newsletter
05
A world order based on human rights and democracy

Terrorism, discrimination and poverty. The debates centred around these three major social issues at the World Human Rights Forum held in Nantes from 16 to 19 May 2004. The Forum, organized by the City of Nantes on UNESCO's initiative and with the Organization's support, strived to tackle some of the contemporary challenges facing human rights.

These interdependent challenges are daunting. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 raised hopes for a new international order founded on freedom, equality and solidarity. But when that wall fell, we began to see other walls – poverty, intolerance, indifference and hypocrisy – four walls denying freedom to half of Earth's inhabitants and trapping them in poverty. Why should it come as a surprise that indiscriminate violence rules when a significant proportion of the world's population is treated as so much surplus, useless and excluded? We are indeed living in dangerous times characterized by different types of confusion: ideological, identitarian, confusion of values and of priorities. In order to get out of this impasse we need to invest in thinking, and give pride of place to ethics and reason. No one from another planet will be coming to save us.

That is why I was so pleased that nearly a thousand people from 80 different countries came to the World Forum on Human Rights for discussions, debate, →

questioning and listening, and for sharing their experiences and expertise with a will to move forward on a human rights-based world order. For the first time, all actors involved – States and NGOs, researchers and activists, rich and poor countries – gathered together on an equal footing. The aim was to create a space of dialogue so that we might move forward together, in a spirit of unity and reason, before going back to the daily struggle.

It took three years of preparation, two more years of planning and a further year of sheer hard work, but I think we succeeded. For four days the City of Nantes turned into the world capital for human rights. This French city is renowned for being where the Edict of Nantes was signed in 1598, thus putting an end to the French Wars of Religion. But it is also famous because of a darker period in its history, as a slave city. As a member of the network of cities for human rights and as organizer of the "Chains of Memory" (1992-1994) operation, Nantes has now made this powerful, symbolic gesture in organizing the Forum.

Nantes city hall hopes that this encounter will develop further and be placed alongside other major gatherings that are trying to make globalization more human. The Dossier in the next Newsletter will be devoted to this event.

Human rights are the foundation of the rule of law and democracy. Through a new programme coordinated by the International Centre for Human Sciences in Byblos, Lebanon, UNESCO intends to help achieve the ideals of democracy. The Dossier in this issue briefly explains this strategy and provides a summary of the conference that recently took place in Byblos on one of the major challenges facing the international community in this field, namely the processes of democratization in post-conflict societies.

Good reading!

Pierre Sané
Assistant Director-General
for Social
and Human Sciences

First laureate
of the Avicenna Prize

The first Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science was awarded to Margaret A. Somerville on 26 April 2004 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. During the ceremony, the Director-General commended the laureate for the "outstanding contribution she has made to furthering the role of ethics in science, with particular regard to the development of bioethics worldwide". The Islamic Republic of Iran, initiator of the Avicenna Prize, co-hosted the ceremony during which extracts of a documentary on the life of Avicenna were shown. The Iranian Government also invited the laureate, as part of her award, to partake in a one-week academic visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Prize's first laureate, who holds dual Australian/Canadian nationality, was selected by an international jury. Margaret Somerville is Samuel Gale Professor of Law and Professor of Medicine at McGill University in Montreal (Canada). She is founding Director of the McGill Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law and founding chairperson of the National Research Council for the Canada Ethics Committee. Through her books, conferences and other work, Professor Somerville has made an important contribution to the global development of bioethics, and to the ethical and legal aspects of medicine and science. She has also worked with a range of international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights and UNESCO. Among her many publications are *The Ethical Canary: Science, Society and the Human Spirit* and *Death Talk: The Case Against Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide*. ¶

➡ The Prize in brief

On the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science was established in accordance with the decision of UNESCO's Executive Board at its 166th session in 2002. The purpose of the Prize is to reward the activities of individuals and groups in the field of ethics in science. The Prize is named after Abu Ali al-Husain ibn Abdallah ibn Sina who is known in Europe by his Latin name, Avicenna. He was one of the most eminent scientists and philosophers of the 10th and 11th centuries. For more information, see SHS *Newsletter* 02 and the SHS website. ¶
www.unesco.org/shs/comest

➡ Call for Nominations

The second Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science will be awarded in 2005. **Nominations are due before 1 November 2004.** Information is available on the web. ¶
www.unesco.org/shs/comest

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➡ A brochure

To coincide with the presentation of the 2003 Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science, SHS's Division of Ethics of Science and Technology has produced an instructive little brochure: *Avicenna and the ethics of science and technology today.* As stated in its conclusion: "For today's thinking on ethics, Avicenna is important in many ways: he appears both as a bridge between West and East, and a bridge between antiquity and modernity". ¶

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CONFERENCE IN IRAN ON ETHICS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UNESCO has initiated a series of conferences entitled Ethics Around the World. Organized by the Division of Ethics of Science and Technology, the first Conference was held in Hamedan, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 2 May 2004. Approximately 30 national experts were invited for consultation on the scope and structure of the future declaration on universal norms on bioethics, as well as to be informed of UNESCO's work in the area of ethics of science and technology.
The first winner of the Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science, Dr Margaret Somerville, also participated in the discussion, completing the final stage of her week-long academic visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. As a follow-up action for the development of bioethics in the region, UNESCO, in cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, will hold an International Congress of Bioethics in Tehran in March 2005. ¶
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ETHICS

Extraordinary session of COMEST

Seven new members were welcomed into the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) on 14 and 15 May 2004. This was a particularly important meeting, since the renewal of almost half of COMEST membership provides an opportunity to enhance the legal, philosophical and ethical capacities of the Commission as well as match the specializations of its members more closely to UNESCO's new areas of activity in the field of ethics of science and technology.

The Extraordinary Session thus was an ideal opportunity for the COMEST to examine its advisory activities in regard to UNESCO's programme of ethics of science and technology for 2004-2005, and for in-depth discussion of the working methods and future workplans.

On this occasion UNESCO's Director-General informed COMEST members that UNESCO's Executive Board at their last session in April 2004 had unanimously recognized and welcomed the new approach to the global debate on the ethics of science and technology which was to bring it to the regional level. This regional approach allows UNESCO to take into account the expectations and needs of the Member States and to set up, at the regional and international level, various platforms of debates and action.

Also during its last session, the Executive Board of UNESCO adopted a decision to request the Director-General to keep it informed on the advisability of drafting a declaration on the ethics of outer space. It also has requested the Director-General to prepare a study concerning the elaboration of an ethical code of conduct for scientists and to examine the principles of environmental ethics, in order to identify possible international actions in this field. During the meeting, special attention was paid to the new themes of the COMEST agenda such as environmental ethics, new steps regarding space ethics, the ethical code of conduct for scientists, teaching of ethics, the precautionary principle as well as the new programme of rotating conferences "Ethics Around the World" organized by SHS. ¶

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Towards universal norms on bioethics

The extraordinary session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), entitled "Towards a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics", was held in Paris from 27 to 29 April 2004. It provided UNESCO with the opportunity of holding discussions on the scope and structure of the future Declaration with representatives of intergovernmental organizations, international non-governmental organizations and national bioethics committees. The session, attended by approximately 250 people from more than 70 countries, gave the IBC valuable elements for their task of drafting the Declaration while taking into consideration all the points of view expressed at the meeting. The agenda for drafting the Declaration was approved by UNESCO's Executive Board in April. It is available on Internet. ¶

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Water and best practices: five case studies

By publishing *Best ethical practice in Water Use*, the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology of UNESCO (COMEST), chaired by Jens Erik Fenstad of Norway, seeks to contribute to the promotion and dissemination of new attitudes conducive to well-being and respectful of the environment.

The document describes five examples of good practice. The first one concerns Lake Biwa in Japan, where the protection of biodiversity eventually strengthened local economy and autonomy thanks to the participation of local citizens. The new legal framework in South Africa is a second example. In the Philippines, a country subject to deforestation, the double status of indigenous territories – at the same time ancestral domains and protected natural areas – has generated conflicts between indigenous communities and national administrations responsible for the management of these areas. In Licto (Ecuador), a national project was able to take into account the contribution of indigenous women. The last example is the Nile Basin, which raises the issue of transnational governance of fresh water. Whereas many interests are divergent, the goal is to create an environment in which all parties can share their points of view and listen to others.

The publication of this document (available on the web) concludes COMEST's specific work on the ethics of fresh water, which will concentrate henceforth on the issue of the environment in general. COMEST also works on the ethics of outer space and science ethics. ¶

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Nigel Harris

Interview

"Migration is the factor which makes economic growth possible."

Author of *Thinking the Unthinkable: the Immigration Myth Exposed*, Nigel Harris advocates the free movement of people, pointing out that migration benefits both the recipient countries and the migrants' home countries.

The phenomenon of migration is not recent, but the fact that the issue of migration is occupying an important place on the political agenda and in the public debate is…

Yes, for many different kinds of reasons. The world is going through some pretty wide-ranging changes. Think of Europe, with de-industrialization, privatization, globalization, 9/11, as well as the merging of national entities in the European Union. All these things are disturbing, not to mention radical reforms in pension, health and social security arrangements. They cause considerable insecurity. One needs to see migration within that context of heightened insecurity.

You argue that we are in a transition from closed or semi-closed labour markets to the development of a world labour market. Can you explain this transition?

Take the example of the United States and Mexico. If one thinks of migration in North America as within a single labour market – which happens by chance to be divided between two countries – one can see what the emergence of an integrated labour market means. It could be that the problem in North America is not that people are migrating, but that governments are stopping them. Governments are trying, as it were, to stop the labour market working and that is causing very serious collisions. Governments are failing because, do what they may, the labour market is working through illegal migration, trafficking and all the terrible things associated with that.

Now, to speak of a world labour market would be heroic at present. There are world labour markets for particular categories of labour: doctors, nurses, engineers and so on, highly skilled and professional labour. But in the case of unskilled labour there isn't a single market at all, but particular national markets which are serviced by regular or irregular migration.

What is the relationship between migration and economic growth?

Economic growth requires both a labour force of a certain size, and a changing labour force in terms of skills. Economic growth and economic development both require *structural* change and therefore transformation in the demand for labour. In the past, each national economy in semi-closed systems was seeking to supply that demand completely from within the national boundaries. Now that is proving impossible. Not only can local resources not supply the structure of skills in a dynamically changing economy, they can't even supply adequate unskilled labour.

This problem relates to education policies. If a government is attempting to upgrade its population in terms of education, then it is tending to make it impossible to fill unskilled labour jobs. That in turn affects the productivity of skilled labour. If a hospital doesn't have the low-skilled labour – porters, kitchen staff, laundry staff, etc. – then the doctors can't do their work. The productivity of skilled labour is thus affected by the availability of unskilled. In general, economic growth involves continual structural change, and this is now so rapid and unpredictable that national training systems cannot cope. Structural change means changing labour demand in terms of skills. In a global economy, each national economy is increasingly unable to meet local demand. That's why migration is a key factor making economic growth possible.

Why do you criticize the current immigration policies of the rich countries?

Because they are self-destructive. If you stop the inflow of labour, you are making it more difficult to improve the welfare of your inhabitants. Take Europe: at the moment we have an ageing population. Ageing implies increasing labour-intensive services for the aged, particularly in the caring professions. If you stop the immigration of unskilled labour, then you undermine the welfare of the population and you may well undermine the welfare of the poorest of the population: those who use the services of low skilled immigrants. This is particularly severe in the case of health services and public health systems. As ageing takes place, the supply of lower skilled immigrant workers has to expand if we are to avoid severe deprivation among the poorer aged population.

You say that current immigration policies are based on manpower planning, the attempt to predict or foresee future needs for labour. Why do you think that this is not realistic?

It is the same as in any other sector of economic planning. The fact is, you can't plan an economy, particularly a fragment of a global economy. The more dynamic the economy, the less you can predict what its labour need is going to be. You either overestimate or underestimate. We have just been through exactly that when the dot.com boom led to the developed countries scouring the world for IT workers only to find the collapse of the dot.com industry. The cost of that error was considerable and it demonstrates the impossibility of planning in detail a dynamic economy. The more integrated the national in the world economy and the more dynamic it is, the less possible it is to anticipate the future, which is the precondition of planning.

In Europe, we are witnessing a contradictory phenomenon: the lack of qualified labour on the one hand and general increased unemployment on the other. How do you explain this trend?

The agreed opinion is that it is tied up with the social security system and the level of wages paid to unskilled workers. It is possible to get by with a given social security system without working. At the same time it is also possible to get by in the black economy – part of the European economy is statistically unrecorded. Furthermore, native-born workers with low skills will not work at the wages on offer in low-skilled jobs. So it is perfectly possible to have this kind of disjuncture of great scarcity in some sectors of the market and unemployment in others.

You recommend the introduction of temporary migrant worker schemes?

Yes, if you have labour shortages and people temporarily coming in to fill them, then that would be one short-term response. In Europe, people are hostile to increased migrant settlement at the moment and the political situation is unstable – politicians are competing for the vote on the basis of excluding foreigners. A temporary workers scheme, which means that people would return home after earning money, might meet some of those difficulties. I'm also arguing that migration should be an education scheme – people should come here to work and be on training courses to enhance the human capital in developing countries: all migrants would become, as it were, students.

So this would not only help raise incomes in rich countries but also contribute to alleviate poverty in the developing countries?

Yes. Recent studies have argued that if migration to the developed countries equivalent to one per cent of the labour force of the developed countries could take place, it would result in a two hundred billion dollars increase in worker remittance flows to developing countries. A major benefit of expanded migration is expanded incomes in developing countries, in particular affecting poorer families.

➡ First anniversary of the UN Convention

1 July 2004 is the first anniversary of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

One year ago, on 1 July 2003, the United Nations Convention on migrants' rights entered into force. The Convention, which has been ratified by 22 countries, aims primarily to protect the human rights of migrants. ¶

www.unesco.org/migration/convention

"The current problems related to migration are not economic, but social, ideological and cultural. The resistance is a resistance to globalization, to the dismantling of the nation-State."

Why do you think there is a reluctance to accept the temporary workers status?

European societies have been created as nation-States, hypothetically founded upon a supposed ethnic, cultural, linguistic homogeneity which some people feel is threatened by immigration. The resistance is to migrant settlement. In the case of the *Gastarbeiters* in the 1960s (editor's note: in Germany) people say: they came as temporary workers but they stayed. Which is actually quite wrong: a large number in fact *did* return. Migrants in general prefer to circulate, not to go into permanent exile. It is not true that people are desperate to go abroad and live there. They usually long, after a period, to return home.

In the case of the *Gastarbeiters*, the employers did not want to lose their experienced workers – especially when it was no longer possible to recruit new immigrant replacements – and the workers did not want to lose their jobs. So they connived, as it were, with the German Government to give workers some form of security and to have families, and so they became German.

In general, it is immigration regulations that force people into settling. We had this illustrated in the United States. The 1986 and 1992 Acts, which instituted ferocious border enforcement mechanisms, have meant that Mexicans who get across the border now settle in the US. They used to go home. In the early 1980s, Mexicans spent, on average, three years in the United States and then went home. Now they are spending nine years. So the perverse effect of the new legislation has been to increase enormously the number of Mexicans settling in North America.

So migration regulations and the pressure of governments actually have the opposite effect...

Yes, they increase the immobility of migrants. When you need a migrant workforce, you need a workforce that is available, that comes and goes. A settled population is not able to do that.

How do you see the temporary workers status being implemented concretely?

I would prefer it if the United Nations were to establish, though the IOM or the ILO, an agency to manage migration flows. I don't trust national governments to do this in any kind of equitable form. But since it is most unlikely that national governments will concede to the United Nations the power to do this, then migration will come through bilateral agreements between sending and receiving countries and through what I've called 'manpower planning', thin edges to the wedge of full liberalization. Take, for example, British agriculture. The temporary workers scheme has become vital for gathering British seasonal crops. Slowly the scheme is expanding through various bilateral agreements as well as the issue of unilateral worker permits by the British Government. I hope it will expand to the point where nobody needs a permit, but can just come and work.

In many countries the question of the assimilation of immigrants has become increasingly important. Should it be encouraged?

Of course, if people wish to assimilate, they should be able to do so. But I'm much more interested in people being able to circulate – not assimilate. I think we are moving to a world in which people will travel about and work in many different places. Assimilation forces them to stop, forces them into citizenship. I would expect that over time, people won't want to take citizenship. If it is easy to circulate, they will circulate.

Migration cannot be considered only from an economic point of view. Family reunifications and asylum seeking are part and parcel of the problem...

The asylum issue is really quite different. This is people fleeing terror – they are not looking for work. I think that governments have used asylum-seekers as the sounding board for xenophobia. While they have been relaxing the controls on unskilled migration – certainly in the UK and the United States – they have at the same time been reserving asylum-seekers as the object of xenophobia. It seems almost a deliberate policy. Until we have a proper migration system in place, we cannot eliminate irregular migration. If it is legally possible to travel around and get a job, then nobody is going to do it illegally. That will take the whole stress off the use of the asylum seeking system for migrant workers, and we can have a proper asylum system.

I think the real problem is that asylum-seekers are forbidden to work. In the United Kingdom, for example, asylum-seekers are blamed for living off welfare. But they live off welfare because the government forbids them to work. It is an absurd situation which is almost designed to encourage xenophobia. All asylum-seekers should have the right to apply for work and the right to work as soon as they arrive, so that they can start to put their lives back together. Two years ago, the British Medical Association was complaining that there were a thousand foreign-born doctors kicking their heels in London, forbidden as asylum-seekers to work, when the National Health Service was desperate for doctors. It is completely irrational.

Does the recruitment of foreign workers at a lower cost compromise the condition of domestic labour forces?

It may do so on the margins, but the bulk of the evidence is that it doesn't. A large number of econometric studies carried out in the US cannot trace any significant impact of increased migration upon native conditions, or levels of employment. When there is an effect, it is usually on an earlier cohort of migrants. In general, low skilled migrants undertake work abandoned by the native-born, so there is little competition. If increased immigration does affect native workers, they should be compensated. There is no reason why – as in any other sector of the economy – they should bear the burden of economic change.

**You recommend free migration and open borders.
Isn't this unrealistic?**

Maybe, but it is worth raising the demand. Nobody thought trade would be liberalized and only discovered that it had been after it happened. We are now entering a period of probably half a century during which the world economy is going to be transformed and many of the perceptions about migration will be transformed as well. We will come to learn to live in a world economy rather than in little national corners. In fact, the European population will become much more mobile, at the same time as more immigrants come into Europe. It is a completely different scenario from a past of closed national economies. I'm not that pessimistic about being able to move to a world of open borders.

In your book *Thinking the unthinkable* you quote J. K. Galbraith who says that "migration is the oldest action against poverty which selects those who most want help". He queries "what is the perversity in the human soul that causes people to resist so obvious a good?"...

The perversity is people clinging to the old order of rival nation-States. They see the nation as their family even though that is absurd. The very principle of national government and citizenship turns on the sharp distinction between natives and foreigners. Natives are people who belong, are at home, who share a language and culture, who are to be trusted. Foreigners, to put it briefly, are crooks, not to be trusted. You only have to read the tabloid press in Britain to see this endlessly reiterated. Foreigners are invaders.

What will happen if the poor are prevented from migrating to escape poverty?

The black economy grows as the white economy is more and more regulated. The more governments regulate one bit of the economy, the more the other bit expands. So irregular migration will take the strain under the worst possible conditions and with abuses. But many things can alleviate this. The bulk of the labour intensive world economy is going to move to the developing countries in the next half century. In health services, I expect that in the coming period, as the population of Europe ages, more hospitals and convalescent homes for the aged of the developed countries will be built in developing countries because the cost is so low. The elderly in the wealthy countries will start migrating to developing countries to get medical services and retirement homes. Education is another example. The cost of teachers in developing countries is going to be lower, so there will be experiments in setting up schools and universities in developing countries. Many other service sectors will migrate. With luck, by 2050, we will no longer speak of developing countries but of a single world.

The current problems related to migration are not economic, but social, ideological and cultural. The resistance is a resistance to globalization, to the dismantling of the nation-State. Xenophobia is all about the defence of your own State and a refusal to see yourself as part of humanity.

Why do we need an instrument such as the Convention on Migrant workers – which entered into force a year ago?

Because the system is full of abuses at the moment. Because governments maintain systems of shallow regulation, which means there is a large amount of irregular movement and underneath that there is trafficking in women and children and so on. It means a lot of abuses. However, the same is true within countries. Take China, for example. There are officially some 98 million migrant workers in China. The bulk of them, maybe 70 per cent or so, work in construction. It appears that employers only pay them two thirds of what they are entitled to – and there are no trade unions to force compliance. So abuses occur at all levels, not just international migration.

With a mobile labour force it may be slightly more difficult to ensure that working conditions are satisfactory. That is why the trade unions and NGOs have to develop all sorts of new mechanisms in order to protect migrant workers. At the moment the lack of transparency – because governments only regulate a small part of the workforce – means that the abuses are enormous. As we know, in the worst cases workers are being treated like slaves, bonded serfs. But international migration is no different to domestic movement in this respect – in both cases, it is a long, difficult struggle to establish tolerable conditions. ¶

Migration and multiculturalism

In order to understand the various dimensions of the diversity of cultures and ethnic and religious groups in Pakistan, and to broaden the insight into migration and multiculturalism, a new project has been initiated. A strategy paper entitled "The State of Migration and Multiculturalism in Pakistan: the need for Policy and Strategy", was finalized during a national seminar on "The State of Migration and Multiculturalism in Pakistan" held in June 2003 in collaboration with the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI). As part of this activity, a textbook analysis seminar was also organized in December 2004.

The national seminar report and the UNESCO strategy paper were launched on 16 February 2004. The report states that since independence in 1947, Pakistan has experienced constant internal as well as international migration; it is both a receiving and a sending country of migrants. Over the past 30 years, statistics show that more than 3 million Pakistanis left their country in search of work abroad. On the domestic front, the flow of people from rural to urban areas has created a new mix of ethno-linguistic and cultural groups and recently there has been an increased influx of foreign nationals. All this makes for multiculturalism and the country needs new ideas and strategies to help deal with the phenomena of migration and multiculturalism. The project activities outlined in the strategy paper were well received by the Government of Pakistan, NGOs and other civil society organizations who plan to continue working on the suggested policy options. ¶

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Together with migrants

In conjunction with the exhibition held in Beijing in November 2003 (see SHS *Newsletter* 04), a 240-page book has been published combining the photographs from the 'Together with Migrants' exhibition with interviews, essays, statistics and studies on social exclusion, urban poverty and migrant workers in China. The text is bilingual – Chinese and English – but neither language is needed to understand the message conveyed by the photographs.

The following extracts give a good illustration of the book's contents. In an interview, the artist Song Dong is quoted as saying: "In the latest edition of the *Modern Chinese Dictionary* the term *Mingong* has two definitions: (1) a person who does government-sponsored roadwork, public construction, or transportation of military equipment; and (2) a peasant who migrates to an urban city for work. I think Mingong is a social class that is unique to today's China". And another artist, Liu Wei, says: "I don't exactly know how to describe the *Mingongs*. However, I think the definition in the context of today would be: a group of people who come from some place else for lowly, thankless, labour-intensive work, without any social security. They came to this city, built it, decorated it, and keep it running. However, they have no control over the city, nor do they understand how it works. The simplest of things we take for granted are totally strange to them. They are here merely to keep the city running". ¶

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Some of the 200 migrant workers, or *Mingongs*, standing in a line to form a 'wall of strength' – one of the striking tableaux of live art designed by the artist Song Dong at the "Together with Migrants" exhibition that was held in Beijing in November 2003.

Cities of the South –
the role of scientific research
in urban development

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UNESCO's Urban Development Section has joined forces with urban policy development research networks. The disruption wrought by globalization and the emergence of new actors is confronting public policy with new urbanization phenomena. An international conference to discuss scientific research in urban development was held at UNESCO, from 5 to 7 May 2004, with the attendance of decision-makers and researchers from about thirty developing countries.

At this start of the new millennium, cities of the South are experiencing great difficulty with urban development management and city governance because of the tremendous cultural, political, social and economic change. Faced with this new order, France launched a bilateral cooperation programme in Spring 2001, the Urban Research Programme for Development *(Programme de recherche urbaine pour le développement,* PRUD). The aim was to engender international, comparative knowledge on urbanization processes as well as to encourage exchange and partnership links between the scientific communities and the decision-makers involved. This multidisciplinary programme, which continued until 2004, concentrated mainly on the new modi operandi for cities and for urban actors' strategies and policies. Around thirty research teams – mixed North-South – were chosen involving 250 researchers from sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa, the Near East, South-East Asia and the Caribbean.

The conference "Governing Cities of the South. Challenges for research and action" was organized by the PRUD in order to take the research further and reconstruct the findings.

Over the three-day meeting, almost 300 participants – researchers, urban planners, development specialists, decision-makers, and local and civil society representatives – discussed the Programme's outcome, and new problems and new issues that had arisen from the research findings. The aim was to draft proposals in order to build a solid, effective bridge between urban development research and action.

The main event of the first day of meetings was the presentation of the PRUD study and its contribution in terms of new urban issues. The Programme's overall evaluation was positive, considering the significant output of the teams who had taken part in the Seminar as well as the resources of scientific knowledge on cities of the South. Strategic use will be made of these resources in the new fields of urban development.

During the second day of meetings, all the research teams presented and discussed their main findings, in four workshops grouped by subject: Agents' strategies and schemes for action; Urban social and spatial configurations; Urban policies and public/private sector relations; and City management systems. One of the main conclusions drawn from these discussions was the need to work on the political aspect of urban development as well as on the complexity of actors and urban management. Issues such as redefining the role of the State through decentralization, local governance and the wish of society as a whole to participate actively, ran through most of the research projects.

Discussions on the third day of meetings concentrated on the long-term prospects for collaborative urban research as well as on the link between research and action. The need to increase adequate funding mechanisms, to encourage critical knowledge and practical experience and to find synergies between the world of research and that of decision-making, were highlighted in the discussions' conclusions. A round table discussion on the main obstacles encountered by this kind of international cooperation programme took place at the end of the Seminar with UNESCO participation. New avenues were opened with a view to continuing comparative research in these areas.

This kind of partnership should encourage the building of bridges between research and action and, in turn, help strengthen the urban development process through encouraging links between the world of research and that of decision-makers, and between theory and practice. ¶

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Highlights
of the Asia Youth report

The report of the last Asian Youth Forum (AYF) meeting (May 2003) summarizes the discussions on the three main themes addressed by guest speakers and youth participants alike: free speech, technology and education.

Free Speech – a catalyst for change

The discussions focused on how difficult it is, traditionally, for Asian students and young people in general, to express their opinions freely in their societies, and how this affects their participation in schools, universities and contemporary society. Participants resolved to work towards changing parental beliefs and attitudes in order to encourage young people to participate fully in family discussions; to call on teacher training institutes, teacher associations and Ministries of Education to introduce and reinforce policies conducive to free expression in learning institutions; and to encourage the media to be more inclusive of young people's views in their daily coverage of national and international events and issues particularly (but not exclusively) those that have direct implications on their lives.

Technology – the great equalizer or the great divider?

The discussions concentrated on inequality of access to ICTs for the young people in the region and the growing gap in knowledge between those who have access and those who do not. This gap was clearly demonstrated by the participants. They resolved to continue to pressure governments to initiate policies promoting access to ICTs. This was considered a crucial factor in promoting knowledge societies, and democratizing knowledge and access to it. Governments should also urgently address other factors which restrict access such as training programmes, language and censorship, to mention but a few.

Education — sustainable intellectual development

After wide-ranging presentations and discussions which raised several issues confronting the education systems in the region, participants resolved to work towards putting pressure on governments and private education providers to ensure that teachers are well trained and up-to-date in teaching and research in their fields of expertise; for the governments to urgently review their scholarship and other awards programmes in order to improve access for poor students; and to ensure that creative thinking and debate (and not just technical knowledge) are encouraged at all levels.

Representatives from different countries pledged to work with youth organizations in their own countries and throughout the region to achieve these objectives. Review of these issues will be included in the next forum. ¶

Malama Meleisea, m.meleisea@unesco.org

➡ **Just published:
multilingualism on the net**

The International Journal on Multicultural Societies (IJMS) has just published a thematic issue on-line which addresses the current debate on language use in cyberspace and provides a starting point for further research in this area.
It addresses a field of language use which is increasingly relevant for communication and, at the same time, less susceptible to State intervention: the Internet.
The articles present findings of an international socio-linguistic research project on multilingualism on the Internet, which has been carried out in close cooperation with the B@bel project. The editor of the issue is Sue Wright of Aston University, Birmingham (UK).¶

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BARCELONA 2004:
SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS

A round table of experts on *Social Sustainability in Historic Districts will* be organized by UNESCO's Sector of Social and Human Sciences entitled "Cities: *Crossroads of Cultures*" in Barcelona, Spain, from 13 to 17 September 2004. The pluridisciplinary panel will be attended by the Mayors of Beijing, Seoul, Marrakesh, Montreal, Sana'a, Venice and Marseille alongside city professionals, NGOs and private property developers. This will ensure the presentation of different perspectives from various countries and of diverse perceptions of urban social sustainability in historic districts.
The round table is one of many events of this year's World Urban Forum (WUF). The Forum will cover a wide range of crucial subjects that touch every aspect of our daily life: peacebuilding, water management, youth, gender, cultural heritage, governance, tourism, migration and poverty reduction, etc. ¶

Khaled Abu-Hijle with Brigitte Colin, b.colin@unesco.org

Dossier
Democracy

The International
Centre for Human
Sciences, Byblos
(Lebanon).

> "We firmly believe in the universal
> dimension of democratic principles.
> We believe in the attachment both of
> individuals and of civil society to these
> principles of democracy. They are
> the foundation of positive freedom."
>
> "It is my hope that, through our joint
> efforts, the Byblos Centre will become
> a beacon of progressive research and
> passionate debate. Eventually, it will
> act as a catalyst for international
> social transformation and for creating
> a world that is more democratic and,
> hence, more just."
>
> **Koïchiro Matsuura,**
> Director-General of UNESCO

**The International Centre for Human
Sciences in Byblos, Lebanon,
is implementing UNESCO's international
strategy for democracy, launched
in October 2003. The Centre works closely
with the International Panel on Democracy
and Development to foster analytical
and empirical research on democracy
and democratization processes,
notably in post-conflict societies.**

➡ The International Panel on Democracy and Development (IPDD)

The International Panel on Democracy
and Development was created by UNESCO
in 1998 with the objective of analysing
the relationship between democracy
and development and providing
recommendations to guide UNESCO's
future programmes on democracy.
The IPDD is chaired by Mr. Boutros Boutros-
Ghali and is composed of sixteen leading
international figures. In 2002, the IPDD
published a report entitled *The Interaction
between Democracy and Development*.
The recommendations made by the panel
in this report will guide the implementation
of UNESCO's international programme
on democracy. ¶

➡ The International Centre for Human Sciences (ICHS)

Established in 1999 under a convention
between UNESCO and the Lebanese
Government, the International Centre
for Human Sciences is an international
social science research institution.
Located in Byblos, Lebanon, it enjoys,
by its statutes, full academic freedom
and diplomatic immunity.
The purpose of the Centre is twofold:
to contribute to the development of social
and human sciences and to promote a
culture of peace. In addition to promoting
interregional and international
cooperation and building research
capacities in different regions, the Byblos
Centre works to foster comparative
analytical research, disseminate its
results and encourage the creation and
strengthening of networks of social
science institutes. ¶

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UNESCO and Democracy: what strategy?

From the outset, UNESCO has played a key role in the promotion of democratic values and principles. Its Constitution upholds the democratic ideals of justice, liberty, equality and solidarity, and considers these principles as fundamental factors in the building of peace. Indeed, the Preamble makes a direct link between "the denial of the democratic principles of the dignity, equality and mutual respect of men" and the "great and terrible war". The realization of the democratic ideals is therefore at the core of UNESCO's actions.

After concentrating its work on the theoretical analysis of the principles of democracy, UNESCO developed a strategy in 2002-2003 for an international programme on democracy. This strategy is coordinated by the International Centre for Human Sciences (ICHS) at Byblos (hereafter referred to as the Byblos Centre) in close cooperation with the International Panel on Democracy and Development (IPDD).

The overall theme of the new democracy programme is "democracy, culture and peace". It contains three main areas of action: fostering comparative analytical research on democracy and its relationship to culture; organizing international dialogues and prospective analysis on the future of democracy; and supporting democracy in post-conflict societies.

Fostering comparative analytical research

The generation of new knowledge through analytical empirical research and capacity-building is coordinated by the Byblos Centre. The initial programme of work will focus on democracy and its relationship with culture. The aim is to conduct comparative empirical research on hypotheses (case studies) about determinants of democracy in order to analyse the compatibility of democracy with the will of the people living under diverse cultural traditions. These studies will be conducted through surveys, opinion polls and analysis of media, focusing on citizens' attitudes to democracy.

The research will later be widened to cover democracy and its relationship to themes such as ethnicity, peace, development, etc. The objective is to achieve a better understanding of the reality of democracy in the world, in particular the way in which democratic principles are understood and practised by the people of different regions.

The Byblos Centre will assist UNESCO's Member States in developing the capacities of researchers, especially young researchers, to conduct empirical research on democracy.

Activities will include the following:
- **Byblos Research Training Programme** methodology of empirical research and planning and conducting case studies.
- **Byblos Tutorship Programme** for graduate and doctoral students;
- **Byblos Autumn School:** This year's topic is "Neo-Realism Confirmed by Facts? Theories of International Relations and International Law under the impact of Unilateralism".

Organizing dialogues on the future of democracy

The Byblos Centre will conduct prospective analysis and foster international dialogues in cooperation with the IPDD. The dialogues will be grounded on reflection and research on democratic norms, values and principles and their relationship to the key issues of globalization and development.

The Byblos Centre and the IPDD will organize a series of public conferences to promote international dialogue on democracy. The first conference, entitled "Democracy and Peace," was held in Beirut, Lebanon, in 2003. The series will continue with: Democracy and Social Justice (2005); The Impact of Globalization on Democratic Development (2006); The Juridical Conditions of Democratic Development (2007); Democracy and Culture (2008).

Seminars will be organized around the conferences in order to build capacities in different countries. For example: with academics on universalization of democratic principles; with policy-makers to foster ethics of leadership for democratic governance; with business leaders on the relationship between economic development and democracy; with journalists on the role of communication in democratic development.

Supporting democracy in post-conflict societies

The immediate aftermath of ethnic and factional conflict may pose the strongest challenge for implementing democracy. By means of the integrated strategy on democracy UNESCO will contribute more directly to the restoration and/or establishment of democracy through a programme of research and capacity-building.

The aim here is to encourage the promotion of democracy by local actors in the academic community who will make use of the results of the analytical research produced by Byblos and the debate generated by the IPDD.

In March 2004, during a joint meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Byblos Centre and the IPDD (see article page 14), several general recommendations were made for UNESCO's work in three post-conflict countries: Afghanistan, Iraq and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These included a mapping exercise of existing studies and research on the promotion of democracy in post-conflict societies and research on democracy and culture with special focus on the challenges posed by cultural traditions. ¶

Promoting democracy in post-conflict societies – a challenge for the Byblos Centre

How should democracy be encouraged in post-conflict societies? This was the subject of debate at a Conference held in April 2004 at UNESCO's new Byblos Centre in Beirut, Lebanon.

For decades, Beirut conjured images of conflict, suffering and opposition in the Middle East. The city still bears the scars of 15 years of civil war. This capital city of a country with 17 different religious groups, leaves no one indifferent to its complex history and all-pervading will to heal the wounds of the past. It was, therefore, not by chance that the Lebanese Government accepted to host an institution – established on the initiative and with the support of UNESCO – whose mission is to encourage peace and democracy in the world: the International Centre for Human Sciences in Byblos (hereunder "Byblos Centre").

Alain Caillé (left) in discussion with **Pierre Cornillon.**

© UNESCO / Jeanette Blom

The word *byblos* means *book* in Greek, and the invention of the alphabet is attributed to the ancient Phoenician city of that name. An hour's drive from Beirut, the Byblos Centre has recently been set up in a historical building put at the Centre's disposal, by the Lebanese Government, for research, conferences and a documentation centre. From 7 to 9 March 2004, the Centre organized a Conference with the International Panel on Democracy and Development, headed by former United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali,[1] and researchers in the social and human sciences specializing in democratization issues. The aim of the Conference was to examine the process of democratization in three countries in "post-conflict" situations: Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq.

During the Conference, the experts, several of whom came from these three countries, touched on basic issues such as: In post-conflict societies, how can skepticism towards the State and political process be overcome? What are the links between, on the one hand, social organization and cultural traditions and, on the other, democracy? Are any cultures incompatible with democratic values? What role can the United Nations and UNESCO play in the processes of democratization?

Democracy is no archangel

According to one of the experts – William Maley, Professor at the Australian National University – since Jean-Jacques Rousseau's time the notion of democracy has frequently been misunderstood. Expressions like "the general will", "the will of the people" or "the will of the nation" have left us with an idealized image having little relation to reality, of what democracy can guarantee as an organizational constituent of society. Whatever the level of a people's tradition and democratic culture, it is rarely united and there are few matters on which it expresses genuine agreement.

Another of the experts at the Conference, Guy Hermet, Director of Research at the Institute of Political Science in Paris, reminded us that "democracy is a form of government – not an archangel" to emphasize that we cannot generalize about democracy as though it were a matter of essence or a unique, homogeneous will. So some experts kept with a minimalist definition, and – like William Maley – backed the theory that democracy at the very most can be considered "a particular type of mechanism of accountability, by which rules may be appropriately disciplined".

Apart from problems of concept, this thinking underlined the overall difficulty, not only of defining and setting up such a mechanism in a specific historical, cultural and ethnic context, but also of getting a nation to adhere to democratic values particularly when it has known conflict, violence, civil war, foreign intervention, humiliation and the poverty that invariably ensues.

"It would be better to talk of democracies in the plural than democracy in the singular, not just because modern democracy is multidimensional and its different aspects are interdependent, but because there have been other forms of expression of a democratic aspiration than the dominant contemporary political moulds." Alain Caillé

1. See SHS *Newsletter* 01

Panel on Iraq
(left to right):
**Riyadh Aziz Hadi,
Wamidh Omar Nadhmi**
with **Carole O'Leary.**

The challenge of democratic consensus

If the idea of a nation's unity appears utopian, then the challenge would be to attain what is called *democratic consensus* on certain basic democratic principles. The establishment of such a consensus, however, frequently comes up against power sharing and traditional organizational models of the societies concerned. Nasrine Abou-Bakr Gross, Director of the Social Science Department at the National Centre for Policy Research in Kabul, explained that with regard to Afghanistan, one of the country's particularities is the presence of tribes whose decision-making procedure is based on consensus of the council members, called *shura* or *jirga*. Participation in these councils, which rule all aspects of society, is determined by the members' age and therefore transcends all levels of society. According to Nasrine Abou-Bakr Gross, breaking with the consensual decision-making process would be tantamount to individual and collective suicide.

The prime importance of this system explains a paradoxical situation in the recent history of democracy-building in Afghanistan. On ratification of the new Constitution, representatives of the different communities gathered in the grand council meeting – *Loya Jirga* – were divided in two factions: those who were for the presidential system proposed in the draft submitted to the vote, and those who were in favour of strengthening the role of parliament. When it came to the vote, only those in favour of adopting the proposed draft, voted. The other members of the Council – although in favour of strengthening the role of Parliament – abstained. Several reconciliatory meetings had to be called in order to reach a solution acceptable to both groups. Nasrine Abou-Bakr Gross described the outcome of these negotiations: "Even the last action of the *Loya Jirga* to announce the ratification of the Constitution did not take place with the counting of votes. The President of the *Loya Jirga* asked all the delegates to rise to show their ratification. No one bothered to count those who remained seated". That example is far from the individual vote count which is one of the basic tenets of democratic organization in Western countries.

"Democracy cannot be implanted. It has to evolve in an indigenous way." Carole A. O'Leary

Democracy can neither be imposed nor imported

For Professor Mwayila Tshiyembe, Director of the Pan-African Institute of Geopolitics, "it is impossible to impose democracy on a society that does not want it. Each nation improves through contact with others. One can, while retaining one's own characteristics, draw inspiration from positive aspects of others. But one cannot copy a model just like that or impose it by force. That will never work". The anthropologist Carole A. O'Leary, specialist in the relation between politics and identity in the Middle East, agreed with these remarks: "I would categorically reject the notion that you can impose democracy. You cannot impose it with a gun. It cannot be implanted. It has to evolve in an indigenous way".

As far as participants in the Conference were concerned, there is no democratic system that could become a universal model. Professor Riadh Aziz Hadi from the Political Science Department of Baghdad University, stressed that democracy can be "neither imposed nor imported".

"There cannot be traced any society in which democracy exists with no innovations." Gul Rahman Quazi

Panel on Afghanistan
(left to right):
**William Maley,
Nasrine Abou-Bakr Gross,
Gul Rahman Quazi,
Werner Prohl.**

Cultures and democratic principles

Some democratic systems are incompatible with certain cultures, but no culture is incompatible with democratic principles. Imposing a political system which takes no account of the cultural, historical, ethnic or linguistic context, can be counterproductive.

Congolese experts
Mwayila Tshiyembe
(left) and **Mabiala
Mantuba-Ngoma.**

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Professor Tshiyembe explained how attempts to endow African countries with institutions identical to those in Western countries and thereby establish a democracy that he categorized as "formal", have often led to failure. The concept of the nation-State is a Western invention which, for Professor Tshiyembe, could never be applied in Africa: "Extended to the reality of Congo society, the nation-State model becomes war-inducing because of its cultural unification primacy, ethnic homogenization and individualization of the body of society".

A system that disregards the specific context is prone to latent destabilization which at any time can result in an overthrow of the balance of power. This explains how a democratic model that is not adapted to the realities of a society may create its own violence.

"The notion that some cultures are incapable of democracy is an insult to the human race."
Mabiala Mantuba-Ngoma

And yet all the participants in the Conference agreed that there was no culture incompatible with democracy. Thus, Professor Mabiala Mantuba-Ngoma, National Coordinator of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, dismissed the idea that some cultures might be "incapable of democracy" by underlining that such a thesis is "an insult to the human race". According to Professor Tshiyembe, "every nation displays at one stage or another in its development, the ability to assume and create a social contract that allows it to function and to have a common existence. Democracy is a capacity inherent in the history of humanity".

What role can the Byblos Centre and the international community play?
If one were seeking a common denominator to identify the difficulty in consolidating democracy in the three countries under study, it would certainly be the challenge of inventing a common democratic plan and building a true democratic culture, a multi-religious, multi-ethnic and multicultural society. Encouraging research into the definition and implementation of suitable policies, developing case studies and strengthening local research capabilities are some of the key elements in this process on which the experts attending the Conference asked the Byblos Centre and UNESCO to work.

Apart from specific recommendations, the Conference shed light on the fact that the process of democratization of countries in a post-conflict situation presupposes a step which goes further than setting up free elections and United Nations peacekeeping operations. It is up to the international community and every actor involved to show that democracy brings justice and is guarantor of all fundamental rights for every citizen. Without that, any discourse on the need to democratize risks being mere rhetoric and hides the actual power struggle situation that is far from the principles on which the rule of law should be based. ¶
Jeanette Blom, j.blom@unesco.org

"UNESCO has been asked to play an essential role, not only so that the diffusion of a culture of peace is linked with a culture of democracy, but also to create a new principle of international law based on democratic legitimacy and democratic security." Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Boutros Boutros-Ghali
(left) in discussion with
Attiya Inayatullah.

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Further reading

The Byblos Letters

The Byblos Centre publishes on a regular basis the "Byblos Letters".

- **Issue Nº 1:** Harald MÜLLER: *Theories of Peace* (Byblos: ICHS, 2003), 37 pp.
- **Issue Nº 2:** Karin KNEISSL: *Culture, Religion and Conflict* (Byblos, ICHS, 2003), 95 pp.
- **Issue Nº 3:** Iliya HARIK: *Democracy and the Paradoxes of Cultural Diversity. Beyond the Veil of Difference* (Byblos: ICHS, 2003), 48 pp.
- **Issue Nº 4:** Valerie MØLLER: *Peaceful Co-existence in South Africa in the Millennium. A Review of Social Indicators in the 2002 Democracy Study* (Byblos: ICHS, 2004), 40 pp.
- **Issue Nº 5:** Tamirace FAKHOURY: *Ethno-Religious Conflict and Modes of its Regulation* (Byblos: ICHS, 2004), 60 pp.

The Interaction between Democracy and Development,

Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI (ed.), UNESCO. 400 pages.
www.unesco.org/shs

Peace and Democracy: Benchmarking

by Alain CAILLÉ. Introduction by Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI. UNESCO. 2004. 113 pages. (also in French and Arabic)
www.unesco.org/shs

Introducing Democracy: 80 questions and answers.

David BEETHAM and Kevin BOYLE. UNESCO Publishing / Polity Press. 1995. 135 pages. ISBN: 92-3-103081-7
www.unesco.org/publications

Démocratie et gouvernance mondiale : quelles régulations pour le XXIᵉ siècle?

C. ARTURI, C. MILANI, G. SOLINÍS. Editions UNESCO / Karthala, 2003. 303 pages. ISBN: 92-3-203902-8. (In French and Portuguese only) ¶
www.unesco.org/publications

Training in citizenship and democracy

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According to the UNDP Human Development Report 2002, twelve West African countries fall into the "low human development" category and are among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Poverty persists in urban as well as rural areas despite national efforts and action taken by development partnerships. Moreover, according to the same Report, the wave of democratization in Africa in the 1980s has lost momentum and several countries on the continent are falling back or are at risk of falling back into authoritarianism. Democracy and development are therefore still the major challenges being faced.

The *Training in Human Rights, Citizenship and Local Democracy in Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso* project is the contribution of Luxembourg and UNESCO to fighting poverty through funding the democratization process under way in the three countries, strengthening participatory democracy and active citizenship of both men and women.

A UNESCO-DANIDA pilot project in Senegal from July 1999 to February 2002 was a new trial approach training locally elected representatives and members of civil society to use human rights, citizenship and local democracy as tools for analysis and local development management. Improvement in the level of awareness in these three fields gave rise to more transparency and responsibility on the part of the locally elected representatives and administrative officials. For local populations, this brought about a gradual rejection of local practices of human rights violations, better citizen participation in the management of local affairs, a strengthening of their capacities thus enabling them to weigh up decisions

directly or indirectly affecting them and positive changes in behaviour.

The project is now being extended to other regions in Senegal (Dakar: Yeumbeul, Malika, Thiès, Louga, Matam and Saint-Louis), and to Burkina Faso and Mali. This project: *Human Rights, Citizenship and Local Democracy in Senegal, Mali and Burkina Faso* is funded by Luxembourg and will be implemented by UNESCO in close cooperation with the Ministries in the countries concerned, responsible for decentralization, local communities and associations of locally elected representatives.

The project focuses on action-oriented research and training of locally elected representatives and other development players. More specifically, the aim is to:

- determine the situation concerned and define indicators of the impact the project will have in each locality;
- develop local expertise in research and training;
- strengthen capacity-building for locally elected and civil society representatives, local administration and development officials in the fields of human rights and local development in order to enable them better to carry out their duties at local community level;
- gauge the impact of the project's activities, particularly the development of a culture of individual as well as community responsibility;
- establish the procedure within the Ministries responsible for decentralization, with local communities and with the Associations of Locally Elected Representatives, as well as integrating the project's findings into research and university teaching programmes and continuing training. ¶

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A new research network for Latin America

UNESCO has a long history in the field of research on human rights. It has published many books including the newly revised Human Rights: *Questions and Answers* and *A Guide to Human Rights*. And it has recently adopted a new research strategy.

A key concern is that UNESCO's research be policy-oriented, useful for the actors involved, and in tune with regional priorities. Thus consultation meetings are being organized to establish the research agenda and to initiate the creation of regional research networks. Active involvement of the various partners should increase the impact and advocacy effect of UNESCO's research work.

One of the regions in focus for 2004-2005 is Latin America. At the beginning of this year, meetings were held of the networks of Ombudspersons of the Andean countries and of the countries of Central America. At these meetings, Mr Cifuentes Muñoz, Director of the Division of Human Rights of UNESCO and former Ombudsperson of Colombia, launched the idea of establishing a research network on the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights in Latin America, in close cooperation with the Offices of the Ombudspersons. The Ombudspersons supported the idea and have since appointed staff in several of their offices to carry out the research in their respective countries. The countries participating in the network are: Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

➡ Human rights research activities

The Division of Human Rights will concentrate its research activities on:

- further elaboration and clarification of the content of the rights within UNESCO's field of competence,[1] including the "core content" of these rights, nature of State obligations, etc;
- study on possible elements for monitoring and on the elaboration of a system of indicators;
- use of indicators to assist States, as well as international and national actors in the field of human rights, in developing and improving policies to implement human rights. ¶

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A new network on economic, social and cultural rights

The purpose of this thematic network is to strengthen the capacity of Ombudspersons to promote social justice and to combat all forms of discrimination. The responsibilities vested in Ombudspersons and similar bodies, in addition to their credibility and independence, allow those institutions to play an active role in the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights.

Research findings and other information provided by the network will serve to establish a common platform for action to influence public policy and private behaviour that impede the effective implementation of economic, social and cultural rights. The information provided will enable the Ombudspersons and similar bodies to promote the effective implementation of the rights through the judicial, legislative and administrative systems.

The research will identify the main obstacles to the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights and the existing inequalities in policies governing the distribution of public goods. At the national level, each Ombudsperson will design the best possible strategy to ensure that rights will be better implemented and will benefit the most vulnerable individuals and groups. The information collected and the results of the research feed into the regional reports, such as the Andean report on human rights, which is presented by the Andean Community of Nations to the Heads of State.

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1. These rights are more specifically: the right to education; the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to seek, receive and impart information; the right to take part in cultural life and the right to benefit from scientific progress and its applications.

It was decided during the meetings that the network will provide information and promote research on:

- The international and regional framework of economic, social and cultural rights, including the further elucidation of their content, obstacles to their implementation, nature of State obligations, justiciability and the development of a system of indicators.
- Constitutional legal and administrative systems in relation to economic, social and cultural rights.
- Mechanisms available to Ombudspersons to promote the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights.
- Cases or situations in which action taken by Ombudspersons has successfully defended or promoted these rights.
- Indicators that are relevant to action taken by Ombudspersons to evaluate the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights which may also be used by governments and other authorities.
- Themes or matters that must be addressed as priorities to improve action by Ombudspersons.

Focus on the Right to Education

The research network will first focus on the implementation of the right to education. This right, which is clearly within the mandate of UNESCO, is an important issue in the Latin American region, especially with regard to vulnerable groups.

The right to education embodies the principles of indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights. Education covers civil, cultural, economic, social and political aspects. In fact, the right to education can be considered a key right, as it allows the complete exercise and enjoyment of all human rights.

According to the conceptual framework elaborated by the former Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Katarina Tomaševski, States have the obligation "…to make education available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable". In this regard, some of the main issues to be analysed are: the normative content and nature of obligations of the right to education, non-discrimination and equal access to education (from an economic and gender perspective), links between poverty and education, the quality of education and its adaptation to communities with specific lifestyles, the status of teachers, etc.

A workshop will be held 16 to 18 June in Quito (Ecuador) for researchers on the right to education. The right to education will be analysed from an international, regional and national perspective. Attention will be paid to the legal aspects of the right, as well as to the public policies in the field of education. ¶

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BIRTH OF AN ARAB UNIVERSITY NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Approximately 35 representatives of UNESCO Chairs in Human Rights, research centres and non-governmental organizations from Arab countries gathered in Cairo, Egypt (24-25 April 2004), to discuss the modalities of a strengthened cooperation among the human rights community of the region. The meeting was hosted by the UNESCO Chair at the American University in Cairo and Cairo University in partnership with the *SUR-Human Rights Network* and the United Nations Foundation and in cooperation with UNESCO.

In opening the meeting, Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former United Nations Secretary-General and President of the newly established National Council for Human Rights in Egypt, highlighted the interrelation and interdependence between democracy and human rights and expressed the growing priority given to security considerations over respect for human rights.

The participants shared experiences, discussed problems they are confronted with in their daily work and exchanged thoughts and ideas to identify the priorities for action in the region. The need for closer contacts and concerted action lead to a unanimous decision to institutionalize cooperation among researchers, educators, and human rights activists in the Arab world. As a result, the Arab University Network for Education and Research in Human Rights was born. The Network, *inter alia*, should contribute to the integration of the teaching of human rights at all levels of education and in all disciplines, foment exchange of lecturers and of educational and information materials and encourage human rights research and disseminate its results.

A Coordinating Committee elected by the participants was entrusted with practical arrangements linked with the registration and launching of the Network.

There are currently 57 UNESCO Chairs in Human Rights throughout the world. Specific information on the Chairs is available on the internet (see address below). ¶

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www.unesco.org/shs/chairs

UNESCO
at the 48ᵗʰ Commission on the Status of Women

At its most recent session (1-12 March 2004), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) focused on the year's two substantive themes: women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace building; and the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality.

Both of these themes have been – and still are – under study by UNESCO's Section on Gender Equality and Development (GED). It was therefore opportune for a representative of the Section to be on one of the Commission's panels. At the panel on the role of men and boys in gender equality, Manisha Desai, who represented GED, noted that research and academic experience have shown that very often the focus on the role of men and boys comes at the expense of women and girls. In addition, it is often easier to find resources to fund programmes and projects for men and boys, than for women and girls. Hence, in focusing on the role of men and boys it is important to ensure that this is done in partnership with women and girls and not at their expense.

Ms Desai also pointed out that policies and programmes on the role of men and boys should take into account the fact that gender equality involves the loss of actual and perceived privileges for men. It is therefore necessary to include strategies that address this loss of privilege with the gain of other socially valuable capital, such as the ability to engage fully in arenas previously defined as "female".

The focus of next year's CSW will be: (1) Review and implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled: "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21ˢᵗ Century"; and (2) Current Challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls. ¶

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RESEARCH STUDY ON GIRLS

A research study entitled "Situation Analysis of the Needs of Out-of-School Adolescent Girls in Pakistan" has been printed and widely distributed to policy and research organizations and institutions, as well as to schools in Pakistan. The study, coordinated by the UNESCO Office in Islamabad to explore options for the education and training of adolescent girls, received praise during the workshop on "Policy Issues Concerning Out-of-School Adolescent Learning Needs" held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in March 2004. ¶

Humala Khalid, humala.k@un.org.pk

NON-FORMAL SCIENCE EDUCATION

In the context of the sub-regional project on "Breaking the Poverty Cycle of Women: Empowering Adolescent Girls to become Agents of Social Transformation in South Asia", a second workshop on non-formal science education and popularization of science was held in Islamabad from 19 to 22 February 2004. Taking part in the workshop were about 18 participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, and 18 experts from Pakistan. ¶

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GENDER IN JOURNALISM

The Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF) and the UNESCO Office in Islamabad jointly sponsored the *2004 Gender in Journalism Awards.* (The Awards were presented for the first time in 2003.) They consist of two awards for print media journalists in Pakistan. One award is presented for "Excellent Gender Sensitive Reporting" by a male or female journalist, in recognition of excellence and best practices in the coverage of gender related issues. The other is awarded to a woman journalist for outstanding coverage of any issue. This award recognizes the competence and contributions to journalism of women who can be role models for those entering or planning to embark on the profession. A panel of eight judges – journalists and media professionals – selected the winning entries which were submitted in English, Urdu or Sindhi. ¶

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Poverty eradication from a human rights perspective

The place is the island of Gorée in Senegal. The date is 30 March to 2 April 2004. A high-level meeting on "*Reinforcement of Community Capacities from the Law and Social Equity Perspectives*" gathered participants from Senegal (host country), Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso in the GORIN Institute to discuss one of the most persistant problems of the African continent: poverty.

The meeting discussed the outcome of the UNESCO project: "*Building Community Capacities to Ensure Project Sustainability*", which was undertaken in Mali and Niger and highlighted the importance of establishing a link between this *conceptual* project and the UNESCO *operational* project "*Contribution to the eradication of poverty and the reinforcement of the human security in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger*".

UNESCO initiated through this project a consolidated process that has paved the way for formulating a poverty concept, which sees this "phenomenon" as a violation of human rights. Mali and Niger were chosen as pilot countries to study how the gap between the communication (theory) and operational (practice) aspects could be bridged.

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The following issues were at the origin of the meeting: the need to clarify the concept of poverty as a violation of human rights and to communicate about it; the need to identify the existing legal framework at national and international level in order to mainstream human rights in anti-poverty strategies; the need to make this operational from the West African perspective and to identify the operational challenges and their implications.

One outcome of the project was the creation of national follow-up committees in Mali and Niger by the two countries' national authorities in order to take the full responsibility and the lead in the reflection, advocacy and operation of the concept of poverty

as a violation of human rights at national level. Encouraged by the success of the project, Senegal also created a national committee under the auspices of the Ministry of Human Rights.

Participants called upon UNESCO to support their newly established national committees by means of publications, documents and finance, and to assist the countries that wish to associate the human rights dimension in their poverty eradication strategies. ¶

Khaled Abu-Hijle with Chifa Tekaya and Moufida Goucha, c.tekaya@unesco.org

GENDER EQUALITY – BREAKING THE MOULD

In March 2004, the theme for discussion in the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York was: Boys' and Men's Contribution to the Process towards Gender Equality. In this context and through a participatory process, the UNESCO Office in Islamabad began a new project: "How boys and men can support the quest for gender equality in Pakistan". It considers men as essential partners in addressing the issue of gender equality. The project is being carried out with ROZAN – an NGO working on issues of emotional health, gender, and violence against women and children – and in consultation with Pakistan's Ministry of Women's Development. About 200 students in Fine Arts, Mass Media and Journalism from universities in the provinces and the National College of Arts submitted creative visual art (posters, drawings, paintings and photographs) and creative writing (essays, poems, slogans, features, leaflets and short stories) for an exhibition being organized on the subject.

Academics, activists, students and journalists showed great interest in the exhibition which was held on 3 December 2003 to coincide with an awareness-raising seminar in Islamabad. The messages conveyed were strong and clear. Some of the material exhibited was shown during the UN Commission on the Status of Women meeting, held in New York in March 2004.

The report of the project has now been published in the form of a booklet entitled *Breaking the Mould – Men's Involvement in the Quest for Gender Equity*. It shows the need for further work and reflection on the promotion of gender equality in designing courses that address the process of social change.

The 34-page publication, illustrated with the artwork submitted by the students, is in great demand – 500 copies have been distributed and another 500 are being printed with the support of Swedish development cooperation. ¶

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**The International Social Science Journal
(Issue 179 – March 2004)
Tracking Impact – Case studies on
the social science-policy nexus**

In pursuit of a wide range of goals,
contemporary States intervene ever more
closely in the fabric of their societies.
They may wish, for instance, to promote
public health by anti-smoking and road
safety campaigns, to design social benefits
that are better suited to highly diverse
individual situations, to facilitate forms
of "life-long learning" that equip their
citizens for the "knowledge society",
or to open up major technological
decisions to democratic participation.
Such intervention requires both detailed
knowledge of social situations and the
ability to predict their changes in response
to hypothetical schemes. It presupposes,
in other words, a rather unlikely
deployment of social science.

Unlikely, insofar as social science is
often uncomfortable with "instrumenta-
lization", and has, indeed, some good
epistemological arguments to dismiss it.
Unlikely, equally, because policy makers
are often reluctant to take into account the
distinctive time frame and logic of scientific
inquiry, to say nothing of possibly
embarrassing conclusions.

The articles in this issue provide a
geographically and sectorally diverse
overview – from the Philippines to
Uzbekistan and from Cameroon to the
Netherlands – of knowledge utilization in
social policy, along with an analysis of the
obstacles it encounters and the possible
failures it may produce. An understanding
of such failures is crucial for two
inseparable tasks: a more accurate
scientific analysis of the social world and
enhanced capacities for action to address
its most urgent ills. ¶

John Crowley, j.crowley@unesco.org

www.unesco.org/shs/issj

Human Cloning

In time for the spring session of the
Executive Board, UNESCO's Division of
Ethics of Science and Technology
published *Human Cloning – Ethical Issues*.
This 20-page brochure gives a brief history
of cloning, recent developments in cloning
research on animals, and discusses the
ethical issues regarding human cloning
and whether research cloning differs from
reproductive cloning. Colour illustrations
help the reader to understand the different
scientific processes involved in cloning.
Human Cloning has been translated into
the other five languages of the UN and
these versions will be available shortly.

A 25-page document 'National
Legislation concerning Human Reproductive
and Therapeutic Cloning' has also been
published. It gives an overview of current
legislation, guidelines and opinions
(of 48 countries) that regulate cloning
techniques using human genetic material.
This document will be regularly updated. ¶

Male roles, masculinities and violence
Eds. Ingeborg BREINES, Robert CONNELL, Ingrid EIDE.
UNESCO Publishing (Cultures of Peace series) 2004.
ISBN 92-3-203745-9

What are the links between men and
masculinities on the one hand and peace
and war on the other? How best should
changes be made to the traditional
perception of masculinity in order to make
it more geared towards peace? What are
the best ways of educating boys and young
men so that they accept the idea of a
culture of peace? How should peace-
building strategies deal with masculinities?
This book tackles these and other
questions through case studies of violence
and peace-building in different regions
of the world, and through socio-economic
research into the link between traditional
masculinity and patriarchy. ¶

(The French edition has just been published).

Où vont les valeurs ?

Albin Michel / UNESCO Publishing,
2004, 503 pp. ISBN 92-3-203946-x
(The English edition *The Future of Values*
will be published in Autumn 2004
by Berghahn Books / UNESCO Publishing.)

The discussions of the *21st Century
Dialogues* and *Talks* are reproduced here
in this second volume *of Keys to the 21st
Century* (see *Newsletter* 04). *The Future
of Values* has contributions from today's
great names – Jean Baudrillard, Jacques
Derrida, Meghnad Desai, Nadine Gordimer,
Claude Hagège, Paul Kennedy, Michel
Maffesoli, Gianni Vattimo... and the list
goes on. In all, 49 philosophers, historians,
scientists, sociologists and economists
discuss the dangers facing us today and
those we will confront tomorrow.
This danger is not – as some will have it –
the clash of civilizations, but rather the
absence of shared values. The following
titles of contributions give an idea of the
different arguments developed:
"Is culture threatened?", "Globalization
and the 'third industrial revolution'",
"Are we moving towards a clash or a
hybridization of values?", "The changing
face of racism". ¶
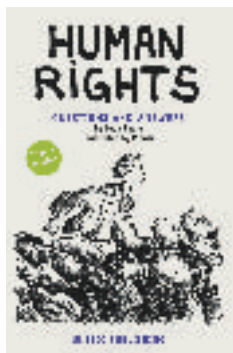
Human Rights – Questions and Answers

by Leah LEVIN, with illustrations by Plantu.
4th edition, 200 pp., UNESCO Publishing, 2004.
ISBN 92-3-103942-3

Since 1981 when it first appeared, this
publication has been translated into over
30 languages. This 4th edition has been
revised and updated to include recent
developments in the field of human rights.

The book is in two parts: Part I poses
and answers 113 questions on International
Human Rights Law, thus presenting an
overview of the scope and content of
international human rights law, procedures
to monitor its implementation, organiza-
tions and institutions working for human
rights and major intenational events as
well as new developments and challenges.

Part II explains the meaning of each
of the thirty Articles of the Universal
Declaration of Human Rights. Notes at
the end of the publication give further
details of Treaties and Conventions, dates
of ratification, websites, precise publication
references for UN documents as well as
a most useful glossary of UN and other
international acronyms. Information on
human rights protection is clearly
explained through descriptions of the
various Conventions and the organizations
in charge of their implementation. ¶
www.unesco.org/publications

Burkina Faso – Migration and Workers' Rights (1897-2003)

Titinga Frédéric PACERE. Khartala / UNESCO, 2004,
264 p. ISBN 92-3-203943-5

Published in French (*Burkina Faso :
Migration et droits des travailleurs*),
this book is the culmination of research
conducted by the reputed lawyer Pacere
Titinga and carried out with UNESCO
support. Prior to 1897 when colonization
arrived, migration in the country – even
from one region to another – did not exist.
The author gives a detailed and thoroughly
documented account of a hundred years
of migration in Burkina Faso, providing
tables that give the actual numbers of
Burkinabé living and working abroad over
the years. This publication is a sound
reference work on migrant workers' rights.
It details all the obstacles that prevent
migrant workers' rights from being
respected and lists the opportunities for
strengthening migrant workers' rights
at all levels – national, regional and
international.

Migration has become one of today's
greatest problems. It affects every
continent and every country that provides
or receives migrant labour and has
an impact on the stability of all those
countries, whatever their level of
development. ¶
www.unesco.org/publishing

JUNE

8-9 June: International Conference on Tolerance and Human Rights and the Struggle against Discrimination and Xenophobia. Tbilisi, Georgia. (s.lazarev@unesco.org)

14 June: *21st Century Talks*: "Can the HIV/AIDS pandemic be overcome? Foresight, education and prevention." UNESCO, Paris. (j.binde@unesco.org)

16-18 June: Workshop of the research network of Latin American Ombudspersons and similar bodies on the right to education. Quito, Ecuador. (y.donders@unesco.org)

24-25 June: 3rd meeting of the UN Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics. UNESCO, Paris. (s.colombo@unesco.org)

JULY

2-5 July: Joint MOST Intergovernmental Council Bureau and Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting. UNESCO, Paris. (c.von-furstenberg@ unesco.org)

7 July: Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) meeting and drafting group of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC). UNESCO, Paris. (s.colombo@unesco.org)

9-10 July: Meeting of experts to draw up the Ten-Point Plan of Action for the International Coalition of Cities against Racism in Europe. Nuremberg, Germany. (a.moussa-iye@unesco.org)

27-28 July: *21st Century Dialogues*: "Building Knowledge Societies". Seoul, Republic of Korea. (j.binde@unesco.org)

AUGUST

23-24 August: 11th session of the International Bioethics Committee. UNESCO, Paris. (s.colombo@unesco.org)

SEPTEMBER

5-8 September: Governance for Urban Change (48th International Federation for Housing and Planning World Congress). Oslo, Norway. (g.solinis@unesco.org)

13 September: *Ethics around the world* rotating conference on: "The Universal Instrument" and opening of the Bioethics Documentation Centre. Vilnius, Lithuania. (s.colombo@unesco.org)

13-17 September: Second World Urban Forum (UN-Habitat), organized within the Universal Forum of Cultures (Barcelona 2004). See the SHS web site for the list of round tables organized by UNESCO. Barcelona, Spain. Coordination/information: (g.solinis@unesco.org)

15 September: *Ethics around the world* rotating conference on: "The Universal Instrument". Ankara, Turkey. (j.tort@unesco.org)

16-17 September: Meeting of the International Jury for the UNESCO Human Rights Education Prize. UNESCO, Paris. (i.zoubenko@unesco.org)

17-18 September: Meeting of Precautionary Principle Expert Group. UNESCO, Paris. (s.scholze@unesco.org)

23-24 September: Working group on Environmental Ethics. UNESCO, Paris. (j.tort@unesco.org)

THE NANTES WORLD FORUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Almost 1000 participants – specialists, government representatives, NGOs and activists – from 80 different countries attended the World Forum on Human Rights which took place in Nantes from 16 to 19 May 2004. The Forum was alive with debate, round tables, concerts and exhibitions. It will be the main theme of the dossier in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

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1. Kari Tapiola, Executive Director for Standards and Principles, International Labour Organization, gives one of the speeches at the opening session.

2. Michel Toubiana, President of the League of Human Rights (France), gives an address during the opening ceremony.

3. Panel of experts on "Human Rights and Terrorism".

4. The Commissioner guides visitors round the "Textures" exhibition. The exhibition is the work of Beninese craftsmen and it depicts the history of the slave trade.

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