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26

DOSSIER

Focus on Senegal

INTERVIEW

Joseph Yaï:
“UNESCO should be
the locomotive of thinking
on governance”

CLIMATE CHANGE

**Moving towards
a universal ethical
framework?**

Climate change: rising to the ethical challenge

Hardly anyone would deny that climate change constitutes one of humanity's most urgent challenges. However, the exact nature of the challenge remains unclear.

We need to understand climate change as a constellation of extremely complex phenomena in order to lay out coherent and credible scenarios for its possible development. This calls for a concerted scientific effort, focusing on the most urgent needs, in recognition of the universal right "to share in scientific advancement and its benefits" (article 27.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).

We need also to reduce greenhouse gas emissions on the basis of fair burden sharing that does not impede legitimate expectations of development.

We need, finally, to soften the impact of climate change to enable States and populations to adapt without damaging their vital interests.

In other words, at every level of action – scientific knowledge, mitigation, adaptation – the key, inherently ethical issue is responsibility.

To quote the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, "The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities." (article 3.1).

But how to balance the interests of present and future generations? What type of response to the challenges of climate change would be truly "equitable"? Which responsibilities are truly "common" and which are "differentiated"? Do those who have the "capacity" to act have a duty to do so, regardless of their historical contribution to greenhouse gas emissions?

These unresolved ethical questions are hard enough in theory. In practice, for the past 15 years, they have hampered the establishment of an agreed international framework for action that might rise to the challenge the planet faces.

Thus, we confront an urgent problem, the ethical nature of which cannot be denied. Yet we lack an ethical language that everyone can subscribe to, with due respect for the diversity of interests and values. How can we disentangle ourselves?

In other areas – for example, cultural diversity and bioethics – the international community has succeeded in making an explicit commitment to general principles that can guide action at all levels of competence. Their capacity to do so depends on developing a common language that clearly expresses shared fundamental values. In the face of climate change too, this is the kind of consensus we need to aim at.¶

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Pierre Sané
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and Human Sciences

Ethics of Sciences

Energy technologies: a challenge for research in Asia 3
Climate change: Moving towards a universal ethical framework? 4
Creating a national network of bioethics in Bangladesh 4
1 question for Toivo Maimets 5

Human Rights

Sharing scientific progress: the demand increases 6
Discrimination related to HIV/AIDS: UNESCO and UNAIDS mobilize youth from the Eastern Europe 7
1st Meeting of the Network of Women Philosophers 8
1 question for Barbara Cassin 8
A Philosophy Day for dialogue between cultures 9
4th International Conference in Cairo and 1st Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue 10
Human security in schools 11
November at the "Greater Horn Horizon" 11
The International Coalition of Cities against Racism increases its action 12
Students from all around the world advocate against discrimination 13
Lauren Child / UNESCO: A beautiful story of solidarity 14

Social Transformations

UNESCO is finalizing two strategies on youth 15
The 6th UNESCO Youth Forum calls on States to invest in youth 16
Selection of the best youth policies 17
Sport to overcome trauma and for disaster response 18
Forum in Latin America to respond to the crisis 19

Olabiye Babalola Joseph Yaï:
"UNESCO should be the locomotive of thinking on governance" 20-21

What empowerment does civil society have in urban policies? 22

Dossier



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Focus on Sénégal 24-29
Social and Human Sciences within National Commissions for UNESCO.

Reader's forum 23
Publications 30-31
Calendar 32



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In rural areas of Sri Lanka, people adopt solar energy which is less expensive than other energy resources

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Energy technologies: a challenge for research in Asia

Protecting the environment and human security were the focus of a meeting of social scientists held on 25 August 2009, in Bangkok (Thailand), within the framework of the project “Ethics of Energy Technologies in Asia and the Pacific”.

Some fifty scholars, government officials, industrialists and actors of civil society from over twenty countries met in Bangkok (Thailand) on 25 August 2009, to analyze several reports on the ethics of energy technologies, including environmental and human security. Organized by the UNESCO office in Bangkok, this meeting, held within the framework of the project “Ethics of Energy Technologies in Asia and the Pacific” (EETAP), was an opportunity to review 8 draft reports prepared by working groups composed of engineers, philosophers, policy-makers and scientific experts.

New angles for analysis

Asked to comment on these projects, the participants felt they were balanced and provided a good update of scientific knowledge, especially those relating to universalism

and environmental values, energy flows, the environmental and ethical implications of meat production, the ethics of water management and water resources, as well as the ethics of the culture of algae as a biofuel.

The important observations of social scientists provided new perspectives for the analysis in light of previous meetings which were mainly attended by philosophers, ethicists, natural scientists and engineers. Thus it became clear during the consultation that only a few science academies have been working on environmental issues in recent years.

The Asian Association of Social Science Research Councils (AASREC) took the opportunity to call its members to pay greater attention to these issues in their respective countries. They were also invited to join UNESCO’s Asia-Pacific regional programme on the ethics of energy technologies.

Initiated in 2007 by UNESCO, the EETAP project is complementary to the numerous meetings organized by the UN and various forums on energy and the environment, seeking to encourage intercultural and multidisciplinary scientific exchange on environmental ethics to generate useful recommendations for policy-making in the long-term.¶

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34
is the number
of years remaining
before the
exhaustion of oil
resources
in Asia-Pacific.
(UNESCAP, 2009)

COMEST

Climate change: Moving towards a universal ethical framework?

Among the recommendations forwarded to the Director-General of UNESCO at the end of the 6th session of the World Commission on Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), held from 16 to 19 June 2009 in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), is the development of an ethical framework of principles in relation to climate change by the Organization. According to the 18 independent experts of COMEST, there is an urgent need to establish universal ethical principles that can guide the responses to challenges.

These principles include: the right to share in scientific advancement and its benefits, the precautionary principle; the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities; the principle of sustainability; the principle of integrity as applied to ecosystems; and the principle of safeguarding and promoting the interests of future generations. In addition to the agreement and the formulation of

principles currently approved, all this could, according to COMEST, provide the international community with a powerful tool to formulate comprehensive and ambitious responses to the challenges of climate change at all levels.

Normative instruments already exist

Pending the outcome of discussions, there exists the possibility of relying on several international normative instruments currently in force, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Declaration on the Responsibilities of Present Generations towards Future Generations, adopted by UNESCO in 1997. ¶

The recommendations of the 6th Session of COMEST are available at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001831/18314oe.pdf>

ETHICS EDUCATION

Creating a national network of bioethics in Bangladesh

Bioethics education should soon move forward significantly in Bangladesh, thanks to the creation of the Bangladesh Bioethics Association (BBA) which was launched at a 2nd workshop organized by UNESCO from 11 to 12 July 2009 in Dhaka. The Executive Committee and the Advisory Committee of the association, elected on this occasion, are responsible for encouraging the granting of scholarships to students, and ensuring that the principles contained in the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted by UNESCO in 2005, are observed.

Is a Bioethics Committee forthcoming?

At the opening session of the workshop organized by the Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia-Pacific (RUSHSAP) of the UNESCO office in Bangkok in close cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Dhaka and Bangladesh Academy of Social Sciences, the Chairperson of the University Grants Commission

of Bangladesh expressed the urgent need to establish ethics courses in different universities across the country which is facing significant challenges in its struggle for development.

Paying tribute to the creation of this association, Nurul Islam Nahid, Minister of Education of Bangladesh, gave it his full support, and encouraged every individual to continue its work already started for the creation of a National Bioethics Committee, along the same lines as those already established in many countries, under the leadership of UNESCO.

Bringing together 70 people from diverse backgrounds, this important workshop drew on the results of working groups set up at the 1st workshop on ethics, held on 17 and 18 March 2009 in Dhaka (See *SHSviews* n°25, page 6). ¶

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El Salvador establishes its National Bioethics Committee

By ministerial decree, a National Bioethics Commission was established in El Salvador in May 2009 with a mandate to participate in the development of legal and policy frameworks to promote the protection and respect of life, the environment and human dignity. ¶

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Debate in Japan on "What is medical"?

The island of Kyushu (Japan) will house on 12 and 13 December 2009, the 3rd Round Table on Bioethics to be organized by the University of Kumamoto and UNESCO Bangkok office. Discussions will focus on what is medical or not: this debate is all the more necessary today since these boundaries, which vary from one culture to another, are of great importance for the development of ethical policies to implement international standards on ethics. ¶

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Bioethics: the European Commission and UNESCO form an alliance

In collaboration with the European Commission, UNESCO is organizing a conference to strengthen the infrastructure of its Member States in bioethics from 26 to 28 November 2009, in Mexico City (Mexico). This meeting will bring together experts and members of National Bioethics Committees from around the world, whether newly created, in the process of or already established. ¶

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Mexico: 16th session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC)

Originally scheduled for May in the Mexican capital and postponed because of the outbreak of the A (H1N1) influenza epidemic, the 16th session of International Bioethics Committee (IBC) will be held from 23 to 25 November 2009 in Mexico City (Mexico). The 36 independent experts making up the IBC will seize this opportunity to continue their work on reflecting on Article 14 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, on the principle of social responsibility and health.

Four other main issues are on the agenda: the debate on bioethics and public awareness; the implementation of UNESCO Declarations on bioethics in the legal system in Latin American and Caribbean; regional experiences in bioethics education, as well as challenges and perspectives for the establishment of National Bioethics Committees in the region. Also on the agenda: the follow-up report on human cloning and international governance that IBC submitted on 9 June 2009, to the Director-General of UNESCO. The discussion that took place during the 6th session of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) has indeed shown how this issue is very timely for the international community, especially in light of recent scientific developments in this field. ¶

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1 question...

“How does the IBC plan to contribute to UNESCO’s initiatives aiming to promote international dialogue on human cloning and international governance?”

For Pr. Toivo Maimets, Vice-President of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and Director of the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Tartu, (Estonia), close collaboration between the IBC and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) proves to be “an absolute necessity” if they are to reach the desired results on subjects such as international governance and human cloning.

“As a committee of independent experts, it is essential for the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) to be informed of opinions and stated positions expressed by UNESCO Member States through certain forums, such as the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC), and to interact with policy experts.

The fact that scientific developments in the field of medical biology are nowadays swiftly developing requires extensive dialogue examining the numerous ethical questions that thus arise. Therefore, it is very important to create multidisciplinary groups representing the international community (scientists, professional ethicists, patients, lawyers, the private sector, etc.), and involve them in discussions based on the most recent scientific knowledge available.

Bringing together high-level experts from different fields, the International Bioethics Committee holds a unique position within the United Nations system which allows it to not only initiate and stimulate discussions, but also to propose concrete

Pr. Toivo Maimets: “Rapid scientific developments call for in-depth dialogue on ethical issues”



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action. The 16th ordinary session of the IBC, which will take place next November in Mexico, will thus consider ways to follow up its Report on Human Cloning and International Governance, through extensive brainstorming on the issue of the terminology used in the debate, the ethical implications of new scientific developments, and possible alternative legal mechanisms for international governance of human cloning.

In this sense, close collaboration between the IBC and the IGBC proves to be an absolute necessity to achieve the desired results. My experience over the years has shown very positive developments indeed. During the last meeting of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee, which took place in July

2009 in Paris, the IBC President, M. Adolfo Martínez Palomo and I had the opportunity to discuss our Report on Human Cloning and International Governance and other on-going documents. We received useful feedback and many useful suggestions for our further actions. Therefore, this will be an important topic during the next IBC meeting.” ¶

Interview by Gisselle Burbano Fuentes



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According to the UN, nearly 40% of the world population had no access to sanitation in 2008

HUMAN RIGHTS

Sharing scientific progress: the demand increases

Two experts' meetings were held in July 2009 to stress the need to better understand the normative content of two "emerging" human rights: the right to benefit from scientific progress and its applications and the right to have access to drinking water.

An experts' meeting organized by UNESCO and the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization, in collaboration with the International Law Centre of Amsterdam (Netherlands) and the Irish Centre for Human Rights, was held on 16 and 17 July, 2009, in Venice (Italy), and was an opportunity to highlight the need to clarify the normative content of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.

Indeed, while this right is proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirmed in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, its normative content is unclear and too little attention has been paid to it in the reports submitted by States to the Commission on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

But now everyone seems to agree that sharing the benefits of scientific progress in all fields, would not only improve the socio-economic situation of individuals but

also help overcome the negative effects of globalization. Knowledge and technologies are often only accessible to some; it is undeniable that the gap and the disparities in development between countries or between population groups in the same country are growing as fast as science and technology progress.

Based on the results of two previous meetings held in Amsterdam (Netherlands) in 2007, and in Galway (Ireland) in 2008, the Venice meeting aimed to better define the obligations of States in the implementation of this norm which is essential for the fulfillment of many other human rights such as the rights to education, to information, or to health.

Ten days earlier, another right crucial for human well-being and intrinsically linked to many other human rights such as the right to health, food or housing, had been the subject of an experts' meeting

held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (France). At the beginning of July 2009, the Sector of Social and Human Sciences, together with the Natural Sciences Sector and the UNESCO Centre for the Basque country organized the meeting on "Access to Water and Sanitation as a Human Rights Issue". The main objective of this meeting was to underline the fact that the right of access to safe drinking water and sanitation is in itself a human right, and to help advance efforts for its implementation, which is still waiting for codification. ¶

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11%
is the percentage
of the world's
population with
access to Internet.
(Towards Knowledge Societies,
UNESCO, 2005)

Discrimination related to HIV/AIDS: UNESCO and UNAIDS mobilize youth from the Eastern Europe

Because the AIDS pandemic cannot be stopped by medicine alone, as its development is nourished also by fear and ignorance, the UNESCO Moscow office began a vast project against discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in 2009. An awareness-raising campaign should primarily concern young Russians and Moldovans.

Following on in its action against the discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS, the UNESCO office in Moscow has recently set up, in partnership with UNAIDS, a project entitled "Strengthening the response to HIV/AIDS by targeting young people particularly at risk".

Implemented by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova, this project comprises two sections: on the one hand, training sessions based on a book for youth on raising awareness of HIV/AIDS, and, on the other, an awareness-raising campaign intended for Moldovan youth and their teachers.

A growing epidemic

While, according to WHO, countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia are now facing the grim reality that the epidemic is growing, the aim of the project is to strengthen the fight against HIV/AIDS, by fighting the stigma, misinformation and the fear involved which all contribute to the spread of the epidemic.

With the support of the charity foundation, the Tolerance Institute, and the State Library for Foreign Literature, MI Rudomino All-Russia, a book by the Russian writer Konstantin Skripkin, commissioned by UNESCO, was translated into English under the title "HIV and AIDS: What can we do?" and published in the collection "Other, Others, Otherwise", created by the

Russian author Lyudmila Ulitskaya to promote tolerance among 10-13 year olds.

Constituting the first phase of the Moscow office's project, a series of training sessions for teachers and librarians for children will be organized in October/November 2009 in Valentinovka (Moscow region) to raise awareness of the themes covered by this book and to encourage them to use the book as a tool for the prevention and fight against discrimination related to HIV/AIDS, contributing to human rights education.

Responding to social issues

At the same time, an awareness-raising campaign will be launched jointly by the UNESCO office in Moscow, the Centre for Intercultural Dialogue and the National High-School Debate League of the Republic of Moldova. Constituting the second part of the project, the campaign aims to involve civil society in the Republic of Moldova, especially youth, in the fight against discrimination related to HIV/AIDS and in developing solutions to the pressing social problems caused by this stigma.

Trainings sessions will be organized from September to December 2009 in various cities of the Republic of Moldova, and notably three regional seminars for teachers to encourage them to develop courses for the prevention and reduction of HIV/AIDS discrimination, also contributing to human rights education.

Fifteen local workshops will be organized by secondary school students who will then relay the information on these issues to their fellow students. ¶

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Irina Bokova Director-General of UNESCO

Obtained by the majority of the votes cast by the 58 members of the Executive Board of UNESCO, the appointment of Irina Bokova as Director-General of UNESCO is to be submitted on 15 October 2009 to the 193 Member States of the Organization's General Conference.

Following this appointment, Irina Bokova would thus become the first woman and the first representative of an Eastern European country to occupy this high office.

Married with 2 children, Irina Bokova, 57 years old, is a career diplomat. Ambassador of Bulgaria to France and Monaco, Permanent Delegate of her country to UNESCO since 2005, she assured the Vice-Presidency of the Group of French-speaking countries.

A politician, she was Secretary of State for European Integration (1995-97), Minister of Foreign Affairs (1996-97) before being elected Member of Parliament (2001-2005), then candidate for Vice-Presidency her country in 1996. The previous year, she led the Delegation of Bulgaria at the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing (China).

Mrs Bokova's personal web site
(English, French and Bulgarian):
www.irinabokova.com

PHILOSOPHY

1st Meeting of the Network of Women Philosophers

Launched in 2007, to mark International Women's Day, approximately 2,000 members of the International Network of Women Philosophers sponsored by UNESCO, will meet on 14 and 15 December 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France).

On 8 March 2007, 25 women philosophers and many Ambassadors to UNESCO announced the establishment of an international network allowing the diversity of women philosophers to express their views on a multitude of issues.

Two years later, no fewer than 2000 women with varying positions (students, professors,

researchers, etc.) have already joined this network. From all regions of the world, working in the fields of philosophy, journalism, literature, politics, the arts, etc. they will meet in December 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (France), to participate in the 1st meeting of the network.

A provocative question

Initially, and during a "Dialogue among women philosophers", they will discuss the functioning of the network, determine its future activities and consider actions needed to strengthen cooperation between its members. In a second step, a space for questioning will allow them to exchange views on central philosophical concepts that have governed the creation of the network, as it raises curiosity and questions: What are the definitions and implications of the expression "woman philosopher"? Is it, or should it be thought of as a philosophical concept? Is it used by philosophers themselves in their work? What are the consequences of such a network?

In total, it will answer a provocative question: What do men philosophers think of women philosophers? At the invitation of the network, some male philosophers, of international renown will form dialogue groups in pairs on the subject in question and proceed to put it into a philosophical, historical, cultural, social and political perspective. Each presentation will lead to a discussion with women philosophers, during which the most stubborn prejudices should not fail to be questioned and "unspoken" issues to be thought out loud.

Through a deliberately ironic scenario, the present situation of our societies and their functioning will be inevitably questioned. In a world where thought is often immediately relegated, monopolized, controversial or gender-marked, re-examining our ways of thinking and response seems necessary. ¶

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1 question...

"Why is there an International Network of Women Philosophers, and how did you become involved?"

“Philosophy has no sex. Philosophy is about ideas and concepts, and has a universality which is distinct from all particularity. However, when UNESCO asked me to help set up a network, not just with philosophers, professionals or amateurs, but with women philosophers, I thought the idea was extremely important, as it effectively reflected my own work in philosophy.

It is essential (and undoubtedly this is both within the mission and capacities of UNESCO) to struggle – continent by continent and country by country – against all forms of discrimination. In this sense, the primary function of the network of women philosophers is to have international visibility and to bring together isolated women who are often lacking in competence as ratio-

nal beings, lovers of knowledge, of wisdom and of science, "philosophers" thus. This is a major political issue.

From the perspective of my own privileged context, there is another fundamental issue. The history of philosophy since Greek antiquity is masculine; men think and write great poetry, women are connected with feelings and "literature". This is a fact, but a fact that should be questioned. This is one of the missions of the network: clearing the ground. Because the approaches, both literary and disciplinary, are not only visibly different from one culture and one domain to another (Theology in Germany, Comparative Literature in the United States, without changing the cultural context), but they are much more fluid than one would like to admit. This awareness of the permeability of approaches is one of the characteristics of the manner in

which women (and some men: Derrida, for example) practice philosophy "as women" do, and this moves in synchrony with the refusal of a certain type of mastery. I, for my part, have always questioned philosophy from the perspective of its "others": rhetoric, sophistry, literature, and against political violence of the Platonic philosopher-king, against the violent language of the Aristotelian refusal of contradiction, equivocation and homonymy. This is why I am interested not only in philosophical concept, but also in philosophies, in different languages that can be woven together, a symptom of which is the difficulty of translating from one language to another". ¶

Interview by Phinith Chanthalangsy

The Mediterranean: “Women become involved”

Under the high patronage of President of the French Republic and with the support of the Sector for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, a symposium entitled “Union for the Mediterranean: Women become involved” was held on 9 July 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris. Opened by Pierre Sané, UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences and Véronique Morali, Chairman of the Terrafemina Association, organizer of the symposium, it was punctuated by a series of round-table discussions on topics as varied as “New ways of expressing ‘feminism’ in the Union for the Mediterranean”; “Challenges and perspectives for educating youth”; “Environment and the Mediterranean: ‘Avant-garde’ women?”; “Entrepreneurship: the key to emancipation?” “Philosophy and Mediterranean cities: borrowings and traces” and “A picture is worth a thousand words”.

Created in May 2008, Terrafemina is an association created under the 1901 Act whose mission is to organize and support events devoted to women in the Mediterranean so that they can exchange their experiences and their common challenges. ¶

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Philosophy, poetics, aesthetics and music

An international symposium on “Renaissance of tragedy, poetics, philosophy, aesthetics, music”, brought together for the first time from 17 to 19 September 2009 in Paris (France), philosophers, Hellenists, Latinists, neo-Latinists, philologists, art historians, etc.

Organized by the University of the Sorbonne, the Università degli Studi Federico II of Naples (Italy) and the CNRS, with support of the Sector for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, this meeting served to explain a little-studied subject in an interdisciplinary and trans-historical manner. ¶

See the detailed programme:
www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy

CELEBRATION

A Philosophy Day for dialogue between cultures

The Russian Federation will host, from 16 to 19 November 2009, the international part of the World Philosophy Day. Many events will also be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, and in most Member States of the Organization.

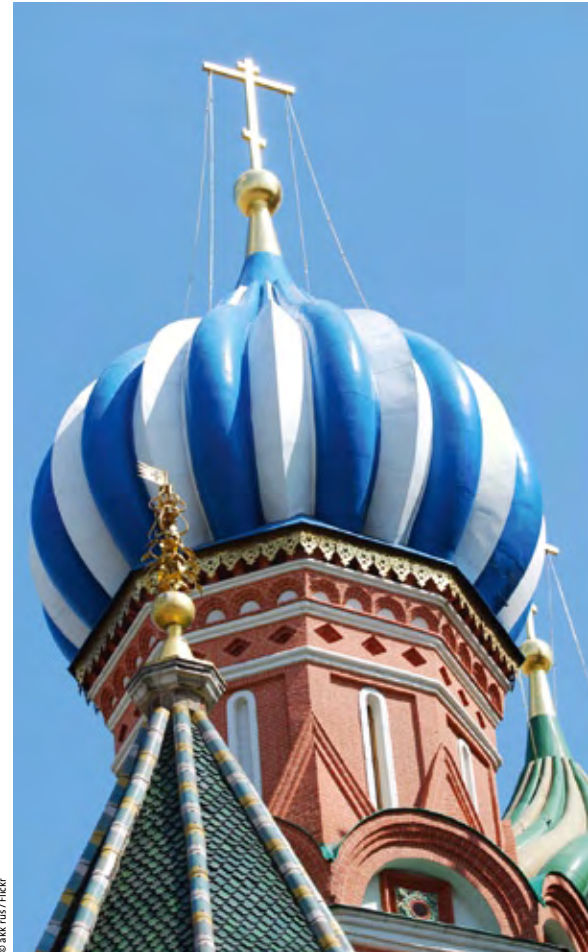
Prior to 2010, proclaimed International Year of Rapprochement of Cultures by the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Russian Federation will host, from 16 to 19 November 2009, the international part of the World Philosophy Day, the theme of which is “Philosophy and the Dialogue of Cultures”. Various philosophers from all regions of the world will lead the roundtable discussions that provide the framework for this celebration, and will focus particularly on how philosophy can be a bridge between different cultures, civilizations and traditions of thought.

Far from playing a passive role, UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris (France), will also celebrate the World Philosophy Day with several events.

On 10 November, in Room IV, the book “Les philosophies d’ailleurs”, edited by Roger Pol Droit will be presented. This broad multi-lingual philosophical anthology which can be used by beginners will be an opportunity to discuss the vital importance of basic philosophical texts of the great Indian, Chinese, Tibetan, Jewish, Arabic, Persian or Egyptian civilizations.

On 12 November a symposium organized by the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS) and the Transcultura network will be held in the same room, on the theme “What ‘is’ in crisis?” To answer this question, renowned philosophers from different orientations will dialogue in the hope of opening new directions for reflection. Entirely devoted to Pierre Clastres, a French anthropologist and ethnologist, who had dedicated much of his life to studying the concepts of power and the role of the State at the time of “primitive” societies, a series of conferences will take place on 18, 19 and 20 November in Room II, as part of a symposium organized with the University of Paris VII on “The Copernican revolution and the question of the state”.

Organized with the Philosophy Chair of Biological and Medical Sciences of the Collège de France, another symposium on the work and thought of



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John Stuart Mill will be an opportunity to celebrate, on 19 November, in Room IV, the Sesquicentennial anniversary of the book *On Liberty*.

Finally, on 18 and 19 November, the 9th meeting on new philosophical practices, including learning to philosophize children, co-organized by the Philolab Association, the University Institute for Teacher Training (IUFM) in Créteil (France) and the *Sciences Humaines* Journal will be held at UNESCO Headquarters.

Elsewhere in the world, as is every year, Member States of UNESCO will also celebrate World Philosophy Day through various activities organized by the National Commissions for UNESCO, UNESCO field offices, universities, associations, and various institutes and research centres. ¶

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DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

4th International Conference in Cairo and 1st Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue

The First Permanent Forum for Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights will be entirely devoted to migration in both these regions, and will be held, from 7 to 9 December 2009, at the headquarters of the League of Arab States, as part of the 4th International Conference in Cairo (Egypt).

Organized by UNESCO and the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights, chaired by Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the first Permanent Forum for Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights will be held from 7 to 9 December 2009 in Cairo (Egypt), and will focus on migration in the Arab-African region. The goal is to provide African and Arab States' governments with information to help develop and implement policies more consistent with the reality of migration flows in these two regions.

To this end, African and Arab experts on migration will hold two workshops: one on

“national migration policies bringing coherence in immigration and emigration policies while respecting the human rights of migrants”, and the other on “inter-regional migration and regional agreements on human movements”.

Many issues, particularly relevant for Africa and Arab States, will be addressed, such as transit migration, integration and protection of migrants, the international legal and normative framework of the rights of migrants, their political and labour rights, the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families, permission to reside, to live, to work or to buy property, or the state of regional policies for managing international migration.

Maximizing the opportunities

It will also discuss cooperation in the fight against irregular migration, to maximize the opportunities for regular migrants, failed transit migration, return migration, circular migration and remittances. Participants will also discuss the state of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, before concluding the first Forum by adopting a declaration and recommendations.

Placed under the patronage of Suzanne Mubarak, First Lady of Egypt, who will attend the opening ceremony along with the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences, Pierre Sané, the meeting will be attended by high-level representatives of international and regional organizations (International Organization of La Francophonie, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the African Union and the Pan African Parliament, the Arab Transitional Parliament, the Arab Inter-Parliamentary, the African Parliamentary Union, the African Commission on Human and Rights, the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Sciences, the Islamic Organization for Educational, Scientific and Culture, etc.).

Representatives of national human rights institutions, NGOs, parliamentarians and experts from Africa and the Arab region will also contribute to the discussions throughout the Forum. ¶

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African migrants mainly move to other African countries, such as Southern Africa, the Maghreb and West Africa.” (Website IOM)

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Human security in schools

In view of the publication in 2010 of a textbook on peace and human security, to mark the end of International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, several training workshops have been organized by UNESCO's Office in Bangkok.

A regional "Dialogue" and a workshop on peace and human security in Asia and the Pacific will be held in China, on 10 and 11 December 2009, under the responsibility of the College of Arts and Sciences of the Yunnan University and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

New Zealand, for its part, will also host in December a sub-regional workshop on the same theme.

A training session for teachers, students and policy-makers, was organized in Bangladesh on 2 and 3 July 2009. On this occasion, the Chairperson of the University of Dhaka and the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies

agreed to include, on a trial basis, courses on peace and human security in their curricula.

In the Solomon Islands, a training workshop and dialogue on peace and human security, organized on 21 and 22 June 2009, resulted in the willingness of policy-makers to include in their training programmes, currently under revision, issues linked to peace and development.

The results of other training sessions organized in 2008 and 2009 on the same theme in Malaysia, Thailand and Uzbekistan, will also be used as input for the forthcoming publication. ¶

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AFRICA

November at the "Greater Horn Horizon"

The end of the year 2009 will be marked by several important meetings for the future of the Greater Horn of Africa.

Thus, a meeting will be held on 7 November 2009, in Djibouti, bringing together the main coordinators of the "Greater Horn Horizon" Forum and actors from the private sector to explore the possibilities to establish a fruitful cooperation between them.

On 8 and 9 November, under the auspices of the Forum, a workshop will be organized in the same city on the theme "Identity, Citizenship and Regional Integration in the Greater Horn of Africa".

In addition to various presentations, including that of Professor Kidane Mengistead, from Pennsylvania State University – author of a reference document on this subject – experts, academics and researchers from the region will attempt to critically analyze the prevailing concepts on these issues, to explore new approa-

ches and definitions of these concepts and to define a vision of civic identity that could help create the conditions for genuine cooperation between the countries of the Horn of Africa.

Finally, on 10 November, the 2nd General Assembly of the Forum will provide an opportunity to review and validate its activity and financial reports, as well as future activities planned by its Executive Committee. Special attention will be paid to communication in order to promote its achievements.

Created in November 2007 in Djibouti, under the patronage of UNESCO, the Greater Horn Horizon Forum is a result of the desires and concerns expressed by many intellectuals from the countries of the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda). ¶

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Colloquium "The Haitian Revolution and the Universality of Human Rights"

An international colloquium on the Haitian Revolution and the Universality of Human Rights was organized, from 21-23 August 2009, in Port-au-Prince (Haiti), under the patronage of the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti, in collaboration with UNESCO, the Haitian Commission of Cooperation with UNESCO, the Haitian Society of History and Geography and UNESCO's office in Port-au-Prince.

250 years after the Island gained independence, the objective was to construct a discourse on the Haitian Revolution, following the example of the questions raised during the debates. What did Haitian intellectuals and researchers say and what are they saying about this Revolution? How did Haiti plan and consider its own appropriation of the revolutionary act of the slaves of the Santo Domingo colony? What are the concrete proposals to encourage a stronger respect of human rights in Haiti and elsewhere? How can this rich history be transformed into efficient public policies?

During this seminar, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences called upon Haitian policy-makers to submit the inscription of Haiti on the list of the world heritage of humanity, inviting them also to take into consideration a full accession of Haiti to the African Union.

During the closing ceremony, the Chairman of UNESCO's Executive Board paid a tribute to several Haitian key figures and a film presenting the achievement of "The Slave Route" project was broadcasted, to mark the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and of its Abolition.

The proceedings of the colloquium will be published in English, French, Haitian Creole and Spanish. ¶

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European coalition: Conference in Toulouse

The 3rd General Conference of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR) will be held on 19 and 20 November 2009, in Toulouse (France), on the theme of new challenges and new partnerships for the cities involved in this regional network, created at the initiative of UNESCO.

The discussions will focus on improving the participation and information of city dwellers, as well as on the fight against discrimination in employment and housing. The aim will be to establish strong partnerships with the victims of discrimination, addressing current challenges such as rise of racism in the current context of the economic crisis, and to offer a space for debate for the implementation of ECCAR's Ten Point Plan of Action.

Recommendations will be formulated for municipal decision-makers and new Steering Committee and Chairman will be elected for the coming two years. ¶

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Antiracism: Football clubs involve themselves

With more than 130 clubs, the European Club Association (ECA) signed on 8 July 2009 at the headquarters of FC Barcelona (Spain), in the presence of former international defender Lilian Thuram, a statement urging its members to integrate anti-racist clauses in contracts for football players. At the invitation of Joan Laporta, current Chairman of Barcelona's football club and Vice-President of ECA, ECA intends to compel clubs and players to refrain from racist behaviour, setting a positive example for their fans. The idea of including such a clause in players' contracts originated in the recommendations presented to the European Parliament by youth delegates involved in the project "Youth Voices against Racism", a joint initiative of UNESCO, the Catalan club and European Coalition of Cities against Racism (see SHSviews No. 23). ¶

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COMPETITION

Students from all around the world advocate against discrimination

On the theme "Discrimination", the 2009 World Human Rights Day will be marked by the holding, in Pretoria (South Africa), of the first World Human Rights Moot Court Competition.

On the occasion of World Human Rights Day, which, in 2009, will mark the 61st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the University of Pretoria (South Africa) is organizing, during the week prior to this celebration, the First World Human Rights Moot Court Competition, with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. This competition will focus on the theme chosen by the United Nations for the celebrations, that of "discrimination".

Students from all higher education institutions in the world are invited to compete, either in English or in French, the two official working languages of the United Nations, which will also be the languages for this event.

To participate, each faculty is invited to enter a team of two students – preferably one male and one female – and submit memorials on the basis of a hypothetical case, no later than 30 October 2009. After evaluation by a panel of experts, two teams from each of five United Nations regions will be selected to participate in the final rounds to be held in Pretoria early December. The final round will be held on the eve of World Human Rights Day and the

judges will include the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, and several eminent judges from international courts and tribunals around the world.

Limited financial assistance for participation in the final stages will be available. Teams are encouraged to make their own travelling arrangements for South Africa.

A privileged UNESCO partner

At the initiative of the first World Human Rights Moot Court Competition, the Faculty of Law of the University of Pretoria is a privileged partner of UNESCO, and for several years a fruitful cooperation has been developing. Indeed, not only does the University host a UNESCO Chair in Law Education in Africa, but also a Centre for Human Rights, which won the 2006 UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education.

Rewarded in recognition of its outstanding contribution to the cause of human rights in South Africa and its contribution to the culture of human rights through education and training of professionals in Africa and elsewhere, the Centre – created during apartheid – had previously contributed to the adaptation of a Bill of Rights for the country and participated in the drafting process of the constitution of South Africa. ¶

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Rules of procedure and registration form for the competition are available at the following address: www.up.ac.za/law

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN NEED

Lauren Child/UNESCO: A beautiful story of solidarity



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Through the partnership between UNESCO, Lauren Child and the publisher, Hachette Children's Books, concrete actions have been undertaken in the United Kingdom and Mexico, for children in need.

Officially launched in June 2008 in London, the partnership between UNESCO and Lauren Child, British author and illustrator of children's books, continues with the launch of a new phase of the "My Life is a Story" campaign. This will include an exhibition of the best stories and illustrations of lives of disadvantaged children, and is planned for the end of 2009, in the United Kingdom.

In this perspective, British children have enthusiastically contributed to this project, participating in workshops organized for this purpose in many schools, museums and libraries. Despite their cultural and geographical differences, like the majority of the world's children, they felt deeply concerned by the statements that have been made on the challenging

conditions faced by children of their age who are homeless, victims of violence, illness, and extreme poverty. This enabled them to understand that beyond the differences, a greater connectedness between them and the common aims of universal education and equality can create a fairer world.

Also motivated by this project, the Ravenscourt Park Primary School in London bought many copies of the book *That Pesky Rat*, and the copyright of this book is donated for 3 years to the UNESCO Programme for the Education of Children in Need, under the terms of the partnership between the Organization, Lauren Child and her publisher.

The funds raised in the United Kingdom have been used to fund projects for disadvantaged children, including one developed by the Mexican "Renacimiento" Foundation which shelters street children in Mexico, supervises them individually, gives them a basic education, teaches them to cook, or to use new information and communication technologies.

In collaboration with the UNESCO office in Mexico City, these funds were used in three stages. First, they were used to buy sheets, pillows, blankets and pyjamas for all the children at the shelter. Secondly, new beds, mattresses and personal storage cupboards were then provided to each child. Thirdly, the boys' dormitories, individual rooms for girls, and bathrooms and common areas were all rewired.

The dormitories were repainted, and doors and windows replaced. The cracked walls, broken windows, crumbling ceilings, fire hazards and unhygienic conditions are now things of the past and make "Renacimiento" a reference in the fight against neglect and poverty among children.

Motivated and supported by a renowned author and a generous publisher, the British school children were able to help UNESCO change many lives, like Fernando who, on behalf of beneficiaries of "Renacimiento", says "Thank you so much everyone! Now we can all sleep properly". ¶

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"Criança Esperança" success of the TV Globo/ UNESCO campaign

As the initiator of the "Criança Esperança" programme, carried out in partnership with the UNESCO office in Brasilia to help children and adolescents in Brazil, the Globo TV network organized its major annual awareness-raising and fundraising campaign on 22 and 23 August 2009.

Relayed throughout the Brazilian media, this 9-hour TV show aired on TV Globo brought together many artists, athletes, and celebrities to encourage people to donate.

With over US\$75 million collected since its creation in 1986, the "Criança Esperança" programme has already funded over 5 000 social projects, thus affecting more than 4 million children and adolescents.

Among the beneficiaries are the four permanent "Criança Esperança" centres located in the poor neighbourhoods of Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, São Paulo and Olinda.

This campaign, which focuses on cultural diversity, supported no fewer than 73 new social projects benefitting 114 000 young people in 2009 alone.

These projects, selected by experts from the UNESCO's Brasilia office (which also manages the funds collected) all aim to promote social inclusion, access to education and culture, and the fight against poverty.

Thanks to the generosity of the Brazilians, they also contribute to the empowerment of youth groups among the most vulnerable, such as descendants of Africans and young girls. ¶

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From 1 to 3 October 2009, 143 youth from 96 countries participated in the 6th UNESCO Youth Forum.



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DEVELOPMENT

UNESCO is finalizing two strategies on youth

The result of an extensive consultation with UNESCO Member States and various partners, a global strategy and a African strategy for development of youth are due to be finalized by the end of 2009 to serve as a “roadmap” for the work of UNESCO in this area until 2013.

UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector launched at the end of July 2009 a series of participatory consultations leading to the formulation of a global strategy and a specific strategy for Africa to be finalized by end 2009 that can prepare young people to cope with current and future challenges.

With the task of guiding the work of the Organization in this area until 2013, these two strategies are aimed at encouraging the emergence of a political environment conducive to the development and civic engagement of 15-24 year-olds. Thus, they should both contain lines of action to promote, inter alia, the participation and social inclusion of youth, a better management of knowledge related to youth, including policy-oriented research, and the formulation of public policies encouraging their development.

In terms of youth, like all strategies implemented in its fields of competence, UNESCO works closely with its

Member States and its partners to seek to continuously gather feedback and identify priorities specific to each region of the world, and to not only build the most appropriate strategies, but also to build alliances that can contribute to their effective implementation.

An innovative preparation

The result of extensive consultation with a number of governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations working in the field of youth, as well as representatives from academia and the private sector, the strategy, aiming to support youth development around the world, should thus incorporate the results of various national, regional and international recommendations made at the 6th UNESCO Youth Forum organized from 1 to 3 October 2009, in Paris (France).

The ideas raised in an on-line dialogue which united youth from all continents from August to November 2009 will also be considered. Responding to the priority given to Africa by the General Conference of the Organization, the specific strategy for African youth should also include the results of an on-line consultation of young Africans, conducted from 31 July to 4 September 2009 and recommendations will be made following a meeting to be organized by UNESCO, in partnership with the African Development Bank (ADB), before the end of 2009. ¶

25%

is the percentage of youth in the global workforce.

(World Youth Report, 2007).

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YOUTH

The 6th UNESCO Youth Forum calls on States to invest in youth

143 young people aged from 18-24 years, from all around the world met from 1 to 3 October 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France), to exchange ideas and make their voices heard by the Member States of the Organization.

On the eve of the 35th General Conference of UNESCO, 143 youth from 96 countries and 48 observers representing 34 organizations, crowded into UNESCO headquarters in Paris to participate in the 6th Youth Forum, held from 1 to 3 October on the theme "Investing to end the crisis: towards a partnership between UNESCO and Youth Organizations". Selected by their countries of origin for their involvement in activities related to youth, the youth delegates, aged from 18 to 24 years, discussed the opportunities for States to invest in youth development to emerge from the crisis and ways to strengthen their participation in public life, in order to make recommendations to that effect to the General Conference of UNESCO, of which the Forum is an integral part.

An innovative preparation

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, this event provides, every 2 years, a unique opportunity to share experiences, concerns and ideas of youth. Increasingly, one might say ... since this 6th edition was prepared in a novel way, with the introduction of two online discussion forums that have enabled many young people to contribute to the preparatory work. Also, for the first time, 5 young journalists, representing each region of the world, covered the Forum.

Opened by Pierre Sané, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, the Forum was closed by the Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Olabiya Babalola Joseph Yai. ¶

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“Recognizing the problems of unemployment, crime, alcoholism and many others that affect the youth of my generation, I am committed to the ‘Scout’ Association of my community and hope to raise awareness of people in Bhutan of the threat that these problems represent for the future. Through my commitment and my participation in the Forum, I want to hear the voices of youth at the General Conference of UNESCO. I hope it will provoke awareness and understanding among young people so that they will be responsible in developing their country. I plan to write a report on the results obtained at the Forum to be addressed to my association.”

Chimi Lhatsho (Bhutan, 23 years old)

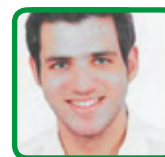


“As a medical student and aware of the malnutrition that affects many young people in my country, I joined the ‘Youth Observatory’ organization to assist in the implementation of awareness-raising projects and participation of young people supported by the Government of Mozambique. I hope this forum will allow me to share with other youth of the world and to put forward our experiences and our respective commitments.”

Cheinaze Beate Verissimo (Mozambique, 22 years old)

“Member of the ‘International Centre for Intercultural Research’, Learning and Dialogue, I help to develop international programmes for youth, including intercultural learning and the culture of peace. I hope to meet young people from around the world, to discuss and to cooperate with them, and to learn about the different realities they face. I hope to make contacts and perhaps implement development projects with other organizations.”

Ahani Minasian (Armenia, 23 years old)



“Member of the ‘Offre Joie’ Association which works to educate the Lebanese society on issues of unity and tolerance, I consider

my participation in the UNESCO's 6th Youth Forum as an opportunity and a challenge. I hope to meet this unity in diversity for which I campaigned during the Forum, and to learn new working methods and approaches that I can apply once back in my country.”

Elias Karam (Lebanon, 21 years old)



“After a distressing personal experience, I would like

to devote myself to the fight against violence and youth crime in my country so that future generations will no longer face the same problems. I hope that the Youth Forum will lead to the establishment of specific recommendations for concrete actions and a monitoring system to ensure that the work carried out by young people during the three-day Forum will bear fruit in the long-term.”

Melissa Eliza Bryant (Saint Kitts and Nevis, 19 years old)

Selection of the best youth policies

From 4 to 6 November 2009, a High-Level Forum on Youth Policies and Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held in Mexico, during which best practices selected from 400 experiments conducted in 31 countries will be made public.

A forum on best practices in youth policies and programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from 4 to 6 November 2009, in Colima (Mexico).

Coordinated by UNESCO and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and in partnership with 8 UN agencies, this high-level meeting will bring together representatives of intergovernmental organizations, several Latin American governments, the private sector, civil society and academia.



Above all, it will be an opportunity to publicize the best practices selected, following a call for proposals launched several months ago to governments and NGOs working in the region, as part of an inter-agency initiative to identify, exchange and transfer best policies and programmes contributing to youth development.

No fewer than 400 policies and programmes implemented in 31 of the 33 countries of the region have been evaluated by the partners in this initiative and by a panel of 57 experts and young specialists in the fields of education, employment, sexual and reproductive health, poverty reduction, prevention of juvenile delinquency, voluntary participation, participation of youth in public life, and the "full development" of youth.

Creating an international platform

These best practices, selected according to their impact, relevance, financial and technological efficiency, as well as their potential for duplication and transfer to another national context, will be presented at the Forum in Colima, before being published.

The high-level Forum should also help strengthen the pilot project which was at the origin of this initiative by facilitating its replication in other regions of the world.

Involving close collaboration between agencies, sectors and organizations, this project could indeed be the basis for the establishment of a long-term platform devoted to the exchange of practices, to the coordination of initiatives, to the structure of institutional work, and to the implementation of policies and programmes for the youth of the world.

Moreover, such a platform should facilitate comments and the sharing of opinions between youth and the project stakeholders, like an open dialogue in Latin America through the establishment of an Internet site. ¶

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Fight against juvenile violence: 2nd Forum of Ministers of Youth in Central America

The 2nd Forum of Ministers and High-Ranking Officials Responsible for Youth in Central America was held from 21-22 August 2009 in San Jose (Costa Rica), on the theme "Towards the institutionalization of public programmes for the prevention of youth violence".

A space for informal dialogue, the Forum brought together over 50 participants including Ministers and Deputy Ministers from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua, in charge of youth and/or education, and representatives of international organizations, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, NGOs and academic institutions.

The participants exchanged their experiences on the prevention of juvenile delinquency, agreeing on the need to confront this phenomenon using a comprehensive and preventive approach. They also stressed the importance of horizontal cooperation and cooperation between agencies in the process of formulating policies and deciding on international technical assistance.

On this occasion, the main results of the project "Youth Development and Prevention of Youth Violence", developed by UNESCO in Central America, were presented. Thirty policy briefs, prepared in the framework of this project were incorporated into the on-line search tool established by the MOST Programme. ¶

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To view the briefs of the project "Youth development and prevention of youth violence" (in Spanish):
www.unesco.org/shs/most

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Sport to overcome trauma and for disaster response

The city of Rheinsberg (Germany) will host, from 2 to 8 November 2009, a seminar on sport in post-disaster intervention organized by CIGEPS' key partner: the International Council for Sport Science and Physical Education.

A partner of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS) created by UNESCO in 1997, the International Council for Sport Science and Physical Education is organizing in Rheinsberg (Germany), from 2-8 November 2009, a comprehensive training seminar on "Sport in Post-Disaster Intervention".

With the financial support of the Federal Republic of Germany, this seminar will help professionals involved in the many tasks associated with relief efforts in disaster situations to meet students and researchers to complement their knowledge, by learning from experts and sharing their experiences in assisting communities to overcome the post-disaster trauma.

For one week, international experts will lead several sessions that will focus in particular on the challenges for sporting activities in crisis areas, the potential of sport, teaching and learning in these extreme situations and inclusive activities, civil-military cooperation and the role of psychology in disaster-relief efforts.

Wars, typhoons, floods, earthquakes, etc., affect thousands of people each year around the world. If the emergency is always to save lives, post-disaster interventions must also allow victims to overcome their trauma: to which physical activity can help in consolidating the physical and psychological state of health of the affected populations in different ways.

Practicing sport may, for example, help victims of disasters to relax for short periods and to focus attention on something other than the painful experience of loss. These interventions can also encourage team spirit and build a relationship of trust and mutual respect, which forms the basis of good social cohesion.

Clearly, in such situations, a sports coach has an important role to play in the effective use of sport as a psychological and social tool. He should not only master the technical knowledge, but also he should have previously followed a basic psychological and social training, of the type proposed by the International Council for Sport Science and Physical Education. ¶

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Anti-doping: A meeting at UNESCO...

The Second Session of the Conference of States Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport will be held from 26 to 28 October 2009, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France).

The Convention developed by UNESCO which entered into force on 1 February 2007, has already been ratified, accepted, adopted or acceded to by some 125 States. The organizers expect a greater number of participants than during the First Session, which was attended by 36 States Parties. Representatives of major international sports organizations and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) have also been invited.

Discussions will focus on several themes: monitoring the implementation of the Convention by States Parties, with the creation of an electronic tracking system (one of the first for a convention developed by a UN agency), the International Standard for the Protection of Privacy and Personal Information (ISPPPI) adopted by WADA and the management and implementation of the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport, which since its creation, has received donations of over US\$2 million from 19 Member States. ¶

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... And in the Cook Islands

A meeting of Ministers of Sport from the Pacific was held on 20 September 2009, in Rarotonga (Cook Islands) on the eve of the opening of the Pacific Mini-Games which bring together participants from the 21 States or territories of the region. The Mini Games will take place from 21 September to 2 October.

Organized in collaboration with UNESCO by the first Pacific country to have ratified the International Convention against Doping in Sport, the ministerial meeting was the opportunity for UNESCO to invite other countries in the region to adhere to the Convention and to apply for assistance from the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport. ¶

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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Forum in Latin America to respond to the crisis

1.9 % is the estimated growth rate for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2009, compared to 4.6 % for 2008. (ECLAC)

The 7th Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America and the Caribbean, initiated by UNESCO, was held in Quito (Ecuador) on 27 and 28 August 2009, and it reiterated its wish to place the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and those specific to the region at the heart of its concerns.

Created at the initiative of UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, the Forum of Ministers of Social Development for Latin America and the Caribbean held its 7th meeting, on 27 and 28 August 2009 in Quito (Ecuador).

For two days, policy-makers, social science researchers, academics and members of civil society from 14 countries discussed the global financial crisis, focusing on identifying new perspectives and forms of cooperation that could curb its worst effects.

Thus, they discussed the consequences of this crisis on the social policies of their respective countries, pointing out, in particular, an

increase in unemployment, poverty and inequality, food shortages and nutrition, as well as a reduction of remittances from migrants.

According to them, the populations most affected by this crisis, which began in Wall Street (USA), are those who are in no way responsible for it, especially the most vulnerable groups: women, youth, old people, disabled persons and indigenous populations.

Reversing the trend

Convinced that the crisis should be seen as an opportunity to change the course of events, the Forum called to "reverse the trend" and reaffirmed its wish to place the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and those specific to the region at the heart of its concerns.

Going beyond the limits of the liberal model, participants agreed to collectively consider possible policy alternatives based on the results of social science research and the experience of civil society actors.

They also asked the State to play a role of regulator in each country and to ensure greater social justice and cohesion, by better protecting the most disadvantaged population groups so as to avoid social unrest, the source of crime and xenophobia.

At the end of this meeting, the Ministers adopted a Declaration in which they committed

themselves to continue to reinforce social development policies in their countries and reaffirmed the importance of regional integration and cooperation.

The Forum was opened by Lenin Moreno, Vice-President of Ecuador, in the presence of Pierre Sané, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, Dr Emil Sander, Executive Secretary of the Latin American Social Science Research Council (CLACSO), Dr Francisco Rojas, Executive Secretary of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), representatives of UNICEF and ILO, as well as Ministers and Vice-Ministers of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

An appointment has been made for 2010, in El Salvador, where the 8th regional forum is scheduled to take place. ¶

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Olabiya Babalola Joseph Yai: “UNESCO should be the locomotive of thinking on governance”

His term of office as Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO expiring, Olabiya Babalola Joseph Yai provides an initial assessment of the experience gained in his role for *SHSviews*.

Convinced that UNESCO has a role to play in rethinking global governance, he advocates having an international conference organized that would distribute the cards and responsibilities within the UN system.

Your term of office as Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO is expiring. Has this experience changed your outlook on the Organization?

My two years of experience have enabled me to understand and affirm that if such an organization did not exist, we would have to invent it. The world today is in such a state as we face very important issues and challenges, even if we are not getting over a great cataclysm like the last world war, which, more than 60 years, was the mold on which UNESCO was created.

The fact that there are, for example, millions of illiterate in a world where all the resources to eradicate this scourge are available, is not acceptable. On another level, while we agree that the world is globalized, there are still many cultures and civilizations which lack knowledge of each other. If the founding fathers awoke, they would not understand this situation.

How do you explain this paradox?

The true explanation lies in the selfishness of states, particularly the more affluent ones. Although UNESCO is an essential component, it lacks the means to exercise its responsibilities in the field. One only has to see the UNESCO budget that has reached the ceiling for years and does not exceed the budget of an average university in the United States or Japan. One could think that somewhere there is a resistance to provide the Organization with the means to achieve the expected results.

Where does this resistance come from?

There is a marked trend to no longer trust multilateralism. States are becoming more selfish and more

INTERVIEW



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“Although UNESCO is an essential component, it lacks the means to exercise its responsibilities in the field. One only has to see the UNESCO budget that has reached the ceiling for years and does not exceed the budget of an average university in the United States or Japan”.

inclined to focus on bilateralism. It even happens sometimes that, through UNESCO, under the guise of multilateralism, they do bilateralism in disguise.

What solution would you suggest to curb this trend?

An international United Nations conference should be organized to conduct a redistribution of cards and responsibilities within the system to take measures, including legislative, to bring those who are supposed to better support UNESCO. The role of civil society should also be strengthened so that this is not the only case of States.

The day of your appointment you quoted L’Homme approximatif by Tristan Tzara, a poem in which he stated that dialogue is necessary for this “dream called We.” Do you think the role of UNESCO is to be the space for this dialogue?

If there is a space where we can speak of “we”, it is UNESCO. But “we” has a double meaning: it can be inclusive or exclusive.

The United Nations illustrates the “we” exclusively, with a Security Council taking major decisions by excluding many of the Member States of the Organization. I’m not saying that the UN is useless, but it is organized in such a way that an exclusive “we” is practised. ➡

“If UNESCO were to be the brain of the UN system, MOST would be the soul”.

⇒ At UNESCO, it is different. Here the “we” is inclusive because each State has one vote. At the Executive Board, UNESCO Member States have the flexibility to participate, although major powers do everything possible to be permanent members of the Board, as proposed by a Japanese amendment. While not perfect, UNESCO is a space for dialogue. Those who come to dialogue should be representative of all trains of thought. It should also open up a little more to civil society and not be the prerogative of states.

Why is representation of civil society so important?

Civil society should be represented, not necessarily to balance governments, but to hear the voices of the “voiceless”. Civil society has done much, at a national level, for democracy and human rights. If we gave it the authority to express itself on an international level, there would be more balance in world affairs, the voices of the “voiceless” would be heard.

What specific role(s) could UNESCO play in the coming years to meet contemporary challenges, including the global financial crisis and its impact on development?

Have you seen the reaction of the wealthy States to the financial crisis? They immediately went to the rescue of banks. If UNESCO had only 1% of the money put up to repair the damage caused by private banks, and if this money was spent to curb illiteracy, we would have finished with this scourge long ago!

All the ideas expressed at the G8 or G20 summits are too specific and restrictive. The United Nations only speak about finance. UNESCO can help to think of new structures for global governance. This is its role and it is unfortunate that it is placed at the periphery of the on-going reforms at the United Nations. We need a concept of governance and UNESCO should be the locomotive, not a simple compartment of the train in this reflection. It is up to UNESCO to serve as a laboratory of ideas, including thoughts on the crisis.

Does UNESCO not play its role?

We do not give it the means to truly play its role. Look at the number of illiterates in the world, and cultures indifferent to each other. As one Indian proverb says: “One cannot quench thirst with dew.”

You now expect to involve yourself more in the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme. What does this programme mean to you?

If I can use an image, I would say that if UNESCO were to be the brain of the UN system, MOST would be the soul. UNESCO is indeed supposed to think, anticipate, plan, alert, taking the pulse of the state of the world. Within it, MOST should play a role of think tank and its members have some leeway for this. This programme, which is supposed to manage social transformations, is actually very important, and this is why it must be composed of prominent figures, observers alert of what is happening in the world.

Guidelines have been drafted to assist countries wishing to create or develop MOST National Liaison Committees. Does the establishment of such structures in the world seem feasible to you?

It is very desirable and achievable, provided that networks linking universities and civil society are established, not relying solely on States.

Regional integration is the priority of MOST for Africa and it is incidentally under the auspices of this programme that it is foreseen to open a Research Institute on Integration in West Africa (WAE) in 2010 in Cape Verde. Why this issue is so meaningful in Africa?

It is meaningful because it is always on the agenda. Existing States today have not been divided up by Africans themselves. The borders are artificial and these States are not even markets. With 8 million people, some of these States are not even the size of an average Chinese city. If, selfishly, we create walls between these entities that we have not created, we harm our people who, moreover, do not hesitate to ignore the artificial borders and cross them without any restraint. Our States are not viable in their current structures. I refer to it in the work of Senegalese scholar Cheikh Anta Diop and the writings of the former President of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah.

There has to be an institution that thinks about integration. And this is where UNESCO plays its role by ensuring that decision-makers are equipped so as they do not address these issues in a vacuum. There is no doubt about the importance of the existence of the WAE. It took time to create, and it should have grown in African universities, in the early years of independence. ¶

Interview by Nfaly “Vieux” Savané



Olabiya Babalola Joseph Yai:

Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Benin to UNESCO, Olabiya Babalola Joseph Yai was elected on 5 November 2007, Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO. Born in Benin in 1942, he holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Sorbonne (France) and a postgraduate degree in linguistics from the University of Ibadan (Nigeria). He taught at the Federal University of Bahia (Brazil), at the University of Birmingham (United Kingdom) and Kokugakuin University in Tokyo (Japan). He is also a specialist in languages and African literature, in literacy, in oral poetry and in the culture of the African Diaspora. ¶

East Africa: 2nd Regional Forum of Ministers of Social Development

The 2nd Forum of Ministers of Social Development of East Africa was held from 5 to 8 October 2009 in Bujumbura (Burundi), under the auspices of the East African Community (EAC) and in collaboration with the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme.

The work to develop common strategies, launched at the 1st Forum of Ministers held in September 2008 in Kigali (Rwanda), was continued during this meeting. Ministers were therefore invited to review the status of various priority sectors: social services and health, education, science and technology, culture, sport, gender, children and youth, welfare and community development, and environmental and natural resources. Other priority areas in which UNESCO and the EAC should strengthen their cooperation should also be identified, including: the fight against HIV/AIDS, the development of primary education, sport and physical education and promoting gender equality.

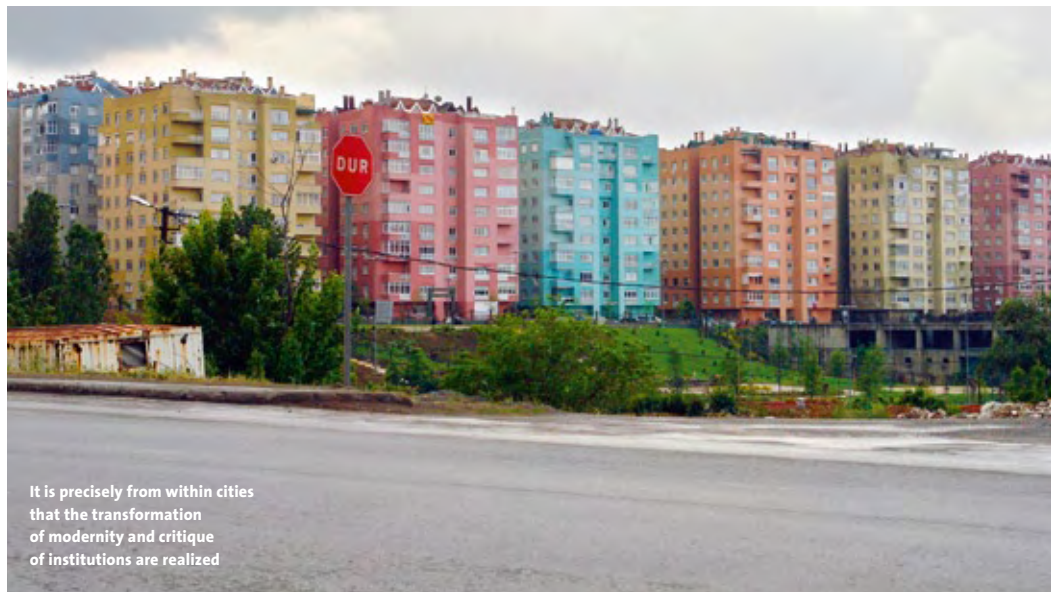
The Forum of Ministers of Social Development of East Africa was established with the objective to “provide a long-term platform to share experiences and harmonize policies and approaches in the management of cross-cutting social concerns, such as poverty eradication and the overall management of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).” ¶

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URBAN DEVELOPMENT

What empowerment does civil society have in urban policies?



It is precisely from within cities that the transformation of modernity and critique of institutions are realized

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Under the auspices of the UNESCO Chair “Urban Policies and Citizenship” of ENTPE in Lyon (France), a conference on the “Empowerment of Civil Society in Urban Policies” will be held from 31 October to 3 November 2009 on the island of Porquerolles.

Academics and researchers from different countries will meet from 31 October to 3 November 2009 on the island of Porquerolles (France), for a conference organized by the UNESCO Chair “Urban Policies and Citizenship” at ENTPE, in Lyon on the “political and economic conditions of the institutionalization of empowerment in urban policies for the past 20 years” and “the use of empowerment on and by social groups within cities”.

A process that engenders creativity

Urban areas generate more and more interest with regard to questioning and analyzing the marked trends of globalization that cast doubt on the validity of social, economic and political mechanisms, enabling the constitution of political communities.

For many observers, these are the starting points for the transformation of modernity and for the criticism of institutions, of collective identities, of the

prevailing representations, particularly with regard to positions and functions of urban actors.

This deconstruction process leads to innovation, to imagining new social links, new forms of solidarity, and new relationships between urban spaces and new mechanisms for the coordination of public policies.

These are all the issues that the Porquerolles conference intends to explore, the results of which will be presented in 2010 at the 5th World Urban Forum, organized by UN-Habitat in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) on the theme “The Right to the City: Bridging the Urban Divide”, and at the World Expo in Shanghai on “Better City, Better Life”. These results will also be used for a feasibility study for the creation of a UNESCO inter-regional research centre (category II) on inclusive cities, which could open its doors in Porto Alegre.

For UNESCO, this meeting will also be an opportunity to pay tribute to Professor Bernard Jouve, who died accidentally in 2009 at the age of 44 years. He was a researcher at ENTPE in Lyon, and was at the origin of the creation of this Chair in 2007. Author of numerous articles and work on governance and urban policies, metropolization and cultural diversity, he taught at the Lumiere University of Lyon, the Institut d'Études Politiques, Paris, and the University of Montreal, Quebec (Canada). ¶

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José Fogaça

Party member of the Brazilian Democratic Movement, former MP and former Senator, José Fogaça has been Mayor of Porto Alegre since 2005. Before entering politics, he was Professor for preparation for university entrance, television presenter and radio host.

The choice of social capital

By José Fogaça

One of the promising developments of the last decade in many cities in the world is the gradual replacement of traditional models of government with new models of governance based on innovative (...) forms of cooperation.

Even if, in Porto Alegre, we do not reform state institutions, new practices of governance are thus firmly established. Our project “local solidarity governance” increases access to public services and better urban equipment for the majority of the urban population, building upon existing social capital. The project aims to create a culture of emancipation, to give citizens the power to control and more autonomy over local development strategies and quality of life.

A relatively new concept, the relationship between social capital and community development has become a valuable theoretical tool.

In 1916, Lydia Hanifan, a public manager holding the post of state supervisor of rural schools in the state of West Virginia (USA), had already drawn attention to the fact that to improve the quality of our schools, we must use the community’s social capital, that is to say, “the tangible substances that count in the daily lives of people, such as goodwill, fellowship, compassion and social intercourse between individuals and their families.” According to Hanifan, “if an individual comes into contact with his neighbour, and they with other neighbours, there will be an accumulation of social capital, which could instantly satisfy their social needs, and which may bear sufficient social potential to the substantial improvement of living conditions in the whole community.”

This same concept was used in the 1960s, in *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* by Jane Jacobs who wrote that the raw material of social capital is trust, that is to say, the proximity and commitment that individuals and groups are able of building in a community.

Since, in Brazil and other Latin American countries, initiatives to mobilize social capital in the fight against poverty and inequality are flourishing. (...) This new view of democracy requires citizens to find a new way of being and acting in their daily lives, and a new way of building a consensus for the common good, rather than simply settling for formal decision-making.

Indeed, in Porto Alegre, the “local solidarity governance” is in theory and in practice, part of a series of measures to strengthen popular participation in issues such as public security, management of public and community equipment (...) the running of day-care centres, job creation and income. It is, above all, about a way of living together, consideration and trust, a new model of involving community and government.

After four years of intensive work, the concept of governance has taken root as a new participatory methodology, a new way of producing results for the benefit of society. This represents a change of culture, not only within the government, but especially in the relationship between government and society. Partnership and cooperation are essential ingredients to fostering active citizenship, and the government is only one of the actors among a broad network of actors and groups striving for a better life in communities.

For us, “local solidarity governance” means responsibility and, above all, co-responsibility in working together to say that communities of struggle and resistance may also become communities of initiative and endeavour, capable of shaping new destinies (...). ¶

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



SHSviews is continuing the debate on the inclusion of all populations in cities, opened in No. 24, by an article by Prof. Balbo, the UNESCO Chair on Spatial and Social Inclusion of International Migrants” in Venice (Italy). Comments, suggestions or proposals are most welcome: migrants&cities@unesco.org



Dossier compiled by:
Aliou Ly, Senegalese Commission
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Focus on Senegal

Social and Human Sciences within National Commissions for UNESCO



A Commission committed to development

For the 8th stopover of the trip, within UNESCO National Commissions which began in 2008, *SHSviews* went to Senegal to discover a Commission that pays particular attention to the social and human sciences, which can help to grasp the complexity of contemporary issues.

in the preparation of government contributions to the General Conference of the Organization and various ministerial meetings in which the country participates, the Senegalese Commission also cooperates with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

From the start, it has been paying particular attention to the social and human sciences, which can help to grasp the complexity of contemporary issues. Far from the sectoral battles, it encourages a multidimensional approach, always endeavouring to build bridges between disciplines and to encourage the participation of all in the development and implementation of UNESCO programmes.

Thus, it encourages regional cooperation and develops many projects to facilitate group discussions on issues such as reducing poverty, the situation of youth, human rights, migration, bioethics and the ethical and moral values of sport. It is currently studying the possibility of strengthening the capacity of its Sub-Commission for Social and Human Sciences which will also serve as a Management of Social Transformations (MOST) National Liaison Committee.

According to its Secretary-General, Moustapha Tambaou “the goal will be to work, and why not create pressure so that the strategic orientations of the MOST programme guide development policies”. He believes that in amplifying synergies between politics and civil society to “bridge the gap between the excitement of scientific advances and the uncertainty surrounding its use for the implementation of development strategies in line with expectations and needs of citizens”. A work to which, well beyond the MOST programme, the Senegalese Sub-Commission in charge of social and human sciences endeavours to contribute. ¶

Coraline Bardinat

42,2% This is the percentage of the Senegalese population aged under 15 in 2005 (UNDP).

Regarding his commitment to the dialogue of cultures, Leopold Sedar Senghor, Senegal’s emblematic figure, recalled on the occasion of the celebration by UNESCO of his 90th birthday: “Looking behind me, I remain more than ever convinced that cultural blending is an ideal of civilization.”

Senegal is, indeed, marked by an unquestionable geographical, climatic, cultural, ethnic, religious, migratory and linguistic diversity. A country of West Africa, bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, it shares borders with Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Mauritania, and lies opposite the islands of the Republic of Cape Verde, so named in reference to the westernmost point of Africa: the peninsula of Cape Verde in Senegal, where the capital, Dakar is located.

Largely committed to regional integration, Senegal is, in particular, a member of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the Community of Sahel-African States. It is also the country of Amadou Mahtar M’Bow who was Director-General of UNESCO from 1974 to 1987.

So it is surely not a coincidence that only 5 months after independence, Senegal joined UNESCO, on 10 November, 1960, and pledged to be a flagship country where UNESCO’s objectives will be pursued.

Three years later, the Senegalese Commission for UNESCO was established with the objective to contribute to maintaining peace, security and human prosperity, and to participate actively in the development and implementation of UNESCO’s programmes.

From then on, it sought to disseminate the Organization’s activities, and to involve different Ministries, institutions, organizations and individuals working to advance education, science, culture and the information.

Chaired by the Minister of Pre-School, Elementary, Secondary and National Languages, which allocates its budget, the Commission is composed of a General Committee, a Permanent Secretariat, and 5 Sub-Committees, each specializing in one of UNESCO’s areas of work.

Working closely with the Permanent Delegation of Senegal to UNESCO



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Understanding better the contribution of population movements

Faced with current international and regional events which regularly address the issue of migration, the Senegalese Commission for UNESCO held a sub-regional seminar in Dakar on 23-24 July 2008 on the theme "African Migration, Human Rights and Cultural Diversity".

Developed within the framework of UNESCO's Participation Programme, the workshop focused on migration within the Economic Community of African States (ECOWAS), with the goal of better understanding the phenomenon's inter-cultural dimensions, enhancing cultural diversity in the host countries, and above all, raising awareness on human rights violations in the region; notably the creation of retention camps and the mass expulsion of migrant youth.

Social scientists, academics, representatives of civil society, the UNESCO Office in Dakar (BREDA), the International Office of Migration, as well as policy-makers from Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal attended the meeting.

For two days, they shared their views on the various dimensions of inter-African migration, as well as on the challenges they pose for human rights. They also assessed the contribution that migration could have on economic, social and cultural development, as well as how the authorities of the host country perceive migrants, including their rights and obligations.

By providing experts from different backgrounds with an opportunity to exchange their views on these issues, this sub-regional meeting enabled the identification of new trends in African migration. Participants were able to better understand this phenomenon, which generates new identities and new forms of solidarity at a time when Africa has been encouraged to reconsider unity as a strategy to promote development that could benefit the entire continent. ¶

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56,2%

This is the percentage of the Senegalese population living on less than \$2US per day, between 1990 and 2005 (UNDP).



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3 questions for ... Aminata Diaw Cissé

Chairperson of the Sub-Commission for Social and Human Sciences of the Senegalese Commission for UNESCO, Aminata Diaw Cissé is also Vice-President of the West African Research Association and former Secretary-General of the Senegalese Council of Women, the scientific commission of which she currently chairs.

How does your work in social and human sciences fit in with the other programmes of the Senegalese Commission?

Our working methods are based on the principles of synergy and interaction. So, each sub-committee is fully aware of what is being carried out in other areas when it sets its priorities and working agenda.

We see that discussion or action on issues such as gender equality cannot be carried out if, for example, the work developed in the Sub-Commission on Natural Sciences is ignored. Can coastal erosion in Senegal be addressed in a neutral manner, if such

a phenomenon does not equally affect men and women? This is the kind of debate that takes place in the Senegalese Commission for UNESCO. This discourse clearly reflects not only the relationship between different issues, but also the link that can and should be made between different Sub-Commissions in social and human sciences, in natural sciences and in communication, etc. ➔

Working for human rights with UNESCO Associated Schools

The Senegalese Commission for UNESCO has developed numerous initiatives to promote human rights.

In November 2004, it organized a training workshop on education for tolerance, intercultural dialogue, human rights and human citizenship, based on the Senegalese network of Associated Schools of UNESCO, and co-chaired by the Director of the UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Africa (BREDA) and the Senegalese Minister of Higher Education, Universities and Regional University Centres.

Some 104 Heads of Senegalese Associated Schools participated in the meeting, which was aimed at raising awareness of the need for practical education methods to stimulate an increased awareness in children of issues of democracy, tolerance and peace.

Continuing this awareness-raising campaign, the Commission also held a Sub-Regional Meeting on Human Rights in June 2005 in Dakar, in order to conduct a proper examination of the human rights situation

in Africa. Chaired by the Minister in charge of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Promotion of Peace, the meeting was attended by many human rights specialists, including the President of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the Secretary-General of the NGO "African Assembly for the Defense of Human Rights (RADDHO), a member of the National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR) from Togo and member of the UNESCO Chair on "Human Rights and Democracy" from the Abomey Galaxie University in Benin.

In the presence of the Secretary-General of the Senegalese Commission for UNESCO and the Director of BREDA, they discussed the mechanisms that could be used to promote and protect human rights in Africa, by identifying the obstacles to their implementation. As a result of the meeting, recommendations were made for African countries, such as the establishment of partnerships between civil society and governments, the development of regional cooperation in research, the setting up

of a national observatory for electoral transparency in African countries, and the introduction of human rights education into all levels of education.

More recently, on 9 and 10 September 2009, the Heads of Senegalese Associated Schools were invited to attend another meeting on human rights education, peace and democracy in the Senegalese education system. Its goal was to give an analysis of education in this area, and to encourage teachers to voice their opinion about the curricula and necessary teaching materials. Again, specific recommendations were made for policy-makers concerning the need to increase class time, to renew teaching methods, and to promote extracurricular activities. ¶

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➡ In Senegal, what are the main challenges for which the social and human sciences can help provide answers?

There are many challenges, but because of their structural and determining natures, poverty and gender equality are the two that seem to be a priority.

Nobody today can be unaware of the extent to which women contribute to the economy but, more importantly, of their extraordinary contribution to the survival of households.

At the same time, one cannot help to be but struck by the violence women are subject to in the domestic space, and people's failure to respect their rights. This is linked to the patriarchal nature of society, which is not fundamentally challenged by public policies. The social and human sciences can help to address these shortcomings or failures.

State policies are mainly geared towards the fight against poverty through the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the accelerated growth strategy. But the issue of poverty encompasses more

than just the lack of resources or access to basic social services. This is precisely where social and human sciences can intervene, through research at the micro-level which questions the definitions and perceptions of the social forces of poverty and welfare.

How do you collaborate with your partners?

Within the Commission, we have chosen to integrate active people from civil society and academia who feed our thinking and action with the lessons learned from their experiences. Indeed, the Sub-Commission on social and human sciences cannot do its work without what might be called its "natural and strategic" partners, such as universities, human rights organizations and women's associations. ¶

Interview by Coraline Bardinat



"The issue of poverty encompasses more than just the lack of resources or access to basic social services".

The fight against poverty: making youth a priority

In the fight against poverty, the Senegalese Commission pays particular attention to youth, who compose an especially vulnerable fringe of the African population.

This is indeed an important national issue for a country where, in 2005, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) estimated that 42.2% of the Senegalese population was less than 15 years old.

Systematically adopting a regional approach, the Senegalese Commission organized, for example, a seminar entitled "Poverty in the ECOWAS zone: impact and strategies for reducing the effects on disadvantaged youth" from 24-27 June 2003.

The objective of this seminar was to draw attention to the realities of 15-24 year olds that were living in poverty, and also to promote the implementation of appropriate strategies for the mitigation and elimination of poverty throughout West Africa.

This workshop brought together economists, sociologists, representatives of ministries, National Commissions and UNESCO Clubs from 10 of the 15 ECOWAS countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Togo and Senegal), and members of the UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Africa (BRENDA).

At this meeting, which was made possible by UNESCO's Participation Programme, ECOWAS countries shared their individual experiences – both in terms of civil society and government structures – and an inventory was taken on the impact of poverty on disadvantaged youth. ¶

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FOR FURTHER READING

TOOL



A guide to parliamentary practice

In collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, UNESCO provides UNESCO National Commissions and the members of its Secretariat with a practical guide on parliaments and their methods of work. Written also with parliaments in mind, this guide compiles basic information on UNESCO and the specific domains to which national elected representatives can contribute, such as the ratification of normative instruments. Parliaments have indeed become

major partners for international organizations. Among the 200 States existing in the world today, 181 have a Parliament. ¶

A guide to parliamentary practice
24 pp., UNESCO/IPU, 2003.
ISBN 92-9142-174-X

To download this guide in English, French or Arabic:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org>

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TOOL



Manual of the National Commissions for UNESCO

The Manual of the National Commissions for UNESCO, which was first published more than ten years ago, was updated with the collaboration and contributions

of several National Commissions before being presented on the 34th General Conference of the Organization, in October 2007. Mainly intended for the personnel of the National Commissions, this tool can also be very useful for all partners of civil society and institutions which work in UNESCO's fields of competence. Composed of two parts written in the form of practical index-cards, it presents, firstly, the various possible structures of the National Commissions, their role, their functioning,

their partnerships and their actions to make UNESCO known to the general public and the relations which they maintain between themselves. Secondly, it presents UNESCO as a whole, explaining its constitutive bodies, its programmes, as well as the means to promote them. ¶

Manual of the National Commissions for UNESCO
157 pp., UNESCO, 2007.
ERC/RSC/NAC/2007/PI/100

To download this guide in French or in English:
<http://www.unesco.org/fr/national-commissions>

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Regional integration in ECOWAS: a book collection as food for thought



Nine of the 15 books on the national seminars on regional integration in West Africa, conducted between 2005 and 2008 within the framework of UNESCO's MOST Programme, were published by the French publisher Karthala, and are now available in bookstores.

The fruit of a vast project conducted within the framework of UNESCO's MOST Programme between 2005 and 2008, 9 of the 15 books discussing how each member country of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) faces the challenges of regional integration are already available in French.

By exploring the cases of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo, these publications aim to contribute to the deepening of reflection on this topic. They are particularly relevant in Africa, due to their multidisciplinary approach.

Each of these books claims that the integration of ECOWAS member countries into this community space is a necessary factor for development. Yet this integration is still faced with a continuing number of major obstacles, the principle one being a narrow view of integration that is pegged to the restrictive idea of a Nation-state rather than that of a more generous and inclusive federal government.

Throughout the MOST seminars, the discussions which took place between social scientists, civil society and policy-makers (summarized in this series), reflect the specific national trajectories that vary from one country to another. They reveal how the smallness of national economic spaces, the narrowness of markets, the lack of evenly distributed skills and of

mastery of state-of-the-art technologies in West Africa, or the lack of a strong bargaining power in commercial affairs call for an effective coordination of key activities for development that are based on sustained economic growth and profound social change. The exchanges reported in these publications also highlight – to deplore it – the fact that newly independent West African states have chosen to organize their economies from a national perspective, which is the antithesis of regional complementarity. However, trade, which is essentially an integrating and intermingling factor, could mitigate this trend.

Highlighting the dynamics of exchange

It is clear from these publications that the dynamic and endogenous local initiatives are the bedrock on which a deeper integration of economies, societies and territories could base itself, because they establish a *de facto* "border country". In other words, they establish "a geographical area straddling the dividing line of two or more neighbouring states, where the population is linked through socio-economic and cultural activities". Researchers, policy-makers, and actors from civil society and the private sector highlight how populations involved in the dynamics of sub-regional exchange have ignored the territorial limits within which Nation States have attempted to confine them. Rich in ideas that focus on the need to identify and remove obstacles scattered along the road to integration, this series of publications is in fact an important contribution to the challenge of regional integration, highlighting many issues that continue

to challenge the leaders and peoples of West Africa. These issues include: narrow nationalism, economic selfishness, political leadership squabbles and internal conflicts, and come with destabilizing consequences for the region. ¶

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Les États-nations face à l'intégration régionale en Afrique de l'Ouest

Le cas du Bénin

John O. Igue (Ed.)
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26 € (Ebook: 23 €)

Le cas du Togo

N'buéké Adovi Goeh-Akué (Ed.)
ISBN 978-2-8111-0219-7
24 € (Ebook: 22 €)

Indicators against racism

A study on the development of indicators against racism will be published in late November 2009 in the Discussion Papers series produced by the European Coalition of Cities against Racism.

This study falls well within the framework of UNESCO's efforts to provide cities with tools for analyzing and evaluating local conditions and public policies. It will discuss the legal framework for ethnic data collection, and the question of the reliability and feasibility of these types of indicators, proposing a concept and methodology to harmonize them, taking into account the specificity of each city. ¶

For more information, please contact:
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Human Security: Approaches and challenges

A book reconstructing UNESCO's vision of human security has just been published in French, after first being published in English in 2008. It illustrates the challenges that the extension and application of this concept pose to different cultural realities, emphasizing multiple approaches. ¶

La sécurité humaine: approche et défis

Edited by Pierre Sané
219 pp., UNESCO Publishing, 2009
ISBN 978-92-3-204081-7

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Two new policy papers in the MOST2 series exploring research/policy links

Interested in how international organizations build bridges between social science research and policy, a new MOST Policy Paper states that NGOs generally have a rather “conformist” understanding of the “social positivism” in this field. It notes however that even though there is a significant accumulation of scientific data, it does not appropriately address the conditions of inequity or the fact that certain populations are maintained in a state of dependence. This type of data will not be usable to promote social progress. A second paper reflects the evolution of normative guidelines that have shaped Argentinean social policies compared to those of other Latin American countries, over the past 30 years, and is particularly interested in tipping the paradigm of social development induced by structural adjustment guidelines in the 1980s. Based on the conclusions of MOST2, and other programmes of the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO, this collection is aimed at policy-makers, various advocacy groups, the business world and the media. ¶

Evidence-based policy research: critical review of some international programmes on relationships between social science research and policy-making
MOST2, Policy Papers/18
Carlos R.S. Milani
SHS.2009/WS/8, UNESCO, 2009

Stratégies de politique sociale et leçons de l'ajustement structurel: Retour sur l'expérience argentine dans l'horizon latino-américain
MOST2, Policy Papers/19
Susana Peñalva
SHS.2009/WS/11, UNESCO, 2009
(Only in French)

What kind of Europe for migrant children?

Coming back to the debates which took place at a conference in France in October 2007 under the patronage of UNESCO, a book on the situation of migrant children alone in Europe will be published in early 2010, by UNESCO Publishing, in English. Studying the attitude of European countries, the social context of the origin of children and the reasons for their exile, this book will fuel a constructive discussion between practitioners, academics, and experts on children seeking consistent legal and social solutions giving precedence to the rights of the child and the strict application of rules of migration control. ¶

Migrating alone. Unaccompanied and separated children's migration to Europe

Editors: Jyothi Kanics,
Daniel Senovilla Hernández
et Kristina Touzenisde

To order this book, please contact:
UNESCO Publishing
publishing.promotion@unesco.org,
fax: +33 1 45 68 57 39
<http://publishing.unesco.org>



A UNESCO contribution to the global fight against racism

A brochure published in September 2009 within the framework of UNESCO's “integrated strategy against racism”, illustrates how the Organization has contributed to the global struggle against racial discrimination since the 2001 Conference held in Durban (South Africa). ¶

To obtain this brochure (in French or in English), please contact:
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Urban governance, violence and poverty in the headlines of the *ISSJ*



This year's final 3 issues of the *International Social Science Journal (ISSJ)*, to be published in English, will explore some of contemporary society's most pressing problems, combining various viewpoints and offering numerous case studies.

The *International Social Science Journal (ISSJ)*, created by UNESCO 60 years ago, is dedicating this year's final issues to 3 flagship themes in social and human sciences: urban governance, poverty and violence. Each of these issues has been collated by a well-known specialist in these areas, and calls for the collaboration of researchers from all over the world, thus broadening the sources and angles to enrich the debates. The articles notably cover Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Morocco, Romania, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland and Tanzania. Dedicated to urban governance, issue No. 193 focuses on the summary of the MOST Project: “Cities, Environment and Gender” (1996-2002), questions

the concept of the city and the diversity of its forms, and studies more precisely the growing interdependence between regional, national and local levels, and the repercussions of this interdependence on research and good governance. It considers current trends in urban transformation in light of three major challenges that require questioning and renewed analytical tools: insecurity, tertiarization and the informalization of urban forms. Issue 194 tackles the analysis of poverty as a violation of human rights. It draws on local experiences in reducing poverty and presents case studies in Eritrea, Zimbabwe, Argentina and Botswana. One article is dedicated to HIV/AIDS and its occurrence in vulnerable populations, such as the poor and the elderly.

The last special issue of the year, the monograph *Durkheim and Violence*, commemorates the 150th anniversary of Emile Durkheim's birth. The *ISSJ* called upon S. Romi Mukherjee, the Secretary-General of French Society for Durkheimian Studies. His perspective on Durkheim is resolutely modern and offers a new radical vision on one of the most pressing issues of our age: violence. This subject is addressed through torture at Abu-Ghraib, mass-mediated suicide, war and festival, the ontology of power and the sacred and religion. The richness of the contributions is due to their interdisciplinarity and to the international cast of expert sociologists, political theorists, philosophers and historians of religion who contributed to this issue. ¶

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UNESCO's action against poverty: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal

As part of the celebration of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17 October), UNESCO will organize on 26 and 27 October in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire), a training session using the human rights approach in the fight against poverty. This training session will benefit civil servants and Ivorian actors involved in the development and revision of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP), which binds this country to external development partners, including the IMF and the World Bank. On 28 and 29 October, a national consultation on the same issue will be co-organized with the Ministry of Development of this country, after which UNESCO will launch on 30 October, a research project entitled "The Financial Crisis: Rethinking the Model to Fight against Poverty in terms of Human Rights".

As its name suggests, the objective of this project is to measure the impact of the crisis on the poorest segment of the population in terms of human rights, so as to raise awareness of risky situations in advance, and to produce recommendations that could be included in the PRSP, which are being developed in the countries affected by the study: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.

Finally, an international meeting on the theme "Poverty as a Human Rights Issue: comments for the validation of policy papers" will be held in December 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France). ¶

For more information, please contact:
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LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!



www.unesco.org/shs

AGENDA

OCTOBER

1-2 October

Meeting of the International Jury of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence. Paris, France. (v.volodine@unesco.org)

1-2 October

Regional experts' meeting on "the role of the State in social development in the Arab States". Beirut, Lebanon. (s.sugita@unesco.org)

1-3 October

6th UNESCO Youth Forum. Paris, France. (g.elkhoury@unesco.org)

5-6 October

Technical working meeting of the Steering Committee of the African Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination. Windhoek, Namibia. (m.scarone@unesco.org)

5-8 October

2nd meeting of the Forum of Minister of Social Development of East Africa. Bujumbura, Burundi. (y.matuturu@unesco.org)

26-28 October

2nd session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Anti-Doping Convention, Paris, France. (p.marriott-loyd@unesco.org)

26-30 October

Series of events within the Framework of the Poverty Eradication Programme. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. (c.tekaya@unesco.org)

29-30 October

Conference of the Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities against Racism. Bandung, Indonesia. (d.macer@unesco.org and k.guse@unesco.org)

31 October-3 November

Conference on the "Empowerment of civil society in urban policies. For whom? For which projects?" Porquerolles, France. (b.colin@unesco.org)

NOVEMBER

2 November

Anatolian Bioethics Days. Edirne, Turkey. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

4-6 November

Best practices in youth policies and programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean. Colima, Mexico. (g.elkhoury@unesco.org)

7-10 November

Events on the Greater Horn Horizon Forum (GHHF). Djibouti, Djibouti. (c.maresia@unesco.org)

9-10 November

World Science Day for Peace and Development. Pathumthani, Thailand. (d.macer@unesco.org)

10 November

World Philosophy Day, Symposium for the launch of the book "Philosophie d'ailleurs". Paris, France. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

12 November

World Philosophy Day, Symposium "Philosophers and the Crisis". Paris, France. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

16 November

International Day of Tolerance. Award Ceremony of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence. Paris, France. (v.volodine@unesco.org)

16-18 November

Training session on ABC working methods. Nairobi, Kenya. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

18-19 November

World Philosophy Day. Series of events. Paris, France. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

18-19 November

World Philosophy Day. Series of events. Moscow, Russian Federation. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

19-20 November

3rd General Conference of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism. Toulouse, France. (k.guse@unesco.org)

20 November

Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Social Development from the Caribbean. Kingston, Jamaica. (c.golden@unesco.org)

23-25 November

16th Session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC). Mexico City, Mexico. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

26-28 November

Joint European Commission/UNESCO Conference on Capacity-Building in Bioethics (JACOB). Mexico City, Mexico. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

27-28 November

Iberoamericana Forum. Estoril, Portugal. (g.elkhoury@unesco.org)

End November

Technical meeting for the finalization/validation of legal documents for the Regional Research and Documentation Centre for Women Gender and Peace Building for the African Great Lakes region and validation of the terms of reference of associated centres based in DRC, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania. (c.tekaya@unesco.org)

DECEMBER

2-4 December

Training of members of the National Bioethics Committee. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

7-11 December

3rd MOST Summer School for Latin America and the Caribbean. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. (j.carranza@unesco.org)

7-12 December

1st meeting of the Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue (PFAAD) on democracy and human rights. Cairo, Egypt. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

9-11 December

Experts' meeting on poverty. Paris, France. (c.tekaya@unesco.org)

9-11 December

Celebration of the 20th anniversary of the International Convention on Children's Rights. Paris, France. (k.guse@unesco.org)

10-11 December

"Dialogue" and Regional workshop on Peace and Human Security in Asia and the Pacific. Yunnan, China. (s.sophia@unesco.org)

10-12 December

International symposium on bioethics. Shanghai, China. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

12-13 December

3rd Joint UNESCO-Kumamoto University Bioethics Roundtable: "What is Medical?". Kumamoto, Japan. (d.macer@unesco.org)

14-15 December

1st Meeting of the International Network of Women Philosophers sponsored by UNESCO. Paris, France. (m.goucha@unesco.org)