

# Newsletter

Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates

Nr. 5 - March 2006

## Nelson Mandela joins the ranks of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors

Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO and His Excellency Mr Nelson Mandela, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, during the ceremony on 12 July 2005 at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg, South Africa

**“...in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the fight against apartheid and racial discrimination, in his country and worldwide; for his dedication to reconciliation between different communities... ”**



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Nelson Mandela, living legend and former President of South Africa, was designated UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador by Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura, in a ceremony held on 12 July 2005 at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg. Mr Mandela was awarded the title “in recognition of his outstanding leadership in the fight against apartheid and racial discrimination, in his country and worldwide; for his dedication to reconciliation between different com-

munities; his unfailing commitment to democracy, equality and learning; his support for all the oppressed of the Earth; and his exemplary contribution to international peace and understanding.”

“... Mr Nelson Mandela is one of the great moral and political leaders of our time, a fighter against racial oppression in South Africa, the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and the elected President of his country. He is



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revered everywhere as a vital force in the fight for human rights and racial equality..." said the Director-General in his address during the ceremony.

Born on 18 July 1918 in Tembu, a small village in the Transkei of which his father was chief, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was the first member of his family to attend school. His involvement in politics began in his student days at Fort Hare University. Joining the African National Congress party in 1942, he became a notable opponent of the white minority government, was arrested for anti-apartheid activism in 1962 and remained in prison until 1990. He earned world-wide recognition as a freedom

fighter, and "Free Nelson Mandela" became the rallying cry for anti-apartheid campaigners. In 1991, he and State President F.W. de Klerk, who ordered his release, were awarded the UNESCO Félix Houphouët-Boigny Peace Prize. Two years later, they shared the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr Mandela served as his country's first democratically elected president from 1994 to 1999, overseeing South Africa's transition from minority rule and winning international respect for promoting reconciliation. Since his retirement, he has been active on behalf of a number of social and human rights organizations.



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From left to right: Ms Naledi Pandor, South African Minister of Education, Mrs Basma Irsheid, Chief of Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, His Excellency Mr Nelson Mandela, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Ms Ntombazana Botha, South African Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Pallo Jordan, South African Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Nouréini Tidjani-Serpos, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO Africa Department, and H. E. Ms Nomasono Maria Sibanda-Thusi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of South Africa to France and Permanent Delegate of South Africa to UNESCO, during the ceremony on 12 July 2005 at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg, South Africa

# HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand designated UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador



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UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura designated Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Crown Princess of Thailand, a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the Empowerment of Minority Children and the Preservation of their Intangible Cultural Heritage at a ceremony held in Bangkok on 24 March 2005. Her Royal Highness was designated in recognition of her "outstanding commitment to education and to the welfare of children in remote areas."

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn holds a doctorate degree in Development

Education from Srinakharinwirot University, and has worked on development projects in health and hygiene, education, water resource development, agriculture and cottage industries.

A scholar of Pali, Sanskrit, Cambodian and several other languages, and a gifted practitioner of traditional Thai musical instruments, Her Royal Highness is currently the Director of the Department of History at the Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy. Her Royal Highness also runs several philanthropic organizations and foundations promoting

(1) HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Crown Princess of Thailand and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, during the ceremony on 24 March 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand.

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Mr Kantathi Suphamongkhon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Mr Adisai Bodharamik, Minister of Education of Thailand, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and Mrs Basma Irsheid, Chief of Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates, and Mr Richard Engelhardt, UNESCO Regional Advisor for Culture in Asia and the Pacific, during the ceremony on 24 March 2005 in Bangkok, Thailand



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Thai culture and higher education, protecting the environment, and supporting disabled veterans. The Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Foundation, established in 1979, supports needy students in schools, vocational colleges and universities.

The ceremony took place during the official visit of the Director-General to Thailand.

**HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the opening of the 4th session of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) held in Bangkok, Thailand, from March 23 to 25, which was jointly organized by UNESCO and the Government of Thailand.**

## HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn addresses the fifth meeting of the High-Level Group on Education for All (EFA)

The fifth meeting of the High-Level Group on Education for All (EFA), convened by the Director-General and organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Government of the People's Republic of China, was held in Beijing from 28 to 30 November 2005. The special theme of the meeting was literacy, with a particular focus on education for rural people. UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn delivered an inaugural speech.

In his remarks, Mr Matsuura described 2005 as «a watershed year» for EFA in terms of improved prospects for higher levels of international development assistance, arising especially from the G8 meeting in Gleneagles in July. He also noted that, five years after Dakar, there are some encouraging signs of EFA progress, as revealed by the EFA Global Monitoring Report 2006, but huge challenges remain and there are only ten years left.

Her Royal Highness also delivered a keynote address on the theme of "exclusion" at a symposium on the 60th Anniversary of UNESCO with the title "Including the Excluded: Building on UNESCO's First 60 Years", which took place on 25 November 2005 at the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Anthropology Center in Bangkok, and which was organized by the UNESCO Office in Bangkok.

Education for All, Education for Sustainable Development and UNESCO's response to natural disasters were the three themes on the agenda for the Annual Meeting of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, which took place on 3 and 4 March 2005 at the Organization's Headquarters. The UNESCO Director-General opened the session, followed by a speech by His Excellency Michael Abiola Omolewa, then President of the General Conference.

The Goodwill Ambassadors presented their work over the past year and discussed their experiences. During the meeting they committed themselves to promote UNESCO's actions in these three fields by means of fund-raising and by raising public awareness of

these projects through their professional activities.

At the meeting, Abhimanyu Singh, Director of the Division of International Co-ordination and Monitoring for Education for All, and Teresa Murtagh, Information Officer for the Education Sector, presented the Education for All programme, which promotes universal access to learning and focuses on equity. Mr Singh asked the Goodwill Ambassadors to lend their support to the programme.

Mary Joy Pigozzi, Director of the Quality Education Programme, presented the objectives of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), which was launched by Mr Matsuura on 1 March

## 2005 Annual Meeting of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors



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UNESCO Director-General Mr Koichiro Matsuura, surrounded by the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors at the 2005 Annual Meeting, on 3 and 4 March 2005.

Upper row (left to right): Mr Omer Zülfü Livaneli, Mr Kitín Muñoz, Lady Cristina Owen-Jones, HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, Mr Ikuo Hirayama, Mr Cheick Modibo Diarra, Mr Patrick Baudry.

Lower row (left to right): Mrs Basma Irsheid, Chief of Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates, Mr Mstislav Rostropovitch, Mr Madanjeet Singh, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, Mr Zurab Tsereteli, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, HRH Princess Firyal, Mr Jean Michel Jarre, Mrs Kim Phuc Phan Thi, Mrs Milú Villela, Mr Marcio Barbosa, UNESCO Deputy Director-General.



1. (© M. Ravassard)

Mr Mstislav Rostropovitch and Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors

2. (© A. Wheeler)

HRH Princess Firyal and Mr Jean Michel Jarre, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors

3. (© A. Wheeler)

HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, Mr Omer Zülfü Livaneli and Mr Cheick Modibo Diarra, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors

4. (© A. Wheeler)

Mr Ikuo Hirayama, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

2005 at UN Headquarters in New York. The main objective of this Decade is to encourage the governments of Member States to incorporate the concept of sustainable development into their education policies.

Walter Erdelen, Assistant UNESCO Director-General for the Natural Sciences and Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), presented UNESCO's work for the prevention of natural disasters, with a particular focus on the project recently launched by UNESCO for a global tsunami warning system, which is due to become operational in June 2007.

Jean Michel Jarre and H.R.H. Princess Firyal were the moderators of this year's annual meeting. On several occasions they encouraged the promotion of programmes that were presented by the speakers. They particularly stressed the crucial role of education for achiev-

ing the sustainable development of countries as well as the importance of disseminating indispensable information regarding tsunami risks in order to protect the population of endangered regions.

On the occasion of the Annual Meeting, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva and Mr Mstislav Rostropovitch presented the traditional Azeri mugham music. This was followed by a concert of the Azeri pianist and composer Franghiz Ali-Zadeh and cellist Ivan Monighetti.

The following ambassadors attended the meeting: Mehriban Aliyeva, Patrick Baudry, Cheick Modibo Diarra, HRH Princess Firyal, Ivry Gitlis, Ikuo Hirayama, Jean Michel Jarre, Omer Zülfü Livaneli, Kitín Muñoz, Lady Owen-Jones, Kim Phuc Phan Thi, Mstislav Rostropovitch, HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, Madanjeet Singh, Zurab Tsereteli and Maria de Lourdes Egydio Villela.

## UNESCO Celebrity Advocates congratulate the Director-General on his re-election



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(1) The Director-General Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, receives congratulations from UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors Mr Jean Michel Jarre, Mr Miguel Angel Estrella and Mrs Marianna Vardinoyannis, and UNESCO Artists for Peace Ms Maria Berenson and Countess Setsuko Klossowska de Rola

On 21 October 2005, at the closing session of the 33rd UNESCO General Conference, UNESCO's Celebrity Advocates gathered together to welcome the second term of mandate of Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, who has served as UNESCO Director-General since 1999.

During the closing session of the General Conference and the investiture ceremony of the re-elected Director-General at UNESCO Headquarters, Jean Michel Jarre, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, spoke on behalf of the UNESCO Celebrity Advocates on stage who paid tribute to Mr Matsuura: UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors Marianna Vardinoyannis and Miguel Angel Estrella, and UNESCO Artists for Peace Countess Setsuko Klossowska de Rola, Maria Berenson and Chico Bouchikhi.

In his speech, Mr Jarre extended his warm con-

gratulations to Mr Matsuura and acknowledged the progress and achievements made under his leadership. "UNESCO is very lucky to have a Director-General like you with your experience and wisdom, and I think in the four years to come you have all the opportunities to develop all those programmes which are the bedrock of UNESCO's work for our children for future generations. At UNESCO, we are really building bridges between societies. We assure you we will be behind you and do all we can to put our energies at your disposal in order to help you in this task." Mr Jarre concluded by saying: "The sun is the symbol of your country of origin and may the same sun shine throughout your next four years of work."

UNESCO Artist for Peace Chico Bouchikhi and his band celebrated Mr Matsuura's re-election with their cheerful musical performance on stage.

## UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors join in the celebrations of UNESCO's 60th Anniversary

On 16 November 2005, UNESCO celebrated its 60th anniversary with a special ceremony at its Headquarters in Paris. UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan, Ms Claudia Cardinale, Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven, Mrs Marianna Vardinoyannis, Mr Madanjeet Singh and UNESCO Artist for Peace Ms Marisa Berenson paid tribute to UNESCO by participating in the ceremony.

The President of Ukraine HE Mr Victor Yushchenko, French Foreign Affairs Minister

Mr Philippe Douste-Blazy, Mr Pape Diop, President of the National Assembly of Senegal, French anthropologist Mr Claude Levi-Strauss, the current Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, as well as the former UNESCO Director-Generals Mr Federico Mayor and Mr Amadou-Mahtar M'Bow participated in the ceremony, along with the President of UNESCO's General Conference, HE Mr Musa Bin Jaafar Bin Hassan, and the Chairman of the Executive Board, Mr Zhang Xincheng.

The day of celebrations ended with the con-

cert "Mozart, but not only...", which presented a unique musical interaction between traditional, classical and contemporary music and which was organized in collaboration with the association Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations. The performances included UNESCO Artists for Peace Boris Trajanov, baritone, Ino Mirkovic, violin, and Sergueï Markarov, piano. Painter and UNESCO Artist for Peace Titiouan Lamazou designed the artworks of the poster for the 60 years of UNESCO's history.



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## Marcel Khalifé designated UNESCO Artist for Peace

UNESCO Director-General Mr Koichiro Matsuura and Mr Marcel Khalifé, UNESCO Artist for Peace, during the ceremony, on 7 June 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters

Marcel Khalifé, the Lebanese musician and writer, was named UNESCO Artist for Peace on 7 June 2005 by the UNESCO Director-General at a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters. Born in 1950 in Amchit, Mount Lebanon, Mr Khalife first studied the oud or Arabic lute, then taught it at the Beirut National Conservatory. He began his career as a soloist and went on, in 1972, to create a group in his home village to preserve the Arabic musical heritage through performances on the oud.

Mr Khalifé's "Al Mayadine" ensemble became an instant success in Lebanon and its reputation soon

spread abroad. It went on to tour other Arab countries as well as Africa, Europe, the United States, Canada, South America, Australia and Japan. The group is regularly invited to perform in internationally renowned festivals.

Mr Khalifé is also a composer of Oriental dance and film music, inspired by major contemporary Arab poets. At the vanguard of innovative Middle-Eastern music, Khalifé's original music makes him an ambassador of his culture. He has also written several books on music. Mr Khalifé was designated UNESCO Artist for

Peace in "recognition of his fervent and generous commitment in favour of musical heritage". He was also a jury member for the 2003/2004 Mondialogo School Contest, in which approximately 1,500 participating teams and 25,000 students from 126 countries explored their cultural diversity together. In this context, the Mondialogo initiative seeks to promote intercultural dialogue, understanding and exchange among young people.

## Prince Twins Seven-Seven chosen UNESCO Artist for Peace

From left to right: Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, Prince Twins Seven-Seven, UNESCO Artist for Peace, and His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and then Chairman of the African Union, during the ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters



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Prince Twins Seven-Seven, the Nigerian artist, was designated UNESCO Artist for Peace by the Director-General in a ceremony at the Organization's Headquarters on 25 May 2005 in the presence of His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and then Chairman of the African Union. The ceremony took place on Africa Day.

Born in Nigeria in 1944, Prince Twins Seven-Seven's career began in the early 1960s. He has since become the most famous representative of the

renowned Oshogbo school of painting, which is at the heart of Yoruba civilization. His work reflects the cosmology and mythology of Yoruba culture, depicting a fantastic universe of human figures, animals, divinities and plants. His varied style, using different techniques and astonishing materials, is the most copied in contemporary Nigerian art.

A multidimensional artist, Prince Twins Seven-Seven is also recognized as a singer, musician, actor, writer and poet. His work has been shown in numerous exhibitions throughout the world, nota-

bly at France's National Museum of Modern Art at the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris, the Houston Contemporary Arts Museum, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C. and the National Modern Art Gallery in Lagos.

Prince Twins Seven-Seven was named a UNESCO Artist for Peace "in recognition of his contribution to the promotion of dialogue and understanding among peoples, particularly in Africa and the African Diaspora."

## Designation of Boris Trajanov as UNESCO Artist for Peace

Director-General Koichiro Matsuura designated Macedonian opera singer Boris Trajanov UNESCO Artist for Peace on 24 February 2005 at a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters. Mr Trajanov then gave a recital, which was followed by a performance of folk dancing by the Tanec ensemble. Boris Trajanov received the honour in recognition of his commitment to "defending humanist values and promoting dialogue among cultures and civilizations."

The baritone Boris Trajanov has sung in more than 550 opera performances in Europe, America and Africa over the past 17 years and has played more than 35 leading roles, notably in Tosca, Nabucco, Rigoletto, Macbeth, Aida, La Traviata, Madame Butterfly, Lucia di Lammermoor.

Born in 1959, Mr Trajanov first studied with his father

Goga Trajanov in Skopje, then with Biserka Cvejić in Belgrade and Pier Miranda Ferraro in Milan. Since 2001, he has given a series of benefit concerts to assist refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina in Germany and to help handicapped children and orphans as well as organizations in the fight against lung cancer. His recital at UNESCO and the folk dancing that followed were dedicated to the memory of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski, who died in a plane crash in 2004.

The Tanechkoto folk dance troupe, celebrating its 55th birthday in 2005, performed the Techkoto ("the difficult one") dance, a farandole for sad occasions. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has nominated this dance for this year's Third Proclamation of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.



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UNESCO Director-General Mr Koichiro Matsuura and Mr Boris Trajanov, UNESCO Artist for Peace, during the ceremony on 24 February 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters



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From left to right: Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs Mariana Nicolesco, UNESCO Artist for Peace, His Excellency Mr Traian Basescu, President of Romania, and Mrs Basma Irsheid, Chief of Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates, during the ceremony, at UNESCO Headquarters

## Soprano Mariana Nicolesco designated UNESCO Artist for Peace

Romanian soprano Mariana Nicolesco received the title of UNESCO Artist for Peace from Director-General Koichiro Matsuura. The ceremony took place on 21 November 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters in the presence of the Romanian President His Excellency Mr Traian Basescu.

Mariana Nicolesco was designated UNESCO Artist for Peace "in recognition of her commitment to musical heritage, artistic creation and dialogue between cultures," and "her contribution to promoting the ideals of the Organization."

Born in Romania, Ms Nicolesco studied in Italy on a scholarship at the Conservatorio Santa Cecilia in

Rome. During her time there, she won the Rossini International Competition. Ms Nicolesco has been acclaimed in the world's most renowned opera houses and concert halls, notably for works by Verdi, Donizetti and Bellini. She is the founder of the annual International Song Competition in Romania for the promotion of young talent, in which young artists from 25 countries participate.

In addition to the bilateral meeting and the ceremony, the Romanian President and the Director-General presented two stamps issued by the Romanian Post Office to commemorate UNESCO's 60th anniversary.

## Jean Michel Jarre in concert at the Hans Christian Andersen commemoration gala

UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Jean Michel Jarre performed at the "Once Upon A Time" concert in Copenhagen, Denmark on 2 April 2005. The event kicked off celebrations to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the birthday of Danish fairy tale writer Hans Christian Andersen.

Mr Jarre started the show with his musical and visual interpretation of Andersen's tale *The Shadow*, a 10-metre shadow projected onto a Chinese translation of the tale, accompanied by a vivid laser show.

The spectacular two-hour programme celebrated Andersen's most famous tales and the story of his life, featuring music, film, acrobatics, ballet, tap dance and children's choirs.

On the occasion of his performance Mr Jarre said, "As we celebrate Hans Christian Andersen, we celebrate more than an author. We celebrate education, through simple universal messages, through simple words, accessible to all, in any language. As a long standing ambassador of UNESCO, I see Hans Christian Andersen's work as a positive, timeless weapon to combat illiteracy and promote a dignified action... education for all...education for everyone. The world has too many shadows that deserve to meet, one day, an educated master...so let's help them."

## Mehriban Aliyeva welcomes the UNESCO Director-General in Azerbaijan

From 23 to 26 August 2005, Director-General Koichiro Matsuura paid his second official visit to Azerbaijan at the invitation of President Ilham Aliyev and the First Lady, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Oral and Musical Traditions.

During his stay in Azerbaijan, the Director-General participated with President Aliyev and Mrs Aliyeva in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone for a Mugham Centre. In his speech, the Director-General paid tribute to the efforts of Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Oral and Musical Traditions, in promoting the traditional classical music of Azerbaijan at the international level.

The Director-General's visit coincided with the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Friends of Azerbaijani Culture Foundation chaired by Mrs Aliyeva, for which occasion several UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors – Mr Patrick

Baudry, Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, Mr Ivry Gitlis, Mr Omer Zulfü Livaneli, Mr Kitin Muñoz, Ms Kim Phuc Phan Thi and Mr Madanjeet Singh - traveled to Baku. Ivry Gitlis and Miguel Angel Estrella gave concerts, which delighted the audience.

Mr Matsuura also visited the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which is under the First Lady's chairmanship, as well as the Walled City of Baku, inscribed on the World Heritage List, and, in company of the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, the site of Gobustan, which is a historical province of Azerbaijan and a great centre of rock art.

During this visit, the President of Azerbaijan H. E. Mr Ilham Aliyev awarded Mr Matsuura the highest distinction of the country, the Order of Glory, in recognition of Mr Matsuura's contribution to the promotion of cultural heritage and his support for the reform of the education system of Azerbaijan.



Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Oral and Musical Traditions, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and Mrs Matsuura, in Baku, Azerbaijan

## Mehriban Aliyeva inaugurates the exhibition on Azerbaijani scientist Yusif Mammedaliyev

On 13 September 2005, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Oral and Musical Traditions inaugurated an exhibition at UNESCO Headquarters on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the eminent Azerbaijani scientist Yusif Mammedaliyev.

The ceremony was followed a concert and dance show, "Melodies and rhythms of Azerbaijan", which presented traditional, classical and contemporary performances.

In her speech, Mrs Aliyeva stressed the importance of the close cooperation between UNESCO and Azerbaijan, and thanked particularly UNESCO Director-General Mr Matsuura for his contribution of extending this relation.

Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, Mrs Takako Matsuura, Mr Walter Erdelen, Assistant Director-General for Science, Her Excellency Mrs Eleonora Husseinova, Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan to UNESCO, Mrs Basma Irsheid, Chief of Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates, and other distinguished guests were present at this event.

Yusif Mammedaliyev is known worldwide for his numerous works in the field of chemistry.

## UNESCO Director-General Mr. Koichiro Matsuura meets Mrs. Laura Bush during his visit to Washington, DC



U.S. First Lady Mrs Laura Bush, UNESCO Honorary Ambassador for the United Nations Literacy Decade, and Mr Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, at UNESCO Headquarters

From 27 February to 1 March 2005, the Director-General met with United States government officials and non-governmental partners during his visit to Washington, DC, to open a Georgetown University conference on UNESCO and Education for All.

The conference was attended by U.S. First Lady Mrs. Laura Bush, who serves as UNESCO Honorary Ambassador for the United Nations Literacy Decade, the US Secretary of Education Mrs. Margaret Spellings, the U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO, Ms. Louise Oliver and Assistant Director-General for Education, Dr. Peter Smith.

In her opening address, Mrs. Bush noted, "UNESCO members and partners are helping millions of children

realize the advantages of education. The United States is proud to join 189 other UNESCO members in the mission of making education a reality for all the world's people."

On the eve of the conference, Georgetown President John DeGioia awarded the Director-General the Georgetown University President's Medal. During his trip, the Director-General also met with President Bush and administration officials, US congressional leaders and private sector representatives interested in partnerships with UNESCO.

Following the opening of the conference, Mrs. Bush hosted a coffee at the White House in honour of the Director-General. Among the topics discussed were the Education for All initiative, UNESCO's work on regional and global tsunami warning systems, and UNESCO's new programme for the preservation of artifacts and museum development, which was launched with support from the United States. On this occasion, President Bush also greeted the Director-General.

On 28 April 2005, Mrs. Laura Bush paid tribute to a national commemoration of "Education For All Week", the annual celebration of UNESCO's initiative to make quality education and literacy universal. The celebration is a joint effort of the U.S. Departments of State and Education.

During her January 2006 visit to Western Africa, Mrs. Bush also visited the National Center for Women's Development in Abuja, Nigeria. Addressing the women in the center, she said "The United States shares the goal of UNESCO to advance education for all. It should be our expectation that every child – boy and girl, rich and poor – has access to education."

## HRH Princess Firyal meets with the Assistant Director-General of the Education Sector



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Her Royal Highness Princess Firyal, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, met with Mr Peter Smith, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO's Education Sector, for a work meeting on UNESCO's Education For All initiative and Princess Firyal's activities for this core programme of UNESCO. The meeting took place on 6 July 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters. During the meeting, HRH Princess Firyal and Mr Smith

discussed new ways of promoting Education For All and scheduled further follow-up meetings for the implementation of Her Royal Highness's promotion campaigns.

In September 2004 the Director-General of UNESCO conferred on Princess Firyal the mission to promote the Education for All initiative.

Her Royal Highness Princess Firyal, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and Mr Peter Smith, Assistant Director-General for Education, at UNESCO Headquarters



## Inauguration of the 'Education for All' exhibition - HRH Princess Firyal donates US\$ 100,000 to the Education for All initiative

Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Peter Smith, Assistant Director-General for Education, Mrs Margaret Spellings, U.S. Secretary of Education and HRH Prince Talal Bin Mohammed of Jordan, during the inauguration of the exhibition on 5 October 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters

In the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Mohammed of Jordan and Ms Margaret Spellings, US Secretary of Education, the Education for All exhibition at the 33rd session of the General Conference was opened by the Director-General of UNESCO on 5 October 2005. On this occasion, he also launched the Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE).

Welcoming the participants, Mr Matsuura said that HRH Princess Firyal, the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Education for All, had been prevented from attending the event but, through her son, Prince Talal Bin Mohammed, she wished to re-affirm her strong and unwavering support for Education for All. Prince Talal spoke of Jordan's successes in expanding women's education, and announced a personal contribution of US\$ 100,000 by HRH Princess Firyal in support of Education for All. In her message HRH Princess Firyal said: "For, where as in the West there is a saying that 'knowledge is power', in my own culture we say 'knowledge is light'. My personal commitment to Education is reflected by the policies long adopted in my homeland, Jordan, where we have achieved an adult literacy rate of nearly 90%. I am also proud to say that half of all high school students and university undergraduates in Jordan are female. Thus, my first-hand experiences with these farsighted policies have taught me two valuable lessons: First, education is the great equalizer. It has the ability to level any playing field between individual human beings, different societies, economies, nations and cultures. Education is the bedrock of all civilization. Second, the surest, most effective and fastest means of

eradicating poverty and especially extreme poverty, is the emancipation of women. It goes against all common sense, all common interest, and all common humanity, to deny education to fully half of the members of every society on the planet as women are."

The Director-General said that "the Education for All exhibition is designed to provide you with an informal and informative environment during the General Conference, enabling you to discover the activities undertaken by UNESCO's Member States, its Programme Sectors and its partner organizations as they work together to achieve EFA".

On this occasion the Director-General also launched UNESCO's new Literacy Initiative for Empowerment – LIFE. This initiative is the main substantive thrust of UNESCO's strategic action for literacy at the country level within the overall context of the United Nations Literacy Decade, for which UNESCO is the lead agency and international coordinator. "Through LIFE, UNESCO is launching its own programmatic action within a global strategic framework aimed at reaching the large number of people without literacy skills and related capabilities, particularly women and out-of-school girls in rural areas. LIFE will address 34 countries with the highest absolute number of illiterate adults or where 50 per cent or more of the population is illiterate.

LIFE will be a country-led process and will operate in phases starting with 10 countries in January 2006. I am pleased to announce that the following 10 countries have been invited to participate in this first phase – Bangladesh,

Egypt, Haiti, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal and Yemen", he said.

In her remarks, Secretary Spellings said that literacy must be at the heart of our work to advance education worldwide. "This is an important step in helping some of the world's most challenged countries address this issue," she said. "When you teach people to read, you help give them control over their lives and a voice in their nation's future."

The Director-General also reminded the audience of the purpose of the United Nations Literacy Decade, for which UNESCO is the lead agency and international coordinator. Mr Matsuura recalled that the Decade has received the strong support of Mrs Laura Bush, First Lady of the United States, who serves as UNESCO Honorary Ambassador for the Decade. Mrs Bush renewed her support through a message that Secretary Spellings conveyed on this occasion, in which she encouraged "each and every nation to join in UNESCO's important goal to make literacy the birthright of every person (...) Governments must make education their first priority."

Mr Matsuura highlighted that the Decade, which will conclude in 2012, "is a major aspect of the EFA drive and is important not only for education but also for the whole development process and, therefore, the Millennium Development Goals as a whole. Through the Decade, UNESCO is working hard in several areas – advocacy for literacy; the mobilization of resources; the coordination of action at international and regional levels; the sharing of information and good practices; the promotion of partnerships; and overall monitoring and reporting."



Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned

## HH Sheikha Mozah announced the creation of the Fund for Asia to support the six goals of Education for All

On 20 October 2005, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, announced in a letter to the Director-General of UNESCO, the launching of the Fund for Asia, which will be established to promote global responsibility for quality basic education for children, youth and adults in Asia and the Middle East.

The purpose of the fund that will be created through the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, will be to help the continent and the region reach the education targets as identified in the Education for All initiative. The fund will have a lifespan of ten years, 2005-2015, and will focus on various strategies as outlined in the Dakar Framework for Action to meet the Education for All goals. Three of these goals have a deadline of 2015. The fund will concentrate on meeting those deadlines as well as working on the other three goals in order to reach them by the same time.

A series of events already took place in Qatar in order to collect funds for this initiative, for instance the charity gala "Reach out to Asia", held on 16 November 2005 in Doha, Qatar.

The Director-General of UNESCO will serve on the board of this fund.

## HH Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned gives her support to the protection of the Mandaic language

As UNESCO's Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Consort of His Highness the Emir of Qatar, addressed UNESCO's Director General in May 2005 to express concern about one of the world's oldest languages - Mandaic.

Her Highness urged UNESCO to adopt quick measures to preserve the ancient language, which is currently used by a very small number of residents in Iraq and Iran. Mandaic is a Semitic language and a dialect of Eastern Aramaic.

In response to Her Highness's initiative, Director-General Mr Koïchiro Matsuura replied that the Mandaic will be listed in

the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger of Disappearing. More than 6,000 languages are at risk of disappearing in the near future, and the loss of any language will be irreplaceable for the human heritage.

Her Highness's interest in the subject stems from her educational, cultural and human role in disseminating education as Mr Matsuura affirmed at her designation as Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education on 13 January 2003: "Your Highness has initiated pioneering projects embedded in the philosophy that people are the most valuable asset of a nation and that knowledge in all its forms should be placed at the service of society."

## Her Excellency Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir serves for the second time as a jury member for the Mondialogo School Contest 2005/2006 and participates in a panel debate on Education for Sustainable Development

Her Excellency Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, former President of Iceland and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the protection of minority languages, participated in a round table discussion on the UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development, which was organized by the Swedish and German National Commissions for UNESCO in cooperation with the Education Sector on 6 October 2005 on the occasion of the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO.

The discussion focused on "Promoting sustainability through education: Objectives, strategies, and UNESCO's mission in the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development". The Panel discussion brought together over 200 participants: representatives of Member States, National Commissions for UNESCO, NGOs and the Secretariat.

Her Excellency Mrs Finnbogadóttir argued that knowledge is a supremely renewable resource, which we need to

protect, promote and share; the more we do in this area the more we gain. ESD is essentially about sharing, which people can learn in different ways: through acquiring basic education and life skills, understanding the need for sustainability; acquiring basic literacy or, as some do, acquiring ethical literacy. While local oral wisdom is extremely important for sustainable development, literacy is necessary to assume that one can bring local wisdom to play within the global community.

Furthermore, Her Excellency serves for the second time as a jury member for the Mondialogo School Contest 2005/2006, in which approximately 2,600 teams and 35,000 students from 138 countries will participate. The contest is part of the Mondialogo initiative, which seeks to promote intercultural dialogue, understanding and exchange among young people from all over the world and which gives them the opportunity to explore their cultural diversity together.

## Contributions in 2005 to UNESCO projects by AGFUND, presided by HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz, UNESCO Special Envoy for Water

The Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) is a regional development institution, established in 1980 upon the initiative of His Royal Highness Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, President of AGFUND, and UNESCO Special Envoy for Water.

Since the creation of AGFUND, UNESCO has constantly been one of its main partners and UNESCO projects have been a major beneficiary of AGFUND's funding activities. AGFUND supports sustainable human development efforts,

targeting the neediest groups in developing countries in cooperation with UNESCO and other organizations and institutions active in this field.

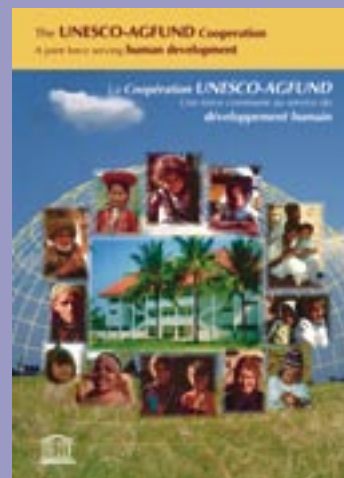
To date, AGFUND's continuous financial support has enabled UNESCO to plan and implement 71 projects, the majority in the field of education, with a special focus on education for women and girls, early childhood care and education, literacy, life skills training and teacher training. Eighty-five countries have benefited from AGFUND's con-

tributions to the total amount of more than US\$ 24 million. In 2005 AGFUND donated US\$ 465,000 in order to co-finance the following three UNESCO projects: Early Childhood Development in Yemen; Improving Quality Teaching and Learning in Primary Schools through Diagnostic Teaching Methodologies in Tanzania; and Building National Capacity in Early Childhood Care and Education in Syria through the Set up of National ECCE Resource and Training Centre.

### Just Published: The UNESCO-AGFUND Cooperation – A joint force serving human development

The Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations, AGFUND, has worked together with UNESCO since its establishment in 1980. Over the last 25 years of their cooperation, the continuous financial contributions by AGFUND have been crucial for the realization of projects and they became a steady and solid pillar in planning and implementing UNESCO's activities throughout the world.

This publication gives a summary of the history and the broad range of the UNESCO-AGFUND cooperation as well as a comprehensive presentation of all the projects in the various fields of education, science and communication and information. The UNESCO-AGFUND Cooperation – A joint force serving human development is available on the UNESCO Publications website.



## HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg donates to a UNESCO project to empower girls and participates in the regional meeting of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network

As Honorary President of the "Fondation du Grand-Duc Henri et de la Grande-Duchesse Maria Teresa", Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg donated € 70,000 to a UNESCO education project benefiting about 4,500 adolescent girls in Bangladesh, Nepal, India and Pakistan. The multi-disciplinary project, Breaking the Poverty Cycle of Women: Empowering Adolescent Girls to Become Agents of Social Transformation, offers a broad-based capacity-building programme composed of literacy, life skills, sci-

ence education, vocational training with access to ICTs, as well as micro-finance. The donation follows Her Royal Highness's visits to three project centres in the region of Madhupur in November 2003, where she talked to and encouraged girls benefiting from the project.

Furthermore, Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg attended the meeting of national coordinators of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) of the Northern

America/Europe region, which took place in Luxembourg from 10 to 14 May 2005. The meeting was held under the title "Education for Peace and Sustainable Development: The role of the UNESCO Associated Schools." The meeting aimed at redefining the future orientation of the ASPnet in the region. In her capacity as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Her Royal Highness assisted in the presentation of the projects of the Associated Schools in Luxembourg, in the presence of pupils and teachers.

## HRH the Princess of Hanover contributes for the second year to a UNESCO project in Burkina Faso to strengthen women's capacities

Her Royal Highness the Princess of Hanover, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, has made, in her second year of support, an additional contribution of € 70,000 to the UNESCO project Strengthening Women's Capacities to Promote Education for Children in Rural Areas in Burkina Faso.

The objective of the project is to contribute to realizing the goals of Education for All by assuring at the same time the enrolment of all children of the village of Ladiga and the highest possible autonomy of the women in the village. About 450 people, particularly women and children, benefit directly from the project. Ladiga is situated in one of the most impoverished and under-developed provinces of Burkina Faso.

The project highlights the necessity of education and empowerment of women to escape the vicious cycle of poverty through acceding to autonomy. It has also benefited from an active partnership, combining technical services for early childhood care, health care and education.

Thanks to the continued funding and support of the Principality of Monaco and Her Royal Highness the Princess of Hanover over the last two years, the project has raised much hope in the community of Ladiga. In the first year of implementation the project could already become an established part of community life, while awareness-raising actions will help the village members adopt successfully the project activities.

## His Excellency Valdas Adamkus gives a speech at the World Conference on Information and Communication Technologies for Capacity-Building

On 11 May 2005, the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, opened the "World Conference on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Capacity-Building: Critical Success Factors" at UNESCO Headquarters in the presence of His Excellency Mr Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the Construction of Knowledge Societies, Mr Janis Karklins, President of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit on the Information Society, and Mr Raoul Weiler, President of the Brussels/European Union Chapter of the Club of Rome.

The Conference is one of UNESCO's thematic meetings held in the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society and is jointly organized with the Club of Rome. The event focused on the potential of ICTs to train and educate communities that have limited or no access to formal education channels.

HE Valdas Adamkus concluded his speech about the information society, civil society and technology by saying: "It is clear, however, that the technological revolution alone will not lead us to a harmonious global knowledge society. We need participation, we need genuine international solidarity and we need investment in human skills. But above all, we need responsible political decisions, which should ensure conditions for putting technological achievements at the service of every man."

Mr Matsuura thanked the President for his continued engagement with the Organization as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for the Construction of Knowledge Societies. President Adamkus then extended an invitation to the Director-General to visit Lithuania.

## Sculptor Gérard Voisin chosen UNESCO Artist for Peace

French sculptor and poet Gérard Voisin received the title of UNESCO Artist for Peace from Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura on 7 July 2005 during a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters. The inauguration of a retrospective exhibition of his work, held at UNESCO from July 7 to August 19, followed the ceremony. Mr Voisin was being honoured "in recognition of his artistic career, which reflects cultural diversity, dialogue and tolerance between people, in memory of the fight against slavery."



UNESCO Director-General Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, H.E. Mr Jean Guéguinou, Ambassador of France and Permanent Delegate of France to UNESCO, H.E. Mr Wilfried Emvula, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Namibia to France, Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and President of the UNESCO African Group, Mr Gérard Voisin, UNESCO Artist for Peace, and Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault, Deputy Mayor of Nantes, during the ceremony, at UNESCO Headquarters.



## News in brief

► In the framework of events of World AIDS Day 2005, on 1 December, two events took place at UNESCO Headquarters which were organized with the support of Lady Owen-Jones, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, who was also present on these occasions: the presentation of the project Artists for Life (Designing Hope/UNESCO), and a round table on HIV/AIDS prevention programmes in the private sector. Subsequently, UNESCO signed a partnership agreement with the Global Business Coalition, which aims at reinforcing the mobilisation against HIV/AIDS. The Artists for Life project was conceived by Designing Hope and brings together 30 contemporary artists from different backgrounds. Its purpose is to provide assistance to the Designing Hope Africa association, run by HIV-positive women working to improve access to information and treatment in South Africa. Furthermore, Lady Owen-Jones supported the establishment of a partnership agreement, signed in May 2005 between UNESCO and L'Oréal, on the project "Hairdressers of the World fighting HIV/AIDS", which trains hairdressers in HIV/AIDS prevention.

► UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Mrs Marianna Vardinoyannis co-sponsored the conference, "Athens Round Table of Business Community against Trafficking of Human Beings", which was organized by The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement and the Global Coalition Women Defending Peace, on 23 January 2006 in Athens, Greece. In cooperation with several UN organizations, the private sector and leading NGOs in this field, the Round Table aimed at developing a set of ethical principles to fight human trafficking, especially of women and children. On this occasion, the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, wrote a message encouraging the subsequent "End Human Trafficking" campaign.

► During the thirteen years over which UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven has been committed to the UNESCO Programme

of Education for Children in Need, more than 30 million US dollars have been collected for the benefit of 292 projects in 85 countries giving concrete and direct help for destitute children. Every year, more than 50 projects are identified and supported financially. In 2005, three major projects in Batticaloa, Ahungalla and Kalmunai in Sri Lanka were funded to help the many victims who have suffered from the tsunami in South East Asia: a village for more than 50 homeless families and a centre for the fishermen and their families were constructed. Furthermore, an orphanage, a professional skills learning centre for girls in need and a children's hospital were rebuilt and equipped.

► The Director General of UNESCO welcomed UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Lily Marinho on 14 June 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters during her visit to France. Mrs Marinho is very eager to reinforce her commitment to UNESCO in the future. She is especially interested in promoting UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage programme and in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Furthermore, Mrs Marinho is Honorary President of the Friends of the 2005 Year of Brazil in France. In this role she was the patron of a French-Brazilian charity gala, which took place on 13 June at the Palace of Versailles.

► Mrs Milú Villela, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Voluntary Action and Basic Education in Latin America, visited UNESCO Headquarters on 15 July 2005. During her visit Mrs Villela met with the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, and the Deputy Director-General, Mr Marcio Barbosa, to discuss Mrs Villela's mission for the Organization's education programmes. Mrs Villela pledged herself to promote voluntary action and basic education in Portuguese speaking countries. Furthermore, Mrs Villela hosted a dinner on 28 September

2005 in the city of São Paulo for nearly 100 key policy-makers, businessmen, and other important Brazilian personalities in honour of the UNESCO Representative in Brazil.

► Her Royal Highness Princess Firyal visited the two Albanian UNESCO World Heritage sites of Butrint and Gjirokastra on 24 August 2005.

► UNESCO Artist for Peace Bibi Russell spoke at the 2005 World Cultural Forum at the Dead Sea in Jordan, about her role and mission as UNESCO Artist for Peace, and about cultural diversity in relation to her endeavor of Fashion for Development, in which Bibi Russell is committed to safeguarding and developing the tradition of the Bangladeshi weavers and other crafts as well as pioneering micro-credit projects.

► On 9 May 2005, the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, alongside some 50 Heads of State and Government, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors Zurab Tsereteli and Ara Abramian, participated in Moscow in the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Allies' victory over the Nazi regime. On this occasion, Mr Matsuura attended, together with Presidents Putin and Chirac, an inauguration ceremony of the monument to General Charles de Gaulle designed by Zurab Tsereteli, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

► In his capacity of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and President of the Pathfinder Foundation, and in close cooperation with the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND), Cheick Modibo Diarra successfully finalized the Scientific and Technology Formation Centre in Africa/Mali project, which aims to transfer knowledge in order to equip a nucleus of talents with the skills to invent solutions appropriate to Africa.

### The Newsletter of the Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates

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