

UNESCO Side Event on “Rural Women and Girls: Education for Empowerment” during the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

29 February, 1:15-2:45 pm, Conference Room A, North Lawn Building, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY, USA

Panel discussion organized by UNESCO and the Barefoot College to put the focus on the need to expand educational opportunities and outcomes for rural women and girls as both a fundamental human right and an essential condition for sustainable development. The side event will be moderated by Ms S. Gülser Corat, Director of the Division for Gender Equality, Office of the Director General, UNESCO and will feature His Excellency Mr. Fredrik Arthur, Ambassador for Gender Equality, Norway, Mr. Bunker Roy, Founder and Director of Barefoot College, Tilonia, India, Ms Malinka Koparanova, Senior Social Affairs Officer and Gender Focal Point, UN Economic Commission for Europe, and Ms Ann Therese Ndong Jatta, Director of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education, Dakar, Senegal.

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Launch of the online “Women Make the News” initiative

1 March-30 April

“Women Make the News” is a global policy advocacy initiative aimed at promoting gender equality in the media. The theme for 2012, “Rural Women’s Access to Media and Information”, will emphasize knowledge exchange on the importance of policies and programmes favoring access to media and information in rural communities, particularly for rural women, and good practices undertaken by public service broadcasters, commercial and community media and NGOs working to improve rural women’s access to media and information.



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Launch of the online “Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Initiative for Women Marine Scientists”

2 – 31 March

UNESCO will launch a series of interviews with women scientists working in different fields of marine sciences, focusing on why and how they decided to start a career in marine sciences, and what this choice meant for their lives. The interviews will also focus on the role of IOC in promoting gender equality in marine sciences and what can be done in the future to assure that women and men enjoy the same status and have equal opportunities in developing their careers in this specific area. A network of women marine scientists who will act as role models for young women scientists will subsequently be created.

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Screening of the documentary film "In the Footsteps of Marie-Curie"

7 March, 1-3 pm, Room IV

Organized in collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of Poland to UNESCO. Screening of this documentary by Mr. Krzysztof Rogulski (1:20, in French) will be followed by a cocktail. The documentary features the life of Marie-Curie, Polish physicist and chemist famous for her pioneering research on radioactivity. She was the first person honored with two Nobel Prizes in physics and chemistry, the first female professor at the University of Paris, and the first woman to be entombed on her own merit in the Panthéon in Paris.

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International Women's Day Concert

7 March, 7-9 pm, Room I

Musical evening with Oum, singer from Morocco, and Bafing Kul, singer from Mali. Organized in collaboration with the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF).

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International Women's Day

8 March, time tbd, Room X

Statement by the Director-General to mark the day during the ExB session.

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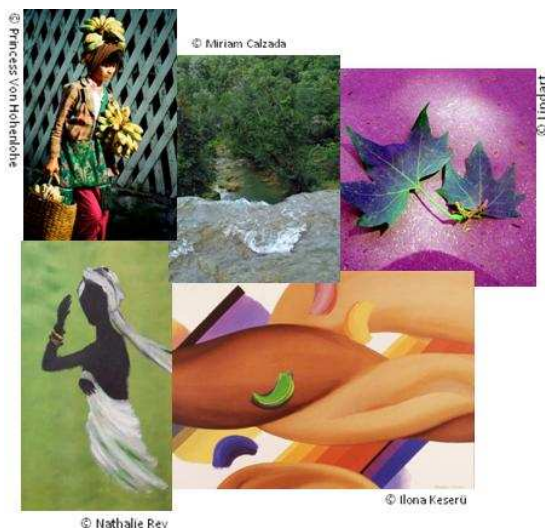
Workshop on "Women in Engineering: Importance and Challenges"

8 March, 9 am-1 pm, Room IX

The debate will illustrate success stories of women engineers from different cultures and try to identify women role-models. The debate will also focus on challenges and difficulties women engineers face throughout their careers and during their voluntary work, and answer the following questions: 1) how do we make engineering look more attractive to young women? 2) how can we increase the number of women in engineering through concrete proposals?

With the participation of 60 women engineers from around the world.

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Global inauguration of IWD exhibitions

8 March, 2 pm, Salle des Pas Perdus

Global inauguration of seven artistic exhibitions by women artists from Algeria (Lindart and Fazia Kerred), Dominican Republic (Miriam Calzada), Germany (HRH Princess Béatrix Von Hohenlohe and Uschi Madeisky), Hungary (Ilona Keserü), Malaysia (Anisa Abdul Rahim), Tchad (Nathalie Rey) and Uruguay (Rita Fischer, Elena Porteiro, Cathy Burghi and Charo Alvarez). This inauguration will be followed by a reception hosted by the Permanent Delegations of the artists in Salle des Pas Perdus

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Launch of the "World Atlas of Gender Equality in Education"

8 March, after the ExB afternoon session, around 6 pm, in front of Room X

The launch will provide the opportunity to present the World Atlas to UNESCO's Member States, and raise key issues around the challenge of measuring progress towards gender equality in education. The Atlas includes 120 maps, charts and tables featuring a wide range of sex-disaggregated indicators produced by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, allowing readers to visualize the educational pathways of girls and boys and track changes in gender disparities over time. The print edition of the Atlas, which will be available in English, French and Spanish, will be accompanied by an online data mapping tool (www.unesco.org/data/atlas-education-gender) that enables users to track trends over time, adapt the maps and export the data. These digital maps will be regularly updated with the latest available data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. With the participation of Mr. Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO and Mr. Hendrik van der Pol, Director, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Montreal, Canada.

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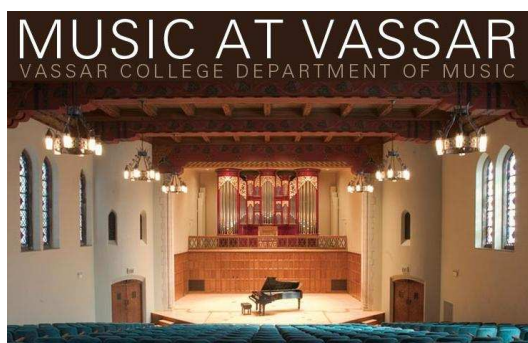
Round Table on "Trafficking of Women"

9 March, 11 am - 1 pm, Room IV

Organized in collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO. This RT will feature: H. E. Ms Martina Nibbeling-Wrießnig, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of Germany to UNESCO, H. E. Ms Eleonora Husseinova, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Azerbaijan to UNESCO, Ms Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and Ms S. Gülser Corat, Director of the Division for Gender Equality, Office of the Director-General, UNESCO.

A 5- minute clip "The Girls from the East » by Mr. Philippe Decourroux will be screened during the Round Table.

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IWD Noon Concert

9 March, 1-1.30 pm, Foyer I

Organized in collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of the United States of America. Concert by three choral groups (Vassar Choir, Vassar Women's Chorus and Vassar Madrigal Singers) from the Vassar College, United States of America. Ambassador Killion will give welcome remarks.

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Round Table on "The Highest Potential of Women"

16 March, 3-5 pm, Room XVI

Organized in collaboration with the Permanent Delegation of Thailand to UNESCO. The RT will introduce the Buddhist nun Mae Chee Sansanee Sthirasuta, Founder and Director of the Sathira-Dhammasathan Center, in Bangkok. The Center is a community place of learning, where women and men learn to break the cycle of violence and discrimination in their communities. Mae Chee Sansanee Sthirasuta is also co-chair of the Global Peace Initiative of Women which is committed to engaging in inter-faith dialogue as a means for creating world peace. The TR will be followed by a cocktail.

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International debate on “Gender and Media: Getting the Balance Right - Gender Sensitive Indicators: Assessing Gender Equality in Media”

23 March, 10 am- 1pm, Room X

The 2012 International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) Thematic Debate “Gender and Media: Getting the Balance Right”, which will address the UNESCO Gender Sensitive Indicators for assessing gender equality in media, will bring together stakeholders and Member States to discuss how to mainstream gender equality in media. UNESCO, in cooperation with the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and other major stakeholders, has developed a set of indicators to assess gender equality and women’s empowerment in media. The IPDC Thematic Debate will therefore facilitate a discussion with Member States to enrich the draft of the UNESCO Gender-Sensitive Indicators for Media and for this initiative to be endorsed by the IPDC Intergovernmental Council.

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E-Forum on Gender Equality in Education

26 March-6 April

The E-Forum will build on the evidence-based policy forum of the International Institute for Educational Planning held in October 2011 as part of the comprehensive follow-up on forum recommendations proposed by participants. The online forum will bring together a number of actors to carry on this knowledge exchange, and discuss how the education system can function pro-actively in the equal interests of girls and boys and women and men on an interactive virtual platform. It will moreover look at evidence, experience, and research from around the world at two different levels. Firstly, at the school and classroom levels through analysis of gender differences in student learning achievement; and secondly to examine how gender equality can be enhanced in relation to educational leadership in planning and management.

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Screening of the film “Pray the Devil Back to Hell”

28 March, Room XI (time to be confirmed)

Screening of the film “Pray the Devil Back to Hell” directed by Ms Abigail Disney. (1:12, in English). The film chronicles the story of Liberian women who came together to end the civil war and bring peace to their shattered country. It features, among others, Ms Leymah Roberta Gbowee, Women's Rights Peace Activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 2011. Screening will be followed by a discussion with the Director.

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