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NEWSLETTER

Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan visits UNESCO on the occasion of the Goodwill Ambassadors Meeting

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan visited UNESCO on 3 April 2007, on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of Goodwill Ambassadors. During her visit, a cooperation agreement was signed between UNESCO and the Jordan River Foundation, which she chairs. "The Night of Jordanian Treasures", a performance of Jordanian dances and music followed the signing in Queen Rania's presence.

The cooperation agreement was signed by Her Excellency Ms Maha Khatib, Director-General of the Jordan River Foundation, and Mr Qian Tang, Deputy Assistant-Director General for Education. The agreement aims

at identifying and establishing joint projects in different areas: child protection, literacy, teacher training, etc. Several Goodwill Ambassadors have already made financial donations for the development of "Safe Schools" projects, an initiative that aims at turning schools into safer environments in education, and which is promoted by the Foundation.

Founded in 1995 by Queen Rania, the Jordan River Foundation is a non-governmental organization working to promote, in partnership with stakeholders, the development of a dynamic Jordanian society by initiating and supporting sustainable social, economic and cultural programmes that



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(1) Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah and Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, surrounded by the Goodwill Ambassadors at UNESCO Headquarters on 3 April 2007

(2) Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan during her speech at UNESCO Headquarters on 3 April 2007

(3) Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah and the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koichiro Matsuura. Front row: Her Excellency Ms Maha Khatib, Director-General of the Jordan River Foundation, and Mr Qian Tang, Deputy Assistant-Director General for Education, during the signing ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and the Jordan River Foundation, on 3 April 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters

(4) Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah and Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, at UNESCO Headquarters on 3 April 2007

(5) The Circassian dance group Al Ahli performs during the show "The Night of Jordanian Treasures", on 3 April 2007



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(6) Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan and Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, surrounded by the Goodwill Ambassadors, during the Annual Meeting of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, 3-4 April 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters. Lower row, from left to right: Lady Owen-Jones, HE Mr Musa Bin Jaafar Bin Hassan, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Sultanate of Oman to UNESCO and President of the 33rd UNESCO General Conference, HRH Princess Firyal of Jordan, HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, HRH Princess Lalla Meryem of Morocco, HE Mrs Vigdis Finnbogadóttir, Mrs Bahia Hariri, Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven, Mrs Marianna Vardinoyannis, Mr Ömer Zülfü Livaneli. Upper row: Mr Marcio Barbosa, UNESCO Deputy Director-General, Mr Patrick Baudry, Mr Ivy Gitlis, Mr Madanjeet Singh, Mrs Kim Phuc Phan Thi, Mr Kitiñ Muñoz, HE Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, Mr Zurab Tsereteli, Mrs Elizabeth Longworth, Director of the Executive Office of the Director-General, and Mrs Basma Irsheid, Chief of Programme of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors

empower communities and individuals based on their needs and priorities.

Mr Matsuura paid special tribute to the Foundation's work in improving the lives of women and children and its commitment to sustainable human development. "I salute here Your Majesty's remarkable work and devotion to the cause of literacy, from which UNESCO will now benefit even further through the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Jordan River Foundation." "It is crucial that we continue to initiate and support important initiatives to promote human development and intercultural dialogue. I hope, in particular, that we can build on the Foundation's excellent work in early childhood care and development", he stated.

After the signing ceremony, the Queen of Jordan met UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassadors for an exchange of experiences.

The show "The Night of Jordanian Treasures", which followed the meeting, was presented in Room I, and included traditional dance and music from Jordan. It was attended by the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, Mrs Takako Matsuura, and many other distinguished guests.

In his welcoming speech, Mr Matsuura praised the Queen of Jordan for her shared commitment to the preservation and pro-

motion of local traditions and cultures. "The latter represent rich resources in terms of creativity, knowledge and economic opportunity (...) They are, above all, testimony to the importance of intercultural dialogue for fostering mutual understanding and peace", he underscored. Mr Matsuura also took the opportunity to congratulate His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan for his unwavering efforts to bring peace to the Middle East.

In her address, Her Majesty Queen Rania thanked all the UNESCO Ambassadors and representatives for their efforts "to build peace in the minds of men and to foster dialogue, mutual respect, and understanding among the peoples of the earth". "We [in Jordan] have carved out a special role as a link between regions and cultures. We know tradition and modernity can both find purchase in our soil, and we are eager to bring the world to Jordan, and bring Jordan to the world", she concluded.

The artists introduced different facets of Jordan's performing arts heritage. Pianist and composer Zade Dirani portrayed various aspects of the communities that comprise the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, playing his own compositions that blend oriental and contemporary western influences. The Performing Arts Centre performed Dabkeh, a community dance to celebrate weddings and other festive occasions. The national music conservatory then presented

the group Mahabeesh, which uses the Mehbash, a tool used to grind coffee, as a percussion instrument. Finally the Circassian dance group Al Ahli demonstrated the virtuosity of its performers in the Qafa, royal dance describing the grace, agility and dignity of the Circassians, and the Islameh, a dance celebrating life and liberty. Famous French journalist Stéphane Bern presented the evening, which was placed under the high patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah.

Following the show, the Director-General and His Excellency Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, hosted a remarkable dinner in honour of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah and the Goodwill Ambassadors, which took place in the presence of numerous personalities, such as Mr François Pinault, leading French businessman, Mr Bernard Lanvin, French fashion designer and their spouses, Mr Fernando Botero, celebrated Columbian artist and his wife, and Ms Carole Bouquet, famous French actress. Chico Bouchikhi, UNESCO Artist for Peace, and his band Chico and the Gypsies accompanied the evening with their cheerful musical performances.

An exhibition (2 to 6 April) in the Espace Monaco (Room I) featured traditional and contemporary handicrafts produced by the Jordan River Foundation, as well as photographs of Jordan.



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Seventh Annual Meeting of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors



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On 3 April 2007, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, the Director-General of UNESCO, opened the 7th Annual Meeting of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors at the Organization's Headquarters. A unique highlight of this year's meeting was the visit of Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan to UNESCO.

UNESCO's important education initiatives, such as new regional programmes for literacy, as well as sustainable development, in particular the Organization's activities in the management of water resources and its efforts in the fight against climate change, were the themes on the agenda.

In his opening address, the Director-General described these two key issues as "two

(1) The UNESCO Director-General, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, surrounded by the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors during the Annual Meeting on 3 April 2007 at the Organization's Headquarters. Front row, from left to right: Mr Marcio Barbosa, UNESCO Deputy Director-General, Mrs Bahia Harii, HRH Princess Fiyal of Jordan, Mr Jean Michel Jarre, HE Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, HE Mr Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan, HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, Mrs Takako Matsuura, Lady Owen-Jones, Mrs Marianna V.

Vardinoyannis and Mr Ömer Zülfü Livaneli. Upper row: Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven, Mrs Basma Irsheid, Chief of Programme of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, Mr Kítin Muñoz, Mrs Kim Phuc Phan Thi, HE Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, Mr Ivry Gitlis, Mr Madanjeet Singh, Mr Patrick Baudry, Mr Zurab Tsereteli and Mrs Elizabeth Longworth, Director of the Executive Office of the Director-General.

(2) HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and HRH Princess Fiyal

(3) Ms Carole Bouquet and Sir Lindsay Owen-Jones, surrounded by members of the group Chico and the Gypsies

(4) HE Mr Valdas Adamkus, HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker and Mrs Marianna V. Vardinoyannis

(5) HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker

(6) Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva and HRH Princess Fiyal

(7) Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven

(8) Mr Madanjeet Singh and Mr Ömer Zülfü Livaneli

(9) Mr Patrick Baudry

(10) HE Mr Valdas Adamkus

(11) Mr Jean Michel Jarre and HRH Princess Fiyal

(12) HE Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir and Mrs Bahia Harii

(13) Mrs Kim Phuc Phan Thi

(14) Mr Kítin Muñoz

(15) HE Mr Miguel Angel Estrella

(16) Lady Christina Owen-Jones

(17) Mr Zurab Tsereteli

(18) HE Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir



of the major challenges of today's world, and also areas where many Goodwill Ambassadors have been deeply engaged... Literacy is vital to individual empowerment, effective social and political participation, poverty reduction and, indeed, sustainable development." The Director-General emphasized how UNESCO, with its interdisciplinary mandate, is in a strong position to respond to these challenges.

Regarding literacy, Mr Matsuura highlighted UNESCO's unique role within the United Nations system for promoting global literacy. "We do this both through our leadership of the UN Literacy Decade (the UNLD), and through UNESCO's own Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE), which targets the 35 countries with the greatest literacy needs." The Director-General also recalled the special role that UNESCO Celebrity Advocates and Goodwill Ambassadors have been playing in this regard. For instance, the first of five regional conferences in support of global literacy that UNESCO will organize over the next two years was hosted last month in Doha, Qatar by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education.

Furthermore, Mr Matsuura expressed his gratitude to Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, who will host the Regional Conference for the European Region in Baku, Azerbaijan, in May 2008.

With regard to sustainable development, particularly in relation to climate change and freshwater issues, the Director-General underscored UNESCO's internationally recognized leadership in the management of oceans and freshwater resources. He praised the valuable contributions made by Goodwill Ambassadors in this field.

The Goodwill Ambassadors then presented their work of the past year and discussed their experiences and the many ways in which they supported the Organization's priorities, such as through fund raising and international galas and concerts, as well as through local projects that, for example, used music to reach out to underprivileged children. The Director-General welcomed the wide spectrum of areas covered by the Goodwill Ambassadors' work, which ranged from HIV and AIDS, literacy and child care to the protection of tangible and intangible cultural heritage and the pro-

motion of intercultural dialogue through art and multilingualism.

The following Goodwill Ambassadors attended the 7th Annual Meeting: HE Mr Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan, Mr Patrick Baudry, HE Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, HE Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, HRH Princess Firyal of Jordan, Mr Ivry Gitlis, Mrs Bahia Hariri, Mr Jean Michel Jarre, Mr Omer Zülfü Livaneli, HRH Princess Lalla Meryem of Morocco, Mr Kitin Muñoz, Mrs Ute-Henriette Ohoven, Lady Owen-Jones, Mrs Kim Phuc Phan Thi, HE Sheikh Ghassan I. Shaker, Mr Madanjeet Singh, Mr Zurab Tsereteli, and Mrs Marianna Vardinoyannis.



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(1) From left to right: Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, His Highness the Emir of Qatar and Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, during the Conference on 12 March 2007 in Doha, Qatar.

(2) Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, during the Conference on 12 March 2007 in Doha, Qatar.

HH Sheikha Mozah hosts Regional Mid-Term Review Meeting on Education for All

What needs to be done to ensure that the countries of the Arab region achieve the six Education for All (EFA) goals by 2015? This was the main question addressed by Arab Ministers of Education at a conference in Doha, Qatar, from 19-21 February 2008.

The meeting was organized by UNESCO and hosted by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, UNESCO's Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education.

The conference assessed progress towards the six EFA goals, set by over 160 governments in 2000, and highlighted the remaining challenges to be faced if these goals are to be met by the target year of 2015. Discussions were based on the findings of the 2008 EFA Global Monitoring Report and the Regional Mid-Term Review on EFA for the Arab States.

The Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, stressed the timeliness of the Doha conference, reminding participants that: "The Arab region has all the necessary potential to achieve the goals set in Dakar. Commitment to achieving these goals is a commitment to face the future through the spread of knowledge, the basis for peaceful and sustainable societies."

Emir and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah. He also attended the second board meeting of the Reach Out to Asia (ROTA) foundation, chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Almayassa Bint Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani.

Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, will host the Regional Conference for the European Region in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 14 to 16 May 2008.

Her Highness Sheikha Mozah hosts Regional Conference on Literacy Challenges in the Arab Region in Doha

From 12 to 14 March 2007, Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education and Chairperson of the Qatar Foundation, and Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, hosted the Regional Conference on Literacy Challenges in the Arab Region in Doha, Qatar. Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of Azerbaijan and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, addressed the opening ceremony, while UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors Her Excellency Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir and Mr Patrick Baudry chaired two of the main panels of the conference.

The conference "Literacy Challenges in the Arab Region - Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches" was the first of a series of six Regional Conferences in Support of Global Literacy that UNESCO will be organizing over the next two years within the framework of the UN Literacy Decade (2003-2012) and UNESCO's Literacy Initiative for Empowerment (LIFE).

The three-day conference, which was held in the presence of His Highness the Emir of Qatar, was attended by over 300 conference participants, including Ministers, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors, representatives of multilateral agencies, international and regional NGOs, universities, foundations and donors, as well as literacy experts and practitioners from across the region.

"The goal of this Conference is not only to give literacy the profile it deserves on the agendas of national governments and international partners. Above all it is to make a real and measurable impact on the life of their people, thus contributing to sustainable human development and poverty reduction", Mr Matsuura stated in his address at the opening ceremony. "Our aim is to build cooperation among stakeholders, and mobilize partners and resources for concrete interventions at the country level."

During his visit to Qatar Mr Matsuura held bilateral meetings with His Highness the

HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco assists in the ceremony of designation of Professor Jean Malaurie as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

(1) From left to right: HE Mrs Joëlle Bourgois, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of France to UNESCO, HSH Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, Professor Jean Malaurie, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, during the designation ceremony on 17 July 2007 at the Organization's Headquarters.



(2) Professor Jean Malaurie, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, during the designation ceremony on 17 July 2007 at the Organization's Headquarters.



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French professor Jean Malaurie was designated a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, in charge of arctic polar issues, by UNESCO's Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, at a ceremony on 17 July 2007 at Organization Headquarters, in the presence of, notably, His Serene Highness Prince Albert II, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, and Her Excellency Mrs Joëlle Bourgois, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of France to UNESCO.

Professor Malaurie, director of the Centre d'Etudes Arctiques (Centre for Arctic Studies) at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Paris and Director Emeritus for research at the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), is a leading ethnohistorian and geomorphologist. His designation as Goodwill Ambassador recognizes his "personal commitment to promoting environmental issues and to safeguarding the culture and knowledge of the peoples of the Great North".

Born in 1922 in Mainz (Germany) and the first European to reach the Geomagnetic North Pole in May 1951, Professor Malaurie has led more than 30 scientific expeditions that have taken him throughout the Great North from Greenland to Siberia. The author of numerous books, including "The Last Kings of Thule", translated in 23 languages, and "Call of the North",

he founded the Terre Humaine publishing house to make ethnology accessible to a wider public.

As a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, in charge of arctic polar issues, Professor Malaurie will bring moral, scientific and intellectual support to UNESCO programmes focused on climatic changes.

UNESCO's Director-General expressed his pleasure at being able to count, from now on, among the personalities who decided to use their fame to serve the ideals of UNESCO, "one of the most eminent French scientists, a geomorphologist, ethnologist, writer and, above all, a man out of the common".

After having paid tribute to "the researcher who wanted above all to understand", to "the unweary spokesman of the Inuits" who never stopped "to travel around the world to defend the peoples of the Great North, their cultures, languages and knowledge", to the "exceptional teacher who delighted generations of students all over the world for many years", Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura welcomed the important contribution that Professor Malaurie will bring to UNESCO's programmes: "First, by bringing to the people's mind how much indigenous peoples, and in particular Inuits and other arctic peoples, can help understand evolution and envi-

ronmental processes through their relation to climate change and its circumpolar impact. To this end, you will give your support to our programme of Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS), focused on environmental knowledge of indigenous peoples and environmental changes", declared the Director General. "Second", he added, "I have no doubt that you will give all your support to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, ratified by 78 States, which is an important tool for the future of the cultures of minorities and indigenous peoples. Likewise, you will bring an essential contribution to our policy for the preservation of languages, a key element of the ethno-cultural identity of peoples and individuals, and essential to the protection of cultural and linguistic diversity."

Professor Jean Malaurie announced his determination to raise politicians' awareness of the great dangers threatening the Arctic, its population and ecosystems, which are caused by climate change and the melting of the ice. He expressed his wish that a consultation process similar to the one that led to the signature of the Antarctic treaty, would be started immediately in order to reach an agreement about the protection of the polar arctic circle. In this regard, he saluted the personal commitment by Prince Albert II

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of Monaco and his political will “in this undertaking that concerns not only the people of the Great North but also their immediate neighbors, and beyond that, whole human kind”. Professor Malaurie ended his acceptance speech by saying: “Mr Director-General, I wish to express before you and this brilliant assembly, whom I salute, my great, my immense

respect for UNESCO, high place of free thinking and integrated research, cross-road for conciliation in a spirit of justice and peace”.

After having expressed France’s great satisfaction at seeing one of her most eminent scientists designated, Her Excellency Mrs Joëlle Bourgois, Ambassador, Permanent

Delegate of France to UNESCO, hosted a reception for the numerous personalities, among whom was a delegation of Arctic inhabitants who specially came to UNESCO for this occasion.

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(1) From left to right: Ms Jane Halton, President of the 60th World Health Assembly, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General, on 17 May 2007 in Geneva, Switzerland.

(2) UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva receives the Golden Heart Prize on 27 May 2007 in Moscow, Russia.

In recognition of her diverse charity activities, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, First Lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Oral and Musical Traditions, received two important prizes in May 2007.

On 17 May 2007, Mrs Aliyeva visited the World Health Organization Headquarters in Geneva and met with its Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan. As the President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Mrs Aliyeva has been working hard in Azerbaijan to promote the health status of children, mothers and families. Under her patronage, several country-wide projects in the fields of public health have been successfully implemented in her country.

WHO and the jury of the Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation decided to award the 2007

Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize to Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, honoring her outstanding services in the field of public healthcare.

“During the last two years, dozens of new clinics and diagnostics centers have been constructed in our country. Hospitals are equipped with the most modern equipment. Our goal is to build in our country the healthcare system which will meet the highest world standards”, said Mrs Aliyeva in her address to the Sixtieth World Health Assembly participants.

Ten days later, on 27 May 2007, Mrs Aliyeva was awarded the Golden Heart International Prize in Moscow for her wide-scale charity activities. The fourth awards ceremony for this prize was organized in the Moscow Musical Theatre named after Stanislavski and Nemirovich - Danchenko

with the support of the Russian Government, the Council of Federation, the Government of Moscow and the Russian Commission for UNESCO and UNICEF issues. The award was presented by the Italian actress Mrs Sophia Loren, Mr Sergey Mironov, Chairman of the Council of Federation of the Russian Federation and Mr Igor Ivanov, Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation.

Expressing her sincere thanks to all organizers and participants of the awards ceremony, Mrs Aliyeva said: “The Golden Heart unites various peoples from different countries, persons of various professions and backgrounds around the universal and eternal idea – the idea of doing good deeds...”

Mehriban Aliyeva receives the Ihsan Dogramaci Family Health Foundation Prize and the Golden Heart International Prize

Mehriban Aliyeva and HH Sheikha Mozah preside over a High Level Conference in the framework of Youth for the Alliance of Civilizations

Her Highness Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser Al-Missned, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, and Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Oral and Musical Traditions, participated in and presided over a high-level conference in the framework of Youth for the Alliance of Civilizations, hosted by Mrs Aliyeva in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 28 October to 2 November 2007.

On this occasion, Mrs Aliyeva gave a speech in front of many youth organizations and high-ranking officials. She said: "This forum is a unique opportunity for young leaders to discuss many topical problems with experts, scientists, politicians. I hope this experience will help them not only discuss but also to draw up the road-map of actions, because our goal is to create action-oriented movement. I believe that the combination of youth and experience will enable us to achieve great results. The ideas that are generated by this debate will be reflected in the Baku Intergenerational Declaration".

In her speech, Her Highness Sheikha Mozah explained: "One of the most important aspects of openness and dialogue is self respect and self trust. When we seek knowledge, we should do so without having an expectation of what we will find. We should develop our positions only after we have had a chance to listen, always being aware that those who differ from us may be right."

From left to right: HE Mr Abdulaziz Othman Al-Twajri, Director-General of ISESCO, Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Mr Elshad Iskandarov, Secretary-General of ICYF-DC, HH Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, and HE Mr Jorge Sampaio, High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, on 1 November 2007 in Baku, Azerbaijan.



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Vigdís Finnbogadóttir and Wole Soyinka participate in the Experts' Meeting on Cultural Diversity and Education in Barcelona

UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors HE Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir and Mr Wole Soyinka participated in the International meeting of experts on "Cultural Diversity and Education", held from 14 to 16 January 2008 in Barcelona, Spain. The event was organized by UNESCO, in particular the UNESCO Chair in Languages and Education, the Institute of Catalan Studies, Barcelona, and the UNESCO Centre of Catalunya.

The meeting dealt with the goal of promoting quality education and discussed, for example, how learning content that better accounts for the challenges posed by cultural diversity can be developed, enabling schools to fully assume their role as a centre of cultural teaching. The integration of the perceptions and expressions of cultural diversity into both formal and informal

educational systems can be used as a means of responding to the new challenges posed in, and by, our increasingly plural societies.

Mr Soyinka shared his insights in a Round Table on the theme: "Education for diversity: Raising awareness of the benefits of a cultural-diversity approach". HE Mrs Vigdís Finnbogadóttir contributed with her profound knowledge of languages and linguistics to the Round Table "Multilingual contexts: a challenge for educational systems". In her speech she said: "Languages are the most valuable keys to understanding the diversity of the world, the diversity of the cultures of the different areas of our planet. We all know that culture and language go hand-in-hand. Different cultures are based on different languages, and different languages reflect different cultures. We

also all agree that every nation should treasure its language, just as it should treasure its natural surroundings, its heritage, and its means of sustenance. Each language is not just a uniquely expressive combination of speech and structure, it is the voice of a nation's thoughts, the vehicle of its history, and the archive of its learning and experience. For the individual language is even more important than for nations: not only does it give us access to the world and to other human beings, but also to ourselves."



Claudia Cardinale and Professor Jean Malaurie honour inauguration of the General Conference's Planet Earth exhibition

From right to left: HM Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, HE Mr Zhang Xinsheng, Vice Minister of Education of the People's Republic of China, President of the China Scholarship Council and then Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Mrs Claudia Cardinale, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and HE Mr George N. Anastassopoulos, President of the 34th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Permanent Delegate of Greece to UNESCO, during the inauguration of the exhibition, on 16 October 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters

On 16 October 2007, the UNESCO Director-General, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, inaugurated the exhibition entitled "Planet Earth: from Space to Place" in the presence of HM Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden, and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors Mrs Claudia Cardinale, the Italian actress, and Professor Jean Malaurie, the French ethnologist and historian.

Films, photographs, emblematic objects and distinctive plants from different regions testifying to the Planet's diversity were displayed at UNESCO Headquarters from 16 October to 3 November 2007, throughout the General Conference. The exhibition came ahead of the International Year of Planet Earth and highlighted UNESCO's activities in connection with sustainable development and climate change. It showed how the natural, social and human sciences, culture, education, communication

and information work together towards a common goal. It was structured around five themes: the Earth System, the Dynamic Earth, the Diverse Earth, the Changing Earth and Sustaining the Earth.

Scheduled side events included a conference with Professor Jean Malaurie, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Arctic Polar issues, on the effects of climate change on indigenous peoples and a presentation of the French concept of 'terroir' as a model for sustainable development. Other events included a film on the role of remote sensing in monitoring changes of World Heritage properties and a presentation by Brazilian photographer Sebastiao Salgado of GENESIS, a UNESCO-backed educational project to raise awareness among children of our magnificent planet.

The Director-General, HH Sheikha Mozah and Wole Soyinka attend the first Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations in Madrid



Mr Wole Soyinka, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador

Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al-Missned, UNESCO Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, and Mr Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, participated along with UNESCO Director-

General, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, in the first Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, which was held on 15 and 16 January 2008 in Madrid, Spain.

The Forum brought together political leaders, representatives of international and regional organizations, donors, civil society groups and foundations to examine ways of promoting mutual understanding in the face of growing polarization between nations and cultures. Some 400 people took part in the event.

Furthermore, the UNESCO Director-General signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations' High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, HE Mr Jorge Sampaio. Its purpose is to determine concrete areas of action to promote dialogue between cultures and civilizations, mutual understanding, tolerance, respect, and peaceful coexistence.

The Alliance of Civilizations (AoC) aims at improving understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions and, in the process, at helping to counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism. It was established in 2005, at the initiative of the Governments of Spain and Turkey, under the auspices of the United Nations. In April 2007, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal, as High Representative for the Alliance. The AoC is supported by a Group of Friends – a community of over 75 countries and international organizations and bodies.



The China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe designated UNESCO Artist for Peace

The UNESCO Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, surrounded by the members of the China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe, during the designation ceremony on 31 July 2007 in Beijing, China

The China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe received the title of UNESCO Artist for Peace from Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura during a ceremony that took place on 31 July 2007 in Beijing, China. The designation as UNESCO Artist for Peace came in recognition of their commitment to overcoming disability through music and the performing arts.

In presenting the diploma to the lead dancer, Ms Tai Lihua, the Director-General paid tribute to the Troupe's international achievements saying it had "become a symbol of the hopes and dreams of disabled people world wide". He noted that the Troupe would provide particular support to UNESCO's activities in the field of Inclusion and Quality Learning Enhancement, helping to raise awareness of the obstacles faced by disabled persons in the area of education and to promote effective policies to deal with them. "We cannot achieve the Education for All Goals or the MDGs without taking into account the special needs of the estimated 650 million persons – 10% of the world's population – with disabilities", he stated.

Founded in 1987, the Chinese troupe is composed of performers with sight, hearing, mental and motor disabilities or speech impairments. The troupe has toured all over China and in about 40 countries on all five continents.

On 7 and 8 June 2007 the China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe performed their music and dance show "My Dream" at UNESCO Headquarters. The performance was supported by UNESCO and APAJH (L'association pour adultes et jeunes handicapés). "My Dream" is unique and dazzling both visually and musically. The story unfolds through a character who has several bodies. A hearing impaired dancer moves to the rhythm of the music. A young paraplegic man delivers a song accompanied by choreographed gestures. The hearing impaired and mute performers show off their mimicry, while those who are visually impaired speak their words for them.

In 2004, the China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe participated in the closing ceremonies of the Paralympic Games

in Athens, and is currently preparing for the opening of the Olympic Games in Beijing in 2008. The troupe has also been appointed "Ambassador for persons with disabilities" by the World Assembly of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI).

The troupe also performed during the Regional Workshop on Inclusive Education, which was organized by UNESCO in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 16 to 18 January 2008. The show was attended by His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, together with other honorary guest from the Cambodian government, diplomats, NGOs and children and youth with disabilities.

In their capacity as UNESCO Artist for Peace the China Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe will give their support to UNESCO's activities in the field of inclusion and quality learning enhancement and in the promotion of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

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Virgilijus Alekna designated as UNESCO Champion for Sport

From left to right: Mr Eimantas Skrabulis, President of the Lithuanian Federation of Athletics, Mr Valdemaras Sarapinas, Chancellor of the Government of Lithuania, Mr Virgilijus Alekna, UNESCO Champion for Sport, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, UNESCO Director-General, Mrs Ina Marčiulionytė, Permanent Delegate of Lithuania to UNESCO, and Mr Algirdas Raslanas, Director-General of the Department of Physical Education and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, during the designation ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters.

The Lithuanian discus thrower, Mr Virgilijus Alekna, was designated UNESCO Champion for Sport by Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, the Organization's Director-General, at a ceremony on 23 November 2007 which took place at UNESCO Headquarters.

Mr Valdemaras Sarapinas, Chancellor of the Government of Lithuania, Mr Algirdas Raslanas, Director-General of the Department of Physical Education and Sports under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, and Mrs Ina Marčiulionytė, Permanent Delegate of Lithuania to UNESCO, were also present at the designation ceremony.

The title was given in recognition of the Lithuanian athlete's contribution to promoting sports in schools and to his commitment to UNESCO's ideals.

Virgilijus Alekna holds the second all-time world record in discus throwing. Twice an Olympic champion (2000 and 2004), twice world champion (2003 and 2005) and European champion (2006) in his discipline, he was elected best overall athlete for 2005 with 19 victories in 20 competi-

tions by the European Athletic Association (EAA). In addition to his sports career, Mr Alekna has undertaken numerous humanitarian activities over the years through the Virgilijus Alekna Club, which aims to foster and improve education in the field of sport and professional training. He has also been involved in the education of young athletes in the framework of the Lithuanian Olympic Education Programme.

The Director-General paid tribute to these initiatives in his address at the designation ceremony. As he conferred the title, he stated: "Mr Alekna, your endeavours prove that you are a true supporter of UNESCO's aims and ideals. I am sure that in your capacity as UNESCO Champion for Sport you will continue to be a model for the younger generations and promote our shared values and ideals." Moreover, the Director-General noted that "physical education and sport is an essential component of quality education since it contributes to both the mental and physical development of children. Sport also teaches youth the concepts of fair-play and moral equity."

In his acceptance speech Mr Alekna said: "In designating me UNESCO Champion for Sport, the Organization gives me an opportunity to address a world-wide audience and to increase the awareness of society, education policy-makers and educational institutions of the importance of physical education and sport. It enables me to contribute to our main goal - that physical education and sport are used to form a positive value system in children and youth. I will do my best to be worthy of this honourable title."

As UNESCO Champion for Sport, Mr Alekna will be involved in the Organization's activities aimed at encouraging the inclusion of sports in the education system, and advocating the importance of physical education and its ethical and social values. More specifically, Mr Alekna will collaborate with the Organization to raise awareness on the importance of physical education as a compulsory subject in school curricula and in achieving quality education, which is in line with the recommendations of the 34th session of the General Conference.

Jean Michel Jarre spreads UNESCO's message on climate change

During his December 2007 concerts for the 30th anniversary of his best-selling album *Oxygène*, Jean Michel Jarre, celebrated French musician and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, addressed the public and talked about his role as one of the Organization's Goodwill Ambassadors. He especially urged everyone to be active in the fight against climate change and informed about UNESCO's message and important activities in this domain.



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Justine Henin joins future tennis champions to defend sporting values

For the fifth consecutive year, UNESCO participated in the 'Paris Stade Français Youth Tennis Open – BNP Paribas Cup', an international tournament organized over the past 18 years by the Stade Français tennis club. The 2007 competition was held from 9-15 July with the participation of young tennis-players aged 13 to 14 years from more than 60 countries.

On this occasion, visitors to the village and the young athletes were offered a series of educational workshops and games on a variety of topics related to UNESCO's areas of expertise. During the opening of the village (9 July, 1 pm), Justine Henin, UNESCO Champion for Sport, spoke to the young people about doping in sport and sporting ethics.



Justine Henin, UNESCO Champion for Sport, talking to children in the UNESCO village



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The workshops on the programme included, "sport and education", which explored the values central to sport; "Champions in the Head", an interactive workshop which gave concrete reference points to young athletes, their parents and trainers to teach them how to manage pressure, as well as "education for sustainable development", which aimed at raising the awareness of young people on the importance of sustainable development, including its links with consumption.

The UNESCO Village occupied until 15 July a central place of more than 500 square meters at the tournament, offering a range of activities devoted to the development of values in sport, such as team spirit, integrity and mutual respect.

For UNESCO, this effort to sensitize young athletes to sporting values – fair play, honesty, dignity, respect and team spirit – is essential in the fight against doping. A workshop on prohibited substances and methods, as well as doping control procedures, was also offered to parents and coaches.

The week-long activities included a cultural evening at UNESCO Headquarters on 12 July. The young athletes were invited to present their countries and their cultures in the form of songs, dances and other artistic demonstrations.

Inauguration of exhibition of works of Zurab Tsereteli at UNESCO Headquarters in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the Russian Academy of Arts



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From left to right: UNESCO Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Mr Zurab Tsereteli, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and Mr Alexandre Alexeevitch Avdeev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to France, during the ceremony on 9 May 2007 at the Organization's Headquarters

On 9 May 2007, the Director-General, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, opened an exhibition of the works of Zurab Tsereteli, President of the Russian Academy of Arts and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, at the Organization's Headquarters. The inauguration ceremony took place in the presence of His Excellency Mr Alexandre Alexeevitch Avdeev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to France, His Excellency Mr Vladimir Kalamonov, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Russian Federation to UNESCO, and Mr Zurab Tsereteli.

On this occasion, Zurab Tsereteli was awarded the UNESCO Picasso Gold Medal by the Director-General, who stated that in the year of the 250th Anniversary of the foundation of the Russian Academy of Arts, this would be a fitting manner to pay tribute to the venerable and outstanding

institution as well as to the remarkable personal contribution of Zurab Tsereteli in developing the Russian Academy of Arts as one of the most prestigious institutions devoted to art education, to the promotion of cultural dialogue at the international level, as well as to the exchange of ideas between artists of all European nations.

The UNESCO Picasso Gold Medal was created in 1981 in honor of the great master and designed by another celebrated Spanish artist, Joan Miró.

The exhibition at UNESCO Headquarters (9-16 May) was dedicated to the 250th anniversary of the Russian Academy of Arts. The artist's sculptures, paintings, works in the unique serigraphy technique and colourful enamels were be on display. During the exhibition Zurab Tsereteli gave classes for French and Russian children.

Contributions in 2007 to UNESCO projects by **AGFUND**, presided by **HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz**, UNESCO Special Envoy for Water



HRH Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud and
Mr Koichiro Matsuura at UNESCO Headquarters

In 2007, the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND) donated US\$ 125,000 for the co-financing of the UNESCO project entitled "Training of Teachers and Enhancing Educational Opportunities of Learners with Special Needs in Eritrea".

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, its President and UNESCO Special Envoy for Water. Since the creation of AGFUND, UNESCO has been one of its main partners and UNESCO projects have been a major beneficiary of AGFUND's funding activities. AGFUND supports sustainable human development programmes targeting the poorest groups in developing countries, in cooperation with UNESCO and other organizations and institutions active in this field.

To date, AGFUND's financial support has enabled UNESCO to plan and implement 73 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 contributions, to a total amount of more than US\$ 25 million.

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Lady Cristina Owen-Jones, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Mrs Marisa Bruni Tedeschi, President of the Virginio Bruni Tedeschi Foundation, Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and Mrs Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, First Lady of France, singer and songwriter, during the ceremony on 5 December 2007 at UNESCO Headquarters

In her capacity as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS Prevention Education, Lady Christina Owen-Jones helped UNESCO establishing an agreement on preventive education on HIV/AIDS with the Virginio Bruni Tedeschi Foundation.

The partnership agreement, pledging US\$ 1.7 million to fund an HIV/AIDS prevention education project in several countries in southern Africa, was signed on 5 December 2007 by UNESCO and the Virginio Bruni Tedeschi Foundation.

The signing ceremony, held at UNESCO in Paris, was attended by Mr Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO; Mrs Marisa Bruni Tedeschi, head of the Virginio Bruni Tedeschi Foundation, Mrs Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, First Lady of France, singer and songwriter, Lady Cristina Owen-Jones, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and Ms Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, actress and film director.

The foundation's financial contribution will fund a project to reinforce HIV/AIDS prevention education in Angola, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland for two years. In each country, some 100,000 pupils will benefit from programmes and educational materials to raise their awareness of HIV/AIDS. They will also take part in activities designed to inform them about the disease and to reduce stigmatization of HIV-positive people. Up to 100 schools and

Lady Owen Jones supports the establishment of an agreement between UNESCO and the Virginio Bruni Tedeschi Foundation on HIV/AIDS preventive education

a thousand teachers will be involved in each of the target countries.

With rates of infection as high as 30% among adults, countries in southern Africa are among those most affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Studies have shown that the mere fact of attending school provides protection against the disease. Yet there is often a lack of classes focusing on HIV/AIDS for children in school. A study carried out in Tanzania from 1998 to 2002 by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) indicates, however, that children who have received preventive education are more likely to use protection and to postpone sexual activity until they are older.

As the United Nations agency specialized in education, UNESCO is the lead organization for EDUCAIDS, an initiative by UNAIDS, implemented in a number of countries to promote HIV/AIDS education. Its strategy is based on the principle of universal access to prevention programmes, treatment, care and support. The Organization assists governments in improving their educational systems to ensure quality education concerning HIV/AIDS and in providing assistance to communities most exposed to the epidemic.

The foundation was created on 12 February 2007 in Turin (Italy) to honour the memory of Virginio Bruni Tedeschi.

Jean Malaurie participates in a Panel on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples

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On 17 October 2007, Professor Jean Malaurie, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Arctic polar issues, participated in the International Panel “Climate Change & Indigenous Peoples: impacts and responses” at UNESCO Headquarters, which was organized in the framework of the General Conference Exhibition on Planet Earth (see article page 10).

The looming challenge of climate change was discussed by indigenous experts from each of three vulnerable environments: the Arctic, small islands and high altitudes. The speakers discussed how climate change is affecting their communities and ways of life, as well as the manner in which indigenous people are managing, responding to and negotiating these changes.

The session, organized by the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) programme in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and with support from the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, highlighted how indigenous knowledge and observations may contribute to understanding, monitoring and adapting to climate change.

In addition to Prof Malaurie, the panel, which was chaired by Mr Patricio Bernal, interim Chair of the UNESCO Task Force on Global Climate Change, Assistant Director-General and Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, featured Ms Otilia Lux de Coti (Maya, Guatemala), Executive Board Member of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Ms Violet Ford (Inuit, Canada), Vice-President, International Affairs, Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Baron D. Waqa (Micronesian, Nauru), Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Mr Johnson Hugo Cerda Shiguango (Quichua, Ecuador), indigenous leader from the Ecuadorian Amazon, and Mr David Walden, Secretary-General, Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

Furthermore, on the occasion of the World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (27 October), as part of the Treasures of the UNESCO film archives Festival, the French Institut national de l’audiovisuel (INA), the French National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Public Information Bureau presented the film by Jean Malaurie *The saga of the Inuits: a legendary people*.

Vyacheslav Fetisov, Vladimir Spivakov, and the China Disabled People’s Performing Art Troupe contribute to the Stand Up, Speak Out Against Poverty Campaign

UNESCO Champion for Sport Mr Vyacheslav Fetisov, and UNESCO Artists for Peace Mr Vladimir Spivakov and the China Disabled People’s Performing Art Troupe, contributed to the United Nations “Stand Up, Speak Out Against Poverty” campaign.

The UNESCO celebrity advocates recorded audio messages in their native languages, which were broadcast on UN Radio for several days on the occasion of

the World Poverty Day (17 October 2007). The radio announcement encouraged people to participate in the campaign.



The “Stand Up, Speak Out” campaign, which pushes for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, is supported by millions of volunteers around the globe every year, who also mark their support by physically standing up and listening to a pledge spoken by a moderator.

Pierre Bergé donates to the Man and the Biosphere film project

Mr Pierre Bergé, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, made a donation for a film project on UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere reserves.

The documentary will show how UNESCO's Man and the biosphere reserves serve as 'learning' and 'laboratory' sites for sustainable development. It will look at how climate changes affect these environments, their ecosystems and communities, and how research being conducted in UNESCO-designated biosphere reserves, part of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme, is helping us to understand and adapt to these changes.

The film will be produced for the successful BBC World 'Earth Report' series together with the non-profit TV producer Television Trust for the Environment (TVE). Broadcast globally since

1996, the BBC's Earth Report programme reaches 150 million homes in more than 140 countries and territories. The broadcasts are supplemented by non-broadcast distribution in Africa, Asia and Latin America - to schools, colleges, universities and other education organisations, NGOs, CSOs and other 'multiplier' organisations.

Over the last 30 years, UNESCO has developed a World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which advocates a holistic, rational approach to managing the Earth's resources and at the same time integrating societies and their economic needs. These biosphere reserves - presently 507 in 102 countries - provide enlightening case studies and thus serve as 'learning sites' for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and 'living laboratories' for researching and testing out new ideas on how to manage the environment in a holistic and integrated way.

Homage to UNESCO Artist for Peace Andy Palacio

Andy Palacio, the Belizean musician, singer and UNESCO Artist for Peace, died on 19 January 2008 in Belize City at the age of 47.

Andy Palacio was designated UNESCO Artist for Peace by the Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, in September 2007. Born in 1960 in the coastal village of Barranco, in Belize, Andy Palacio started to gain popularity in Belize and abroad in the late 1980s. He became his country's most popular musician and was one of the most prominent defenders of the regional Garifuna culture and traditions.

With his band "The Garifuna Collective", Andy Palacio has created a unique musical style known as Punta rock, an upbeat, popular dance form based on Garifuna rhythms. Palacio also sung in the Garifuna language, which blends many linguistic influences and which UNESCO declared in 2001 a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Mr Palacio lent his experience and renown to UNESCO's efforts to promote the importance of safeguarding oral and intangible heritage in the Caribbean. He was also Cultural Ambassador for his country and held the position of Deputy Administrator of the National Institute of Culture and History.

In the next edition...

- ▶ Designation of Mrs Maria de Medeiros as UNESCO Artist for Peace
- ▶ Designation of Mr Jordi Savall and Mrs Montserrat Figueras as UNESCO Artists for Peace
- ▶ Designation of Mrs Franghiz Ali-Zadeh as UNESCO Artist for Peace
- ▶ UNESCO Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy hosted by Mrs Mehriban Aliyeva in Baku, Azerbaijan

The Newsletter of the Programme of UNESCO Celebrity Advocates

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