between spiritual and temporal imperatives which lie at the heart of many misunderstandings, and commended shared values that could help to bring these two cultural regions together.

The report can be consulted by visiting the UNESCO website (the Culture Sector's or the Social and Human Sciences Sector's pages). ¶

To request this report, please consult the website of the UNESCO's Culture Sector or [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org)

## \*\*\*\*\* A booklet of selected writings by winners of the Avicenna Prize

A selection from the work of the first two winners of the Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science has been published (in English), offering not only a glimpse of the wide range of these prizewinners' contributions to international research, but also some outstanding examples of the kind of research the Prize is intended to encourage.

In this collection, Professor Margaret Somerville, who was awarded the Prize in 2004, reviews the fundamental problems of contemporary ethics and the philosophical issues raised in modern life sciences; Professor Abdallah S. Daar, the 2005 prizewinner, gives an account of subjects including pharmacogenetics, xenotransplantation and regenerative medicine, with special emphasis on the worldwide impact of such scientific progress.

The Avicenna Prize was instituted by UNESCO in 2003, on the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran; it consists of a gold medal of Avicenna, a certificate, the sum of \$10,000 and a one-week academic visit to Iran. ¶

To download this booklet:  
[www.unesco.org/ethics](http://www.unesco.org/ethics)

To request hard copies, please write to:  
[comest2004@unesco.org](mailto:comest2004@unesco.org)

*Ethics of Science and Technology: explorations of the frontiers of science and ethics*  
(in English only)  
156 pp., UNESCO, 2006.  
SHS-2006/WS/6



## \*\*\*\*\* Environmental Ethics and International Policy



**At UNESCO's invitation, eminent experts in environmental ethics have assessed the current state of environmental ethics as an input to new international strategies.**

Now that climatologists have raised issues that call for urgent action by the whole world if our ecosystem is to be preserved, UNESCO is publishing a collection of studies on environmental ethics by some of the most eminent international experts. The eight specialists (writing in English) aim to raise awareness of one of the great challenges of our time among the general public, the scientific community and, above all, the political authorities. They stress that, despite greater awareness and a growing interest in environmental questions, the ethical aspect of such issues is still neglected, all too often, at the political level.

Knowledge of this new field of applied ethics is increasing steadily, though, and there are growing numbers of seasoned researchers, research laboratories and specialist courses in this field. The authors of the book – invited by the Director of the UNESCO Division of Ethics of Science and Technology, who has written the preface – recommend international measures to encourage

ethical reflection about the environment and contribute to effective environmental policy-making.

Tonjing Yang, for instance, advocates an "egalitarian global environmental ethics", while Emmanuel Agius considers "the ethics of the environment [in] an inter-generational perspective". Holmes Rolston explores "Intrinsic values on Earth: nature and nations", Robin Attfield's contribution addresses "Environmental ethics and global sustainability" and Johan Hattingh reviews "The state of the art in environmental ethics as a practical enterprise" on the basis of the Johannesburg documents. Mark Sagoff asks "Must we give up environmental ethics?", while Teresa Kwiatkowska concludes with the plea "Let Earth forever remain: putting environmental ethics to work". ¶

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To order the book:  
<http://publishing.unesco.org>

*Environmental Ethics and International Policy*  
(in English only)  
22 €  
226 pp., UNESCO, 2006.  
ISBN 92 3 104039 1

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## No. 17

**Dossier June – August 2007**  
**Social and Human Sciences working for young people**

### MARCH

**3 March:** Informal meeting of members of the Latin American MOST National Liaison Committees. Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. (g.solinis@unesco.org)

**5-6 March:** Conference on Human Security in Africa. Pretoria, South Africa. (peace&security@unesco.org)

**5-6 March:** Regional experts' meeting on Ethics Teaching. Istanbul, Turkey. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

**8 March:** Celebration of International Women's Day. UNESCO, Paris, France. (sg.corat@unesco.org)

**8 March:** Launching of an International Network of Women Philosophers. UNESCO, Paris, France. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

**9-10 March:** Rotating Conference on Ethics of Science and Technology. Lomé, Togo. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

**12 March:** Health care company Novo Nordisk conference: "Bioethics in a global perspective, how to implement the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights". Copenhagen/Bagsvaerd, Denmark. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

**12-16 March:** Regional Workshop on Peace and Human Security, Bangkok, Thailand. (s.sophia@unesco.org)

**16 March:** Symposium on the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. Royal Society of Medicine/BioCentre, London, United Kingdom. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

**19-20 March:** Development of minimum norms for Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) from a human rights perspective: a tool for decision-making in funding negotiations. (c.tekaya@unesco.org)

**19-23 March:** 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Bioethics Conference and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Table on Bioethics. Bangkok, Thailand. (d.macer@unesco.org)

**21-23 March:** International Symposium "Population, development and environment in the regions of the South". UNESCO, Room XI, Paris, France. (g.solinis@unesco.org)

**27-29 March:** Workshop for establishing Ethics Committees in the Arab States, organized in cooperation with the World Health Organization. Cairo, Egypt. (h.elguindy@mail.unesco.org.eg)

**28-30 March:** Meeting of legal experts for the development of the Global Ethics Observatory Legal Database. UNESCO, Room XVI, Paris, France. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

**29 March:** Meeting of experts for the preparation of a UNESCO teaching manual *Historical districts for everyone*. UNESCO, Paris, France. (b.colin@unesco.org)

### APRIL

**The week beginning 2 April:** National conference on regional integration in West Africa. Praia, Cape Verde. (cabraliva@hotmail.com)

**11-13 April:** UNESCO Bioethics Consultations. Suva, Fiji (susan@unesco.org.ws)

**16-17 April:** UNESCO Bioethics Consultations. Apia, Samoa. (susan@unesco.org.ws)

**17-18 April:** International Conference "Civic Education – global issue of our changing world: Russian experience, international view". Kazan, Tatarstan, Russian Federation. (a.ampar@unesco.ru)

**26-27 April:** 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the interim Steering Committee of the Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination for the Asia-Pacific region. Phnom Penh, Cambodia. (j.morohashi@unesco.org)

**29 April-4 May:** Joint UNISOL, SAHARA, TICH and NACC Conference: "Innovations in access to prevention, treatment and care in HIV/AIDS". Kizumu, Kenya. (c.von-furstenberg@unesco.org)

**30 April-1 May:** 1<sup>st</sup> Forum of Ministers for Social Development for Arab States. Marakesh, Morocco. (s.saad-zoy@unesco.org.ma)

### MAY

**1 May:** Official presentation of the project "Rethinking Latin America". Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO). Quito, Ecuador. (j.carranza@unesco.org)

**2-4 May:** International Symposium on Science, Technology and Human Values. Academy of Athens, Athens, Greece. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

**8-9 May:** 6<sup>th</sup> Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Ministers for Social Development. Buenos Aires, Argentina. (j.carranza@unesco.org)

**10-12 May:** 1<sup>st</sup> General Conference of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism. Nuremberg, Germany. (j.morohashi@unesco.org)

**17-19 May:** 14<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC). Nairobi, Kenya. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

**21-23 May:** Interregional Philosophy Dialogue – Africa-Latin America. Luanda, Angola. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

**21-23 May:** 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Bioethics. International Society of Bioethics. Gijón, Spain. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

**25 May:** Award Ceremony of the 2006 UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education. Pretoria, South Africa. (i.zoubenko@unesco.org)

### JUNE

**1 June:** Pan-Canadian meeting of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD). Calgary, Canada. (j.morohashi@unesco.org)

**4-5 June:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum of UNESCO Chair of Landscape and Environment. Paris, France. (b.colin@unesco.org)

**7-8 June:** Experts' meeting on "The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications", organized with the Amsterdam Center for International Law and the Irish Centre for Human Rights. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. (k.tararas@unesco.org)

**13 June:** Conference on Nanoethics. Danish Research Foundation/Danish National Commission for UNESCO. Copenhagen, Denmark. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

**18-19 June:** International Conference "Strengthening Ombudspersons' capacities in the promotion and protection of human rights", in cooperation with the Human Rights Defender's Institute of Azerbaijan. Baku, Azerbaijan. (a.ampar@unesco.org)

**25-29 June:** 1<sup>st</sup> UNESCO Asian Youth Forum "Intercultural and interfaith dialogue to ensure peace". Jeju Island, Republic of Korea. (mh.henriques-mueller@unesco.org)

**End of June:** Conference on "Sport and social integration". Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (marlova.noleto@unesco.org.br)

### CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



#### This quarterly is yours.

If you have an article or photographs of your activities that are in line with UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences programme, and you would like to publish them, then please send us your suggestions: shs@unesco.org