

SHSviews¹⁹

January – March 2008

UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector magazine

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Every new year is an opportunity to wish each other all the best for the coming days and months. This is not just a tradition one should respect. This ritual is a real pleasure: the promise we all make to build a better life both individually and collectively.

In these first days of 2008 – the UN International Year of Planet Earth – I wish all Earth people the brightest of futures, although I am well aware of all we need to do to make it possible.

This first issue of 2008 is an opportunity to remind everyone how urgent it is to increase awareness of our eco-system's fragility and of our responsibility as human beings to protect our environment and what we most value: life.

From North to South, climate change is under way all over the planet. It is pointless to deny it. If we do not act as soon as possible, the short and long-term consequences will be devastating for the most vulnerable. In some places, climate change has already seriously affected the means of subsistence of the poorest people. This fact concerns everyone.

As the year changes, we thus also need to change behaviour and maybe even to enter a whole new era. Some of us hoped to remain carefree, but that time is over. It is clear that the application of scientific and technical progress is not always for the better. And even when the results are positive, the benefits are far from being shared by all.

For UNESCO, which is starting a new cycle in 2008 after the adoption in October of its strategy for the next 6 years, synergy must be created between the activities in the natural sciences and in the social and human sciences.

As the Organization's Director-General explains in this issue, 'development fuelled by scientific progress cannot be sustainable without ethical and human dimensions'.

Putting science to work in the struggle against poverty and ensuring that science resolutely serves peace: this will be our main goal.

This means we need to go beyond our own boundaries and accept continuous development, just as this magazine has been trying for the past few months to give a better account of the activities implemented by the Social and Human Sciences Sector on issues of crucial significance for its principal agents and partners.

Thus, while the structure of the magazine has not been totally revamped, changes have been made: a new Reader's Forum has been created while some other sections have new names to reflect more clearly our main lines of action (Promoting principles, practices and ethical norms / Directing research for action in the service of populations / Contributing to the dialogue of civilizations and cultures).

This is the beginning of a new cycle but also the occasion to launch a series of dossiers exploring the place occupied by the social and human sciences within National Commissions for UNESCO. The first dossier deals with one of the oldest: the Philippine National Commission, which can offer an exemplary experience in this respect.

The main idea and key resolution of *SHS Views* for this New Year is neither to claim to be a model nor to preach: simply to share. ¶

'Putting science to work in the struggle against poverty and ensuring that science resolutely serves peace: this will be our main goal.'



Pierre Sané
Assistant Director-General
for Social and Human
Sciences

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SHS Views is the new name of the *SHS Newsletter*. This quarterly magazine provides information on the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the field of social and human sciences. It is available in French and Russian in electronic form (www.unesco.org/shs). Articles may be reproduced providing the credit line reads 'Reprinted from *SHS Views*', along with the date and number of the issue and, when appropriate, the name of the author of the article. © UNESCO, 2008. ISSN 1819-9712.

Director of publication: Pierre Sané. **Editor:** Cathy Bruno-Capvert. **Editorial Board:** Mimouna Abderrahmane, Yu Abiko, Khaled Abu-Hijleh, Élise Auvachez, Caroline Bacquet, Kristina Balalovska, Coraline Bardinat, Diana Body-Lawson, John Crowley, Irakli Khodeli, Jun Morohashi, Antoine Pécoud, Vieux Savané, Mebrak Tareke, Petra Van Vucht Tijssen.

Design and layout: Atelier Takavoir + Anne Drezner. **Illustration:** Popay. **Printing:** OTT imprimeurs, 2008.

2008 – YEAR OF PLANET EARTH

Mobilizing societies to adapt to climate change

The UNESCO strategy to address the challenges of climate change, presented at the end of 2007, is designed to help Member States to adapt to change by developing scientific knowledge as well as making technical and political choices informed by ethical values.

‘Adaptation to climate change is not a technical challenge but one that involves society in its broadest sense.’

Making this point to the UNESCO Executive Board, during the thematic debate it devoted to climate change last October, Professor Rajendra Pachauri emphasized a key implication of the work of the International Panel on Climate Change, which he chairs. In view of the scale of the climate changes that are very likely to occur over the medium term, the issue is no longer just to predict or to prevent, but to adapt.

The social and human sciences have a key role to play in the objective of adaptation, which has been given major significance within UNESCO’s strategy to respond to the challenges of climate change.

On the basis of the work published by the IPCC in 2007, sea levels may be expected to rise by between 20 and 60 cm by the end of the 21st century and the average surface temperature of the planet to increase by 1.8 to 4° C. The consequences will depend on planning choices dictated by the financial capacity of each society as well as by its political capacity to integrate risk into public debate and collective decision-making. There are certainly responses, but the most obvious – raising dykes for instance – may not be the most effective.

‘Every society for itself’

Planning choices are not just technical and political but also ethical. There may still be many gaps in detailed modelling of the effects of climate change in the various regions and countries, but one thing is certain: impacts will not be evenly distributed. Some societies and some ecosystems are more vulnerable than others. In the face of climate change, an ‘every society for itself’ approach will aggravate inequalities.

Who should shoulder which burdens, with respect to the common but differentiated responsibilities taken on by the signatories of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, adopted in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992?

This ethical question was at the heart of the dialogue organized

‘Today we know that while economic development is a priority, it must be done in ways that do not overly stress our globe’s resources.’

Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO
10 November 2007, World Science Day for Peace and Development.



Royal penguin in Crozet, a southern territory from which France explores climate evolution

by UNESCO in Bali (Indonesia), on 14 December 2007, in the context of the FCCC Conference of Parties. Speakers were invited to reflect on ‘Articulating science and education to face the challenge of global climate change’. Patricio Bernal, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, Johan

Hattingh, Professor at the University of Stellenbosch (South Africa) and a member of the Bureau of COMEST, and Timmons Roberts of William and Mary College (United States of America), all emphasized that change is a matter of values that the social and human sciences must account for.

Alongside the ethical dimension, which should guide all adaptative choices, the UNESCO strategy also highlights the development of the scientific knowledge base – with respect particularly to ocean

dynamics and to the relations between climate change and biodiversity – and mitigation through action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, which calls for a major educational effort in the context of the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014). ¶

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ETHICS

Water management worries experts

An international symposium was organized in November 2007 in Beijing bringing together government officials, experts and students worried about the water shortage that China is experiencing, while a month earlier, experts issued a general alert on water resource management in urban areas.

As water shortage is becoming an increasingly significant issue in most areas of China, and in particular in the drier western provinces, the UNESCO Office in Beijing organized an international Symposium on the Ethics of Water Resource Management, the closing event of a two-year intensive research programme.

Important research was carried out, within the framework of UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences programme, on this specific area to foster a better understanding of the phenomenon and to assist policy-makers in taking appropriate measures to face this crisis.

Accordingly, two partnerships were established. In 2006, a first project was launched at the Gansu pilot site with the support of the Earth Sciences and Environmental

Science Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Subsequently, in 2007, a multidisciplinary research team made up of hydrologists and philosophers examined the ethical environmental issues in current water management practices in Yulin in partnership with the Centre for Water Research of Beijing University.

Encourage equitable practice in water resource management

Thus, the international symposium organized last November in Beijing to discuss the conclusions and insights of both the above-mentioned projects as well as to explore new ways to encourage more equitable and ethical practice in water resource management within the social and economic context of the country, whose key crop is rice.

Among the 80 participants, many Chinese and international academics, government officials, experts in the ethics of science and students from Beijing University stressed the importance of this issue in China and the difficulties encountered in effectively addressing the challenges caused by water shortage.

This phenomenon is not a unique feature of this country alone. A month earlier, participants in an international symposium organized at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris within the framework of the UNESCO's Natural Sciences programme underlined that water resource management issues are the concern of every urban area. According to participants there is an urgent need to bring management issues into focus and to undertake a common effort that would combine scientific, social and institutional approaches. ¶

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For more information on the Paris symposium:
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UNESCO's six science programmes combine their action

The chairpersons of the six scientific programmes of UNESCO (IOC, IBSP, IGCP, IHP, MAB and MOST) adopted a joint declaration during a meeting held in Paris on 22 and 23 October 2007. In this document, addressed to the Director-General and the Member States of the Organization, they consider world climate change as 'an issue of major concern for every intergovernmental and international programme'.

The joint declaration deems it necessary to consider while planning for future action the significant achievements already accomplished through these programmes, in improving scientific research, in building links between science and public policy, in building national capacities, and in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In the declaration, the scientific programmes made a commitment to strengthen efforts to respond to the needs of Africa and to effectively participate in such initiatives as UN-Oceans, UN-Water and UN-Energy. ¶

For more information:
www.unesdoc.unesco.org



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TOOLS



The UNESCO Office in Moscow has partnered with several agencies of the United Nations system to publish the first detailed review of the historical development, current situation and further

perspectives of national systems for the protection of human rights and dignity in biology and medicine in the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. ¶

To download this study in Russian or English:
www.unesco.ru

Ethical Review of Biomedical Research in the CIS Countries
360 p., UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, WHO, 2007.
ISBN 978-5-98240-033-8

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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

India hosts the 2nd Forum of Ministers of South Asia

Initiated in Pakistan in 2006, the Forum of Ministers of Social Development from South Asia will be held in New Delhi (India) from 5 to 6 March and will focus on the right to information within the framework of discussions on how to strengthen the links between research and social policies.

It is in New Delhi, India, that the 2nd Forum of Ministers of Social Development from South Asia will be held from 5 to 6 March 2008.

This meeting was co-organized by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the National Commission of India and UNESCO, in cooperation with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) within the framework of the activities implemented by UNESCO's programme for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST). Thus, the general theme of the meeting will be the establishment and reinforcement of social sciences research policy linkages and policy-making as it is the programme's main focus.

Initiated in 2006 in Bhurban (Pakistan), this regional forum will also put emphasis on the challenge of information access for all. Beyond the debate on the best way to facilitate access by policy makers to research results, it is the public access to information concerning them that will be mainly discussed. Indeed, India will share its experience regarding this challenge.

Science and technology for sustainable development

The Ministers of Science of forty-eight countries met in Paris on 26 and 27 October 2007, to discuss how science and technology can contribute to sustainable development, and define the role of UNESCO in this field. A total of 98 countries were represented at the meeting held during the 34th General Conference of UNESCO. The discussions, divided

into four sessions, focused on the conclusions of the review of priorities, sent by UNESCO to all participants. They all stressed the necessity to reinforce cooperation, education, vocational training and financial resources dedicated to sciences. The Ministers from Sri Lanka and Tajikistan recognized that 'science is the foundation for

the development of a society'. A final statement was adopted, calling on UNESCO to propose this debate as a theme for the United Nations General Assembly. ¶

For more information, please see: www.unesco.org/science



The right of citizens to access information will be at the heart of debates in New Delhi

In this country, a new law was enacted in 2005 to facilitate citizens' access to information under government control or public authority, thus recognizing every citizen's right to access information and the obligation this represents for the Government. Specific structures have also been foreseen, such as the constitution of a Central Information Commission or the appointment of mandated officers.

This second edition of the Forum of Ministers of Social Development from South Asia continues the initial discussion held in Pakistan in 2006 with the support of the United Nations Development Programme. Officials from Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka focused on public accountability mechanisms for the improvement of social sector service delivery in Asia, drawing inspiration from the experiences of other regions of the world.

In a joint Declaration setting the political framework and agreeing that the space for dialogue should become permanent, participants agreed to improve discussions and exchange to foster the effectiveness of social policies, promote policies that integrate all aspects of human development; to fight against poverty and to strive for greater solidarity. ¶

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REGIONAL INTEGRATION

MOST Seminar series in West Africa draws to a close

The series of most national seminars on 'the challenges of regional integration in West Africa' launched in 2005 ends with the prospect of a final conference at the end of 2008 and the establishment of a West African Research Institute in Cape Verde.

In early 2008, the last two national seminars are scheduled in Liberia and Nigeria in the framework of the regional integration project in West Africa, developed over the past three years by the Social and Human Sciences Sector at UNESCO.

This ambitious initiative, involving the fifteen countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in order to study the challenges of promoting regional cooperation, was thus to reach closure in the country where ECOWAS, the institution that embodies the topic, is based.

Final conference in 2008

These seminars, however, will not be an endpoint. The synthesis of the project will take place later this year, at a Conference organized on the eve of the forthcoming summit of ECOWAS Heads of State, in the third quarter of 2008.

In the meantime, following the experience of 13 other countries that have hosted this type of encounter, the major actors in Liberian and Nigerian economic, social and cultural development will gather to exchange ideas with the coordinators of the seminars held in the neighbouring countries.

The agenda includes an in-depth examination of the specificities and commitments of these two countries to a process which, despite its slow pace and multiple shortcomings, continues to offer a way to respond to the needs and expectations of West African populations.

The seminars held at the end of 2007 in Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau offered an opportunity for frank discussion on issues that shape the realities of particu-

lar countries. For instance, in Guinea Bissau the debates focused mostly on the consequences of conflicts that have had a deep impact on the country. The role played by languages, education and the armed forces in the integration process was also discussed in detail, with specific emphasis on the negative consequences of the brain-drain.

In Sierra Leone, a country where armed conflicts have caused tremendous suffering, the discussions centred on the issue of citizenship and the survival of the nation-states as well as on the indispensable role played by women in ending a crisis.

Integration: 'a categorical imperative'

The issue of foreign nationals took up a large part of discussions in the Abidjan seminar and shed light on the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The concept of '*ivoirité*', which distorts the true image of this land of immigrants, was stripped of its xenophobic mantle to be viewed in the same way as 'being French' or 'being Senegalese'.

The debate expressed an urgent call for an effective regional integration policy. The participants agreed on the need to ensure the coexistence of different cultures within a pacified social environment. However, critical questions remained at the heart of the seminar, which aimed at identifying obstacles to achieving the 'categorical imperative'.

Particular emphasis was placed on the lack of commitment on the part of the African political leaders, as opposed to local populations who have developed a variety of initiatives to facilitate economic, socio-cultural and political ties with communities in their neighbouring countries. All important actors in the integration process were urged to base regional integration policies on sound and up-to-date social science research. ¶

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Taking action together with parliamentarians against human trafficking

On 6 and 7 November 2007, an awareness-raising meeting on human trafficking in southern Africa was held for policy-makers from several countries covered by studies conducted and published by UNESCO within the framework of its programme on poverty eradication.

Parliamentarians from Lesotho, Mozambique and South Africa took part in these meetings, during which the results of these studies were presented in order to increase their awareness of the human trafficking issue and its causes, which range from poverty, inequality, discrimination and lack of economic opportunity to harmful sociocultural practices. The parliamentarians made a commitment to welcome the experts in charge of these studies to present to their respective parliaments the relevant recommendations, in order to address as many elected

representatives as possible. National parliaments have, indeed, a vital role to play in the eradication of human trafficking and in the fight for human rights. They can debate, adopt and amend national legislation and policies in line with international standards, in particular the ones promulgated in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The results of six case studies carried out within the framework of the UNESCO programme on poverty eradication, in Benin, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo, have already been published. ¶

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To download these studies:
www.unesco.org/shs/humantrafficking



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Ageing populations on the international agenda

From 6 to 15 February, the representatives of governments, civil society, the private sector and the research community will gather at UN Headquarters in New York for a meeting of the Commission for Social Development to discuss, inter alia, ageing populations.

Whatever angle one chooses – funding of pensions, transfer of knowledge, inter-generational dialogue, the right to housing, access to health care or seniors as consumers – ageing populations figure prominently in the news, especially in the most developed countries.

The issues concerning longer lifespans are also finding a place on the agendas of international meetings. The next session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development, to be held from 6 to 15 February 2007 at UN Headquarters in New York, will be inter alia devoted to this theme, as was the conference organized at the initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, held in late 2007 in León (Spain).

From Madrid...

From 6 to 8 November 2007, Ministers, State Secretaries, representatives from OECD, WHO, the European Council and civil society met to outline the challenges posed by ageing populations and the solutions that can be translated into public policy.

Organized with the support of the Spanish Government, the meeting aimed to assess the progress made since the adoption in 2002 of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, which provided a blueprint for international action in this area. This Plan offered to world policy-makers 117 recommendations concerning older persons and development, health care and the creation of a more favourable environment for seniors. The Regional Implementation Strategy for Europe, adopted the same year in Berlin, states that such unprecedented



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Changes are needed to achieve societies 'for people of all ages'.

demographic changes in the region present societies not only with multiple challenges, but also with a range opportunities.

The León meeting sustained the continuity of this process. Panelists stressed the changes necessary to achieve societies for 'all ages'. These include promoting active ageing, life-long learning and intergenerational solidarity, better health systems and leaving more room for individual choice in life-course transitions. The Ministerial Declaration states that 'research is vital to the development of effective policies and programmes', and specifies that 'sustainable research infrastructures and cross-sectoral cooperation should be strengthened'. It also recommends strengthening cooperation among all actors involved in social development, including civil society and the private sector, and stresses the need for an ethical framework based on human rights.

... to New York

The debate will now continue in New York on the theme 'From research to policy to action to implement the Madrid platform of action'. Organized at the initiative of the United Nations Department of Economic and

Social Affairs (UNDESA), the meeting will also strengthen cooperation between UNDESA – the United Nations focal point on issues related to ageing populations – and UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations programme (MOST), for which ageing was the priority for the Europe and North America region in 2006-2007. ¶

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The International Journal on Multicultural Societies (IJMS), published by UNESCO, has released an article that considers the lack of recognition of the qualifications of migrant workers as a particularly acute problem for professionals from developing countries

wishing to work abroad. According to the author, such recognition is a key issue in ensuring wider labour mobility, which would benefit both migrants and their host country. ¶

To read this article (in English):
www.unesco.org/shs/ijms/vol9/issue1/art5

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Porto Alegre, capital on a

In February 2008, thousands of sustainable development actors are to meet in Brazil for the 1st World Conference dedicated to innovative population integration in urban areas.

Already representing the 'other possible world', will the city of Porto Alegre be the meeting of the year for all those dreaming of a human city? From 13 to 16 February 2008, the Brazilian metropolis, known for its social forums, will host a conference 'Democratic innovation and social transformation for inclusive cities in the 21st century'.

Four major conferences and as many round tables, 40 workshops and panels, 160 presentations, 20 mini courses and an exhibition of innovative projects by cities and socially responsible companies, organized by 26 Federations of Brazilian municipalities are on the programme. In total, no less than 400 hours of activities have been planned for the four-day conference.

By bringing together diverse innovative and social transformation initiatives that have appeared throughout the world over the past few years, Porto Alegre offers a unique setting for collective discussion and exchange of experiences, thus fostering a more systemic approach to urban development around 4 major themes:

- right to the city (local policies on citizens' rights and responsibilities);
- governance and democracy in cities (innovative experiences of democratic participation and administration);
- local development in cities;
- and sustainability and the network-city.

Many themes that will provide an opportunity to discuss issues relating to gender, poverty, youth, migrants, informal work, environ-



Not less than 400 hours of activities will set the tone of the conference.

ment and violence. But, more importantly, UNESCO is already exploring these themes within its Social and Human Sciences programme.

It was therefore clear the Organization should support this unprecedented event together with UN-Habitat, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank. [E](#)

Cuba receives the actors of the transformation of historic districts

The 6th International Encounter on Management of Historic Centres was held from 4 to 6 December 2007 in Havana, Cuba. Organized by the well-known *Oficina del Historiador*, this annual meeting of actors for the transformation of one of the most respected towns of historical, cultural and social heritage

was this year focusing on 'Innovation and Diversity: the challenge to generalize good practices'. As organizer of this meeting, UNESCO was represented by Herman van Hoof, Director of the Havana Office and Julio Carranza, Adviser for Social and Human Sciences in the Montevideo Office (Uruguay). Other

partners: experts of the most Latin-American 'City professionals network', who met the previous month in Argentina (see opposite), took an active part in the work. After seven years of intense research and exchange throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, these experts shared with

the participants their thoughts and insights on the training of citizens on issues such as the revitalization of heritage, the symbolic approach to historic districts and the new concept of 'cultural landscapes'. They also presented their analysis on the operational dimension and on urban heritage revitalization policies in order to progress

in the search for alternatives to revitalization policies and heritage promotion within the current very complex urban context. Finally, at the invitation of the National Union of Writers and Artists from Cuba (UNEAC), they organized a round table on 'Heritage, culture and urban management in Latin America'. ¶

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human scale



➔ Moreover, studying the different modalities to include citizen participation in municipal decision-making processes is a specific UNESCO activity, mandated by the UN for coordinating the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

This Conference, organized on the initiative of the City Hall of Porto Alegre, the Ministry of Cities of Brazil and the City Hall of Rome, will be opened by UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, Pierre Sané, who will also coordinate one of the major round tables on 'The right to the city: Local policies on citizens' rights and responsibilities' together with Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT.

A step towards Nanjing

Beyond its institutional support and its contribution to the opening of this event, UNESCO seized this opportunity to reinforce partnerships and actions.

As a result, one of the reference documents entitled 'The Right to the city: new challenges and new partners' was written by the UNESCO Chair at the University of Lyons (France), Professor Bernard Jouve. A session of the UN Agencies and Cities Working Group on how to create inclusive cities: indicators and parameters for urban inclusiveness at UN level to promote pilot cities will be held with representatives from UNESCO, UN-HABITAT and UN-DESA.

And finally, UNESCO will be directly coordinating several workshops on the 'Right to the City, initiatives promoting inclusion, rights and responsibilities', and 'Local covenants for access to education and empowerment of all city dwellers' and on the Hague Process on the future of refugees and migration.

In addition to these exchange platforms where UNESCO Chairs can demonstrate how linkages between research and local policy-making can be created to increase urban inclusiveness at the international level, UNESCO should also support the creation of an international award for 'UN inclusive cities' under the auspices of UN-HABITAT and in cooperation with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

At the time this issue went to print, the Porto Alegre Conference, targeted at public administrators, academics, specialists and active organizations in sustainable urban development, was already predicted to be a big success.

Its numerous partners – which include dozens of national and international institutions and various town councillor associations – were expected to send large delegations.

Thus, Porto Alegre, by mobilizing cities on the issues of inclusiveness became a first step towards Nanjing (People's Republic of China) where the Fourth Session of the next World Forum on Urban Planning will be held in October 2008. ¶

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TOOLS



A kit *Historic districts for all*, including a brochure designed for local authorities and a guide for city professionals, has just been published in English and French

by UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector. It offers an analysis of the challenges and possibilities for revitalization of a historic district. ¶

To order this kit, please contact:
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Cities: A network coordinated by most from Brazil

On the occasion of the 7th meeting of the MOST Latin American network for 'City Professionals', a seminar was held on 'New professional skills: challenges for training' at the Instituto del Conurbano of the Universidad Nacional General Sarmiento (Argentina), in October 2007. This meeting brought

together political stakeholders, civil society actors, academics and experts from all over Latin America to discuss the results of research carried out by the Institute and on how to organize the academic curriculum, professional training and the contribution of practical experience to produce knowledge useful for under-

standing and transforming the city. This Conference also provided an opportunity to adopt a work plan for the network in 2008 and to elect a new coordinator. After Rosaluz Mejia from the Universidad ITESO of Mexico who was in charge for the past four years, this function will now be carried out by Paulo

Cesar Pereira, civil engineer and President of the Architecture and Urbanism faculty at the University of São Paulo (Brazil). ¶

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SPORT

World Anti-doping Code revisions in Madrid

The revised World Anti-doping Code, adopted during the 3rd World Conference on Doping in Sport in Madrid from 15 to 17 November 2007, has resolved several points of contention regarding the balance between athletes' rights and responsibilities.

Almost a year after the UNESCO International Convention against Doping in Sport came into force and four years after the adoption of the World Anti-doping Code, the World Anti-doping Agency undertook a comprehensive review of the Code which was approved during the 3rd World Conference on Doping in Sport held in Madrid from 15 to 17 November 2007.

The Code provides the overarching framework for international anti-doping programmes, while the Convention allows governments to give effect to the Code, to which they cannot be direct parties. The Code previously stipulated a two-year ban from all sport for the first violation, only allowing a departure from this sanction in cases of no significant fault or negligence on the part of the athlete. Such a blanket provision, whilst greatly improving harmonization across all sporting codes, had been questioned.

A system beyond reproach

The amendments to the Code now allow for greater flexibility in its application with possibility for reduced penalties, where appropriate, and for increased sanctions in the case of aggravating circumstances. Those who deliberately cheat will be excluded from sport for a period commensurate with the seriousness of their action and could also suffer financial penalties. National tribunals or the Court of Arbitration for Sport can show a degree of latitude, where warranted, when handing down sanctions.

Amendments were also made to protect the privacy of athletes as well as the integrity of the reporting processes to ensure that the



Visual display of UNESCO's anti-doping campaign, 'Say no 2 doping'.

system is beyond reproach. The virtue of anti-doping programmes depends on the observation of principles of natural justice and fundamental human rights. It is the athletes after all, that anti-doping programmes strive to protect.

Finally, the Code was amended to state that bids for the Olympic Games or any other high-profile sporting events will only be accepted from governments who have adhered to the International Convention against Doping in Sport. This provision, strongly supported by UNESCO, will help to ensure that governments become States Parties to the Convention, thus enabling a harmonized response to doping, respecting fundamental rights. ¶

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Web site: www.unesco.org/en/antidoping

Women and sport: establishment of an Observatory in Greece

On 5 November, the Government of Greece and UNESCO signed an agreement endorsing the proposal to establish an observatory on Women, Sport and Physical Education adopted unanimously by the 34th General Conference of UNESCO. For the Member States of the Organization, this initiative corresponds directly to the social and human science approach, which considers sport not only as an educational tool but also as a catalyst for development. Indeed,

the Observatory could increase the visibility and strengthen the coordination of UNESCO's action in favour of gender equality in the field of sport and physical education. One of the first initiatives of the Observatory is a website that will cover the role and the place given to women in sports policies. ¶

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Alekna has been designated UNESCO Champion for Sport

The Lithuanian discus thrower Virgilijus Alekna joined the team of UNESCO Champions for Sport at a ceremony at the Organization's Headquarters in Paris on 23 November 2007. The Lithuanian athlete, the ninth Champion to be entrusted with this function, will take part in the Organization's activities to promote physical education and sport in education systems as an essential component of quality education. Voted 'Best male athlete in all disciplines' by the European Athletic Association in 2005,

Alekna has twice won Olympic gold medals (2000 and 2004) and has twice been world champion (2003 and 2005). ¶

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THE FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

Towards an international coalition of cities against racism

Following an appeal to local municipalities launched by UNESCO in 2004, the Coalitions of Cities against Discrimination established in the five regions of the world are about to give birth to a broader, overarching international coalition.

This International Coalition of Cities against racism and discrimination will be officially inaugurated during the 3rd International Human Rights Forum in Nantes (France), in July 2008.

In the second half of 2007, several major steps were taken towards the establishment of this global network, which should reinforce the work of the five existing regional coalitions that have emerged since UNESCO's appeal to municipal authorities around the world in 2004.

Last October, the Secretaries General of the National Commissions for UNESCO from countries most involved in the development of this network (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany and Israel) met for a working breakfast to which the other National Commissions present in Paris for the 34th session of the General Conference of UNESCO were also invited.

This pleasant occasion offered the opportunity to exchange ideas on how best to mobilize government and civil society actors around this coalition, which aims to become a common platform of solidarity against racism and discrimination.

In the same month, another international experience-sharing event was held in Melbourne (Australia), in conjunction with the 12th Metropolis Conference. It was organized in cooperation with the Australian Commission, the Local Government Association of Queensland and the Canadian Coalition to present to the Australian authorities the networking experiences among the cities. In parallel, members of the Asia-Pacific Coalition coordinated a workshop in Jeju (South Korea) in order to brief the participants of the Second World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments.

As for the European Coalition, its Executive Committee met in Graz (Austria) in November 2007 to discuss the action plan for the coming years. Among other resolutions, it decided to set up thematic working groups of the members of the Coalition who express interest in issues related to Islamophobia, health care, or the development of indicators for assessing anti-discrimination policies. ¶

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UNESCO and Barça partners in the field

The first of its kind in the world of sports and for UNESCO, an agreement on cooperation in the fight against violence and racism in sport was signed on 23 November 2007 in Paris, between UNESCO and FC Barcelona. Signed by the Catalan club president Joan Laporta and the Director-General of UNESCO Koïchiro Matsuura in the presence of representatives from the FC Barcelona Foundation, the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia and the Spanish National Commission for UNESCO, this partnership aims to raise

young people's awareness on doping and to promote education for disadvantaged children. In order to define the priorities and the schedule for concrete activities to be undertaken during the five years covered by the partnership, representatives of UNESCO and FC Barcelona will meet at least twice a year. ¶

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FOCUS

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GOVERNANCE

A survey-based research project on human security in China



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Survey reveals people's perceptions of current social policies in their own countries.

A wide-ranging survey of 2,000 people in ten Chinese provinces has been carried out under UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences programme.

'Human Security and Harmonious Society: from people's views to policies' was the theme of the conference organized on 11 December by UNESCO's Beijing Office and Nankai University of Tianjin. The conference marked the conclusion of a research project on the topic of human security in China, carried out by the Institute of Sociology of Nankai University.

Launched in 2006 by conducting a qualitative survey, the study was continued in 2007 with a literature review and the second survey, involving more than 2,000 people from 10 Chinese provinces in order to analyse their perceptions of their own security and current social policies in the country. Beyond the evaluation of the research results, the conference aimed through this study to encourage a dialogue with policy makers. The four debate sessions organized during the conference involved experts and officials

from the relevant ministries. The morning presentation of Nankai University's research project and its methodology was followed by a discussion on the economic dimension of security. In the afternoon, the issues of personal, collective and environmental security were considered. A professor from the University of Tokyo shared with the participants the conception of human security in Japan.

Participants recognized that the research project of Nankai University within UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences programme had significantly contributed to the sociological study of human security in China. The conference was considered to be instrumental for advancing this type of study, as well as for strengthening the links between human security and social policies. By all accounts, the conference has laid the basis for a constructive dialogue with the Chinese Government at all levels. ¶

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



Peace education

All Member States or Associate Members of UNESCO, governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as individuals or civil society organizations working for a culture of peace have until 31 January 2008 to submit nominations for the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education. Created in 1980, this prize rewards a particularly outstanding example of activity designed to alert public opinion and mobilize humankind in the cause of peace, in accordance with the spirit of the UNESCO Constitution. Awarded every two years, in 2006 the prizewinner was Christopher Weeramantry, a Sri Lankan judge. ¶

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To download the application form: www.unesco.org/shs/en/prizes/peace_education

TOOLS

A report on *Promoting human security: ethical, normative and educational frameworks in Africa* has just been published. Available in English, this review conducted by Jo-Ansie van Wyk offers an in-depth analysis of the situation, identifying threats to human security for the African people and providing avenues of hope. ¶



To order this publication, please contact: Human Security, Democracy and Philosophy Section peace&security@unesco.org, tel.: +33 1 45 68 45 54

New success for World Philosophy Day

While UNESCO's worldwide study on the teaching of philosophy is highly successful, the 2007 edition of World Philosophy Day has once again confirmed the interest of the public and especially students in philosophical discussions. A look back at the events organized in Paris and Istanbul.

An important element in the implementation of UNESCO's strategy for the development of philosophy and the teaching of philosophy throughout the world, World Philosophy Day, celebrated each year on the third Thursday in November, once again in 2007 organized a broad range of activities focusing on a diversity of philosophical themes.

Conferences and theatre in Paris

At UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, a series of symposia brought together a large, interested and passionate audience. Thus, a symposium on 'Practice, training and research in the school context: perspectives' was held on 14 November in the presence of many philosophy practitioners, teachers and scholars for an in-depth analysis of the study *Philosophy: A School of Freedom*,¹ for the promotion and encouragement of learning philosophy from an early age.

The natural link between art and philosophy marked the 2007 celebration with philosophical reflexion presented through a play directed by Alain-Didier Weil and Daniel Mesguich entitled 'Stories of Human Rights thought', as a preamble to the launching, on 10 December, of the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

And, finally, through Frantz Fanon, philosophy opened new routes for thought during the symposium organized on 30 November and 1 December 2007, with University Paris VII, on 'Thinking with Frantz Fanon today'.

Afterwards, World Philosophy Day travelled from the banks of the Seine to those of



2008-2009: Regional meetings on philosophy

From April 2008 until the end of 2009, UNESCO will organize high-level regional meetings on philosophy education in the 5 regions of the world: Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and North America and the Arab States.

Objective: sharing the outcomes of UNESCO's study *Philosophy: a school of freedom*. This publication, already available in English and French could be published in other languages with the support of its Member States.

the Bosphorus. After Chile and Morocco, but before Italy and Russia, this year, Turkey was the host country of the 'major' event organized within the framework of this celebration. The event, organized on 22 and 23 November 2007 in Istanbul, was marked by a large students participation from all the universities of the city in various round

tables and activities and to meet the numerous philosophers, starting with Ioanna Kuçuradi, who inspired and organized this large-scale event and received an enthusiastic tribute.

Innovations in Istanbul

The first initiative of its kind since the establishment of World Philosophy Day by UNESCO in 2002, a special stamp issued by the Turkish postal services was highly popular with students, who, maybe for the occasion, gave up sending text messages and emails and reverted to more traditional mail to exchange ideas and impressions.

Another innovation of the 2007 World Philosophy Day was the organization of a round table which brought together Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates to UNESCO, specially invited by Turkey to take part in contemporary philosophical debates on governance. This is a new approach to philosophy which interested a large and diverse audience.

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Website of World Philosophy Day in Turkey:
www.wpd2007.org

¹ *Philosophy: A School of Freedom. Teaching philosophy and learning to philosophize: Status and prospects*, collective publication published by UNESCO Publishing in English and French. UNESCO 2007. ISBN 978 92 3 2040701

HUMAN RIGHTS

Cairo discussions on the role of

On 10 December 2007, in Paris the Director-General of UNESCO announced the commitment of the Organization in the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A few days earlier, participants in an international conference organized in Cairo called for the proclamation of 2008 as the Year of Democracy and Human Rights in Africa.

Human rights ministers from several African governments, ombudsmen, presidents and representatives of national, regional and international human rights institutions, as well as various experts engaged in human rights advocacy, gathered in Cairo (Egypt) on 3

and 4 December 2007 to take part in a Conference organized in the context of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The objective of this conference, 'Democracy and Human Rights in Africa: Role of Human Rights Institutions', organized by the Human Security, Democracy and Philosophy Section of the Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO, and the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt, chaired by Mr Boutros Boutros-Ghali, was to explore the prospects and obstacles for the promotion of democracy and human rights on the African continent.

The various sessions of the conference focused on the 'role of women in the promotion of democracy and human rights'; 'human rights, democracy and independence of the judiciary'; 'the role of human rights institutions in the promotion of democracy and development'; 'human rights, democracy and democratic elections', and 'the culture of democracy and of human rights'.

Most importantly, this high-level meeting was an opportunity to emphasize the role that the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in Africa could play in the promotion and implementation of the *African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance*, adopted in January 2007 in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

This recent instrument, which consolidates the objectives of several earlier UN resolutions and the existing regional tools, represents a decisive instrument for promoting human rights in Africa. The aim of this Charter is to reinforce the engagement of the Member States of the African Union for the protection of democracy, good governance and, more broadly, the rule of law. The Charter puts a specific emphasis in its Preamble on holding regular, free, fair and transparent elections, as well as on the necessity to sanction



The need for regular, free, fair and transparent elections was discussed at length.

Exceptional high-level meeting in Armenia

On 5 and 6 October 2007, policy makers, lawyers and human rights experts of 35 countries met in Yerevan (Armenia) to take part in an international conference on the experience of cooperation between Constitutional courts and Ombudsmen in protecting human rights. This exceptionally high-level meeting was held during the 12th annual scientific conference, organized by the Republic of Armenia Constitutional Court in cooperation with the country's Office for the Defence of Human Rights. Supported by

the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, UNDP and UNESCO's Office in Moscow, this meeting proved an outstanding opportunity for experts in Human Rights from 35 countries to discuss international and local practice and exchange experiences of their own and other countries. Representatives from Constitutional Courts and Ombudspersons from Albania, Andorra, Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Ukraine, and other countries discussed with heads

and representatives from the European Court of Human Rights, Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Venice Commission of the Council of Europe as well as the European Ombudsman Institute and the International Ombudsman Institute. They analysed the legal force and proportionality of decisions made by the Human Rights Defender and the Constitutional Court in identifying measures taken by these two institutions. Keen to develop cooperation with the Human Rights Defender

of the Republic of Armenia, UNESCO's Moscow Office took part in the preparation of this conference by supporting participation of ombudspersons and specialists in the field of human rights from as many UNESCO Member States as possible. ¶

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African human rights institutions

➔ ‘unconstitutional changes of governments that are one of the essential causes of insecurity, instability and violent conflict in Africa’.

The Charter, already signed by 10 African countries, needs 15 ratifications in order to enter into force. Emile Ognimba, Director for Political Affairs at the African Union, underlined the necessity for NHRIs to work towards the signature and ratification of the Charter by their respective governments and towards the dissemination of the Charter’s values and principles among African governments and populations. In his view, there is no doubt that the task of raising awareness among African populations concerning their rights will assume a major importance in the future.

A ‘categorical imperative’

Since the very beginning of the conference, Abdou Diouf, Secretary-General of the International Organization of the Francophonie, insisted that NHRIs institutions ‘act as guardians of universal norms anchored in their respective societies, and are thus best placed for the appropriation and internalization, over time, of a true culture of democracy and human rights. Similarly, the representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the League of Arab States and UNESCO, all highlighted the importance of NHRIs in fostering and strengthening a culture of democracy, peace and human rights.

Wole Soyinka, Nigerian Nobel Prize laureate in literature and the first African to be awarded this distinction, set the tone of the conference with his keynote lecture on ‘*Democratic rituals and democratic imperative*’. According to the writer, even though democracy as a ‘ritual’ can often mask a deception, it is not to be dismissed as a needless rite, since it allows the involvement of individuals in defining the paths of their own lives. It is an expression of ‘recognizing what distinguishes humanity from the rest of the living species: the capacity to express itself in a rational act’. There is therefore a ‘democratic imperative’ for Wole Soyinka; with vivid imagery, he remarked that although ‘one cannot eat democracy, if everything inedible, such as freedom, is taken away from an individual, the remainder would simply be bestial’.

The ‘Cairo Declaration’ adopted by the participants at the conclusion of the conference stresses the importance of strengthening national judicial systems, promoting the rights of women in Africa, and the need for African national institutions in charge of human rights to participate actively in the Universal Periodic Review of the fulfilment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments – the new review mechanism established by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations. ¶

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FOCUS



Ten studies presented in Lima

The presentation of ten studies on the right to education in Latin America took place as a parallel event to the 13th Annual Congress of the Iberoamerican Federation of Ombudsmen (FIO) which was held in Lima (Peru) from 20 to 22 November 2007.

The studies were carried out under the initiative of the Latin America Research Network of Ombudspersons (LARNO), created by UNESCO in 2003, in order to support national institutions of human rights in the follow-up of education policies and identifying the main obstacles for the realization of the right to education.

The results confirmed the important role they have to play in promoting the right to education, in participating in the elimination of all forms of discrimination in schools or in fostering the inclusion of a rights approach in national curricula, schools and teacher training.

Following the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education – Katerina Tomasevski’s – recommendations advocating

‘availability’, ‘accessibility’, ‘acceptability’ and ‘adaptability’, the studies have highlighted some of the most persistent problems: lack of adaptability of policies and strategies aimed at adult education; stigmatization of problems of vulnerable groups; high rates of absenteeism of teachers in rural areas; lack of a rights approach in teaching and very little teaching of human rights as well as very low budgetary allocations for education. The presentation, which took place at the invitation of the host of the event, the Ombudsman of Peru, was followed by an interesting discussion, and the importance of LARNO, of which Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia are members, was emphasized. ¶

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Koïchiro Matsuura: 'Social and human sciences play an indispensable role.'

As the world commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Director-General of UNESCO stresses the crucial role that the Organization has played and will continue to play in the promotion of the principles enshrined in the Declaration. He also clarifies the role of the social and human sciences in the new medium-term strategy of the Organization, particularly with respect to dealing with the ethical and social dimensions of such trends as globalization and climate change.

On 10 December 2007, during a ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, you announced the launch of a year-long commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Why and how will UNESCO contribute to this anniversary?

UNESCO's contribution to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been significant from the earliest stages of its elaboration and adoption. As the Declaration was being drafted, UNESCO launched an enquiry into the relevant theoretical issues involving various distinguished thinkers and writers around the world, which confirmed that the basic human rights values embody common aspirations across the existing national, cultural and political boundaries. Immediately after the signing of the Declaration, UNESCO became the first entity within the United Nations system to adopt its principles in every field of its action, and to take the responsibility for globally promoting this landmark document.

This responsibility is as important today as ever before. For UNESCO, the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Declaration takes on particular significance – it will be an opportunity to assess the situation with regard to the rights within UNESCO's competence, such as the right to education, to highlight the advancements, to analyse the shortcomings and to reflect on challenges that could become major obstacles to the implementation of human rights in the future. Towards this end, two international conferences, as well as various other awareness-raising activities, will be organized throughout the year in coordination with other relevant United Nations entities. This is in addition to our regular activities that promote human rights, such as UNESCO's human rights mainstreaming programme and the award of the Prize for Human Rights Education.

Interview



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Are human rights violations among the major obstacles for UNESCO in attaining Quality Education for All?

Obviously, by working to attain quality education for all, UNESCO is contributing to the fulfilment of a fundamental human right to education, which is, in itself, the manifestation of the interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights. We should never forget that it is education that provides individuals with the means to participate actively in the political, economic and cultural life of society.

One other significant obstacle to fulfilling people's right to education is poverty. Poverty deprives one third of the world's population from developing their potential and their talents and prevents them from living a life compatible with human dignity. Tens of millions of people, especially girls, have no access to school, and therefore no chance to improve their lives. It is no coincidence that the eradication of poverty has been designated by the international community as the first of the eight Millennium Development Goals.

Alongside attaining Quality Education for All, mobilizing science knowledge and policy for sustainable development was made one of UNESCO's key priorities for 2008-2013. Why did the Member States of UNESCO choose to focus on this issue during the 34th General Conference held in October 2007?

This choice is conditioned by a shared belief that scientific and technological progress can provide answers to the problems of development. Scientific progress is bringing many positive changes to our daily lives. The cutting-edge medical technologies are prolonging and improving the quality of people's lives. Now, there is effective treatment for many formerly incurable diseases. The new advances in information technologies bring people at opposite corners of the earth closer together and give them access to vast information resources.

However, the benefits of scientific progress do not trickle down equally for every person or society. This is the reason why UNESCO is committed to continuing its efforts to clarify the content of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, which is considered by many experts to be an 'underdeveloped' right, and is within UNESCO's fields of competence. At the same time, we must be aware of the delicate balance that exists between the realization of this human right and the need to protect intellectual property. Moreover, development fuelled by scientific progress cannot be sustainable without the ethical and human dimensions.

Another key priority for UNESCO for the next six years is the urgent need to address emerging social and ethical challenges. How will the social and human sciences help the Organization deal with these challenges?

Scientific progress and its application, if not guided by ethical principles, can have adverse affects on people's lives, and might in fact contribute to the violation of some of the basic human rights. Drawing on its intellectual mandate, UNESCO strives to help Member States anticipate the challenges posed by such scientific advancements as cloning. As you know, UNESCO has played a pioneering role in the field of bioethics and ethics of science and technology, adopting the first instruments in these fields.

The social and human sciences play an indispensable role in the efforts of UNESCO to reveal and elaborate the ethical and social dimensions of the major global trends, such as globalization, climate change, and rapid scientific progress. In order to equip Member States with the necessary policy tools for dealing with the emerging social and ethical issues, the MOST programme of the Social and Human Sciences Sector will focus in the coming years on strengthening national and regional research systems. The online tool that the MOST programme recently launched on UNESCO's website, which opens access for policy-makers to cutting edge social science research, is a major step towards this end.

In your closing statement at the 34th General Conference of UNESCO, you emphasized the 'consensus' which is the main asset of the Organization. Does consensus come at a price?

Reaching consensus in an Organization that now numbers 193 Member States is not an easy task, especially on controversial and sensitive issues. But it is a principle well worth the required efforts.

I consider the principle of consensus to be one of the major assets of this Organization. Reaching a consensus, of course, does not mean the absence of differences of opinion. Quite the contrary – UNESCO is precisely the place for intercultural debate,

which allows the Member States to reach mutually acceptable solutions to complex issues.

Most fundamentally, it is the belief in UNESCO's important contribution to building international peace and security that drives every Member State towards consensus. Earlier, we mentioned the imperative of sharing scientific progress, which can only be realized in the atmosphere of an ongoing dialogue between cultures and

civilizations. That is why the intercultural dialogue remains a priority for UNESCO. The Social and Human Sciences Sector will take a leading role in promoting dialogue among civilizations and cultures and a culture of peace through philosophy, the human sciences, good governance, the promotion of human rights and the fight against discrimination. ¶

Interview by Irakli Khodeli

'The Social and Human Sciences Sector will take a leading role in promoting dialogue among civilizations and cultures, as well as a culture of peace.'



Koïchiro Matsuura

Before his election in 1999 and re-election in 2005 as Director-General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura had a long and distinguished career in international affairs that spans several continents. Born in Tokyo in 1937 and educated in the field of law, his diplomatic career commenced with his posting to Ghana in 1961 and includes, among other functions, serving as Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC, as Consul General in Hong Kong, as Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, and as Japan's Ambassador to France. ¶

Dossier

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Focus on



Dossier compiled by:

Ramon Tuazon, President of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, and **Emmy Yanga** for the SHS Committee of the Philippine National Commission.

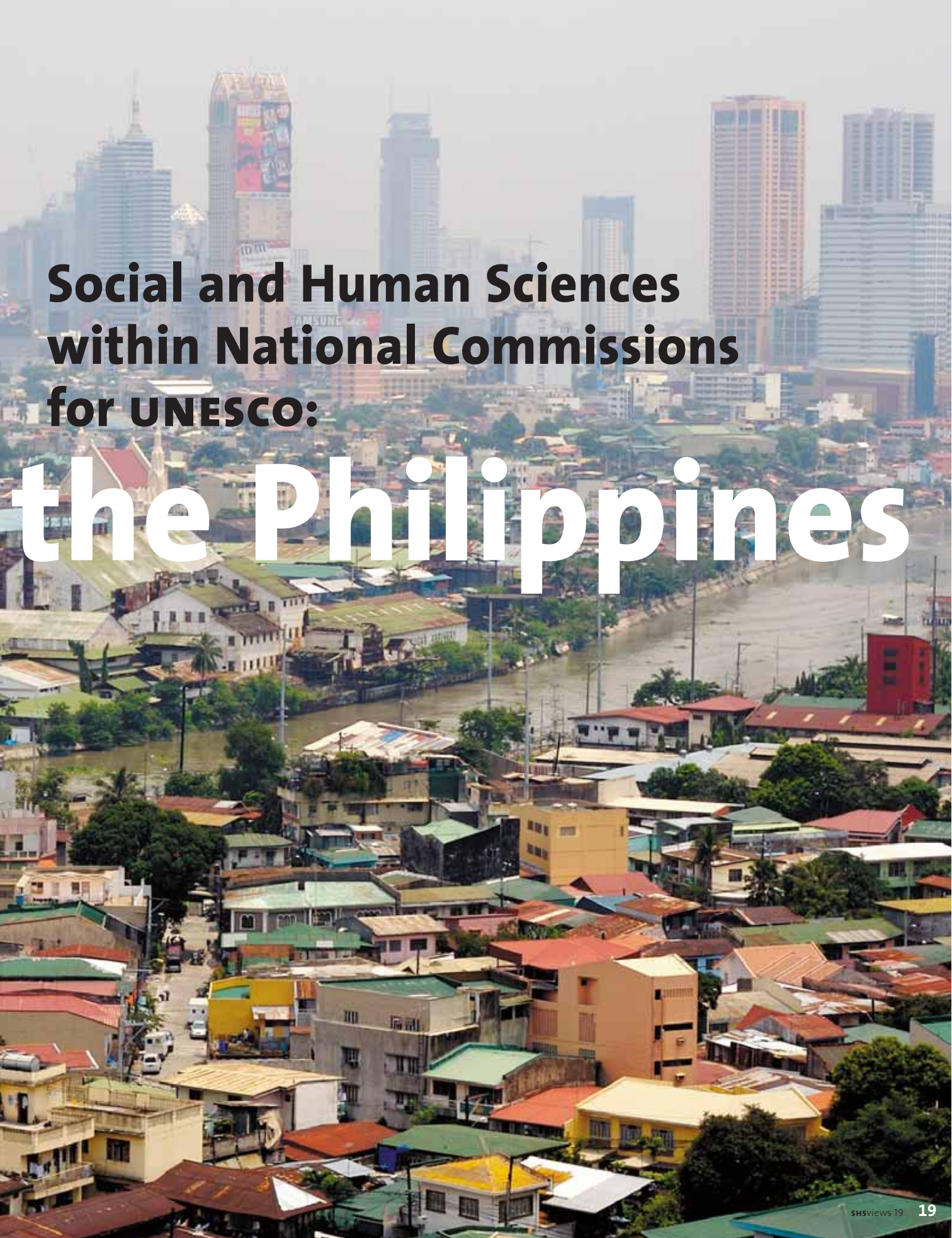
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**Social and Human Sciences
within National Commissions
for UNESCO:**

the Philippines

Philippine Social Science Committee: a driving force

The UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNACOM) began in 1947 as the National Commission on Educational, Scientific and Cultural Matters (NACESCUM) which performed a traditional role of liaison between governmental structures, UNESCO and civil society. UNACOM has successfully worked through the years by applying a dynamic holistic approach with social and human sciences as the driving force.

The UNESCO National Commissions, national cooperating bodies set up by the Member States to associate their governmental and non-governmental bodies with the work of the Organization, represent a unique coordination mechanism within the United Nations system.

92.6% is the literacy rate in the Philippines in 2005 (UNDP).

Basic information on UNESCO National Commissions can be found in Article VII of UNESCO's Constitution which specifies that each Member State shall 'make such arrangements as suit its particular conditions for the purpose of associating its principal bodies interested in educational, scientific and cultural matters with the work of the Organization, preferably by the formation of a National Commission broadly representative of the government and such bodies'.

The Philippines, one of the 51 founding members of UNESCO, is one of the first countries to create such a structure.

Rebuild through education

In 1945, the archipelago was wounded by the Second World War. Its territory was occupied by Japan and its population victim of several massacres engendering tens of thousands of deaths.

The country decided to associate its efforts to those of the international community to create an atmosphere of peace and trust. It

was indeed a time of rehabilitation for this territory of over 7,000 islands which has a unique mixture of Oriental and Western cultures, and this reconstruction began with education.

During this after-war period, much of the assistance the Philippines received was in the form of books, science equipment and supplies, and scholarships. But education was already a major concern for the country which a century after it had been discovered by Magellan, established the first University of Asia, the University of Santo Tomas, in the early 17th Century in Manila.

Indeed, the Philippines never wavered in its quest whether under the Spanish or Japanese rule.


It is probably this ambition that enabled the country to become one of the most developed countries in South-East Asia. Faced with the imperative of reorganizing its school system after the war, in 1948 the Philippines asked the help of UNESCO through the NACESCUM. This request paved the way for the UNESCO Educational Consultative Mission in 1949 which conducted an education survey for the reorganization of the school system.

1954: Establishment of an SHS Committee

Four years later, in 1951, the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines (UNCAOM) replaced the initial structure, to play a broader and more progressive role. It assumed various functions as an advisory, liaison, information and executive body, serving as an effective vehicle of international understanding and cooperation among Member States.

The focus on social and human sciences kept gaining importance.

In 1954, the UNESCO Clubs and Associated Schools Project was developed in cooperation with the Bureau of Public Schools to encourage secondary schools and teacher training institutions to organize pilot projects and special programmes which could increase the understanding of other peoples and cultures as well as of human rights – many objectives to achieve and social and human sciences can be more than relevant.

At the same time, UNACOM implemented five sectoral committees specialized in distinct areas of development such as education, science and technology, social and human sciences, culture and communication, in respect of the five UNESCO Sectors. These committees started developing their potential without waiting for their final structure to be adopted in 1983. They rely on the competence and dedication of the 45 UNACOM commissioners from both 



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↳ private and government sectors, all experts within the Organization's competence. They perform several duties such as ensuring implementation of UNESCO activities and projects within their respective Committee and serving as consultants to the National Commission in their respective field of expertise.

In 1966, with continuous concern for education, UNACOM organized the National Committee for the International Association of Students in Economics and Commerce (AIESEC). The Traineeship Program promoted training and exchange which aimed to facilitate international understanding and cooperation among the youth.

As a multidisciplinary platform, the SHS Committee is particularly active organizing workshops, seminars, conferences and training courses for youth, education, development and recognition of cultural diversity. These are some of the many avenues for exchange and transmission of knowledge.

A holistic approach

On the other hand, the SHS Committee has been vigorously working to empower the social and human sciences groups and address SHS concerns. It is an understanding among political stakeholders, civil society and academe that SHS issues need to be addressed to enable the country to achieve its Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and to keep in step with global challenges.

SHS in the Philippines continues to support UNESCO priority goals and UNACOM supports many initiatives such as women's issues, ↳



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35 % of the Philippine population is under 15 years old (UNFPA).

Felice Santa Maria answers 3 questions

Strongly dedicated to education and the preservation of cultural heritage, the writer Felice Santa Maria has been Chairperson of the SHS Committee of the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO since 1998. She encourage an interdisciplinary approach as a factor of human and social development.

How does the SHS Committee work within the Philippine National Commission?

The Social and Human Sciences Committee in the Philippines has worked closely with the National Commission's other sectoral committees for many years. It recognizes that positive human development and the conservation of cultural and natural environments require strong convergence of various academic disciplines in social and human sciences, as well as

the humanities and the sciences. In 1999, during the International Science Congress held in Budapest, the Philippines sent a strong representation from its Science and Technology Committee and its Social and Human Sciences Committee. The 'Science Agenda', a document adopted during the Conference to encourage partnership in science and the use of science for development, became an inspiring and guiding reference for us as we set about on local ↳

➤ peace education or the role of tolerance. De facto, strengthened partnerships are focused on social and human sciences. It tries to enable the general public to know the significance and usefulness of social and human sciences, defending the idea that social studies is the principal entry point for common awareness of SHS concepts needed for the country to cope with change.

Thus, the holistic approach in implementing its programmes and projects is the common thread that binds the various projects of the different sectors of the Philippine National Commission.

Thus, since it was established the SHS Committee develops an integrated work that covers education, culture, and even science and technology, etc. The National Commission's programmes and projects pursued by the different committees reinforce each other and are geared towards the whole facet of the development of man, society and the global community itself without which a society could not exist. ¶

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64% Is the per cent of girls enrolled in secondary school in 2000-2005 (UNDP).

➤ advocacies and orientation projects. It is with this document in mind that representatives of the SHS Committee contribute to numerous projects implemented by other Committees such as the Cultural Committee, Science and Technology Committee and the Communications Committee. It is also in this perspective that the National Commission's Committees advise the Lifelong Learning Center project, which is considered a major effort by the Philippines' education agencies.

Under the initiative of your Committee, substantive research has been conducted on the issues of migration these past



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'Convergence between various disciplines is required.'

years. Have the results of the research had any impact on national migration policies in the Philippines, one of the first countries to sign a Joint Statement with France on Filipino professional and student exchange?

We have not been consulted directly on this specific agreement, but the work we conduct on the issues of migration in the Philippines is taken into consideration in policy-making. We participate in numerous governmental projects. We are currently advising the newly created Special Presidential Task Force on Educational Reform, notably on civics education and social studies. In general, we try ➤

The Philippine experience at the service of an international network on gender equality

Created in July 2007, the UNESCO International Network on Women's Studies and Gender Research will be coordinated by *Miriam College*, in Metro Manila. This College was chosen to lead this worldwide research platform during a Conference which brought together experts from Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Kenya, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestinian Territories, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

An ambitious programme

The objective? Promote an integrated approach of gender issues within UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences programme, support the development of 'core' curriculum for women and gender studies programmes and develop methodological tools for translating research findings into policy recommendations and dialogue, while stimulating critical reflection on issues and merging trends on women's rights. It is an ambitious programme that doesn't down the President of Miriam

College. 'The college was ready and willing to accept the responsibility', affirms Patricia Licuanan, specifying that '80 years of distinguished academic tradition and core values of truth, justice and peace, will be brought to the project as well as an aggressive and explicit commitment to gender equality and a wide network of experts'.

Ms Licuanan considers that 'since the UN 4th Conference on Women held in Beijing (China) in 1995, a more women-friendly policy environment was created, mostly through legislation'. But she also underlines some boundaries.

Lessons to be learned

'The Philippines, for example, compares quite favourably with other developing countries in measures of gender equality, but considering the equal educational status of men and women, the number of women in leadership positions, impressive as it may seem, should be higher than it actually is.' In her opinion, 'there is much that can be done' that the network will try to enable by sharing worldwide

experiences. Philippine women NGOs are among the most articulate, well-organized and empowered in the world. 'We can already share the lessons taught by their experience', she says. And according to her, these lessons are abundant. First, there is the 'lesson of partnership' which requires the 'revitalization of the women's movements' and the 're-inventing of GO-NGO partnerships'. Second, the 'lesson of passion' for a full, long-standing commitment. 'We have to nourish our spirit within each of us, that will help us strengthen our movement and handle problems of relationships often observed within women's groups.' Finally, 'the lesson of patience', 'we had our share of proud moments and seasons of embarrassing mediocrity. We must be patient and steadfast', she explains. ¶

For more information, please contact:
Patricia Licuanan, *Miriam College* President,
president@mc.edu.ph, tel.: +632 426 0169

↳ to foster discussions and meetings among different social agents, in order to create a dialogue. We are strongly convinced that we have to associate our efforts if we are to achieve the goals we set.

Social science researchers are known to be rather critical towards politicians. How do you, through your work within the SHS Committee, bridge a link between social science scholars and political stakeholders?

Many of us in the NatCom have long-standing friendships, personal and professional, with leaders in government at different levels and in different

agencies. We do not have to serve as mediators between experts and stakeholders on behalf of UNESCO. It is done naturally depending on the subjects. Nevertheless, we serve our country and our stint can be for as short as a year to as long as three depending on how the President decides to handle the NatCom, and neither the Commission nor the SHS Committee itself is viewed as having any political agenda. Indeed, the SHS Committee is non-partisan and provides an objective opinion as well as a network of equally non-partisan experts. As we work actively to achieve the Organization's objectives, we strive to gain respect for these objectives

among our Government's leaders as each new presidency takes over. Our Committee not only prioritizes projects paralleling UNESCO's major concerns, but creates projects in different arenas so that UNESCO's sensitivities and sensibilities are exposed to new potential partners and groups that can echo UNESCO messages. ¶

Interview by Coraline Bardinat

A multidisciplinary network for a deeper understanding of the migration process

The Philippine archipelago, of over 7,000 islands, has always experienced the migration phenomenon. As a result, Metropolitan Manila is one of the most populated cities of the world; meanwhile, financial transfers from the important population of Filipino overseas labour migration established in Hong Kong, Singapore, Persian Gulf, United States and Italy, greatly contribute to the economic growth of the country. De facto, the Philippines has a history and a strategic location to contribute to the observation of migration-related phenomena. Under the direct impetus of UNESCO's major programme in the Social and Human Sciences with the collaboration

of the Philippine Social Science Council and the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, a research network was launched in February 1996. In a couple of years, the network produced a considerable amount of studies to advance knowledge that influences government decisions. Philippines Migration Research Network (PMRN), partner of the broader Asia-Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN) also organized under the auspices of the MOST programme, has served since its early days, as a platform among social science researchers, scholars, governmental and non-governmental structures, and the private sector. Coordinated by an Executive Committee

with nine members, some of whom are among the country's leading scholars on migration, this network brings together over 50 experts coming from different disciplines and representing at least 20 institutions. The PMRN adopts multidisciplinary research and public forums, thus contributing to the advancement of knowledge and understanding of social transformations shaped by migration in the multicultural Philippine society. ¶

For more information, please contact: Virginia Miralao, Executive Director, Philippine Social Science Council (pssc), v.a.miralao@pssc.org.ph, tel.: +632 929 2671

49%

is the per cent of women among the 7 million estimated migrants, in 2005, around the world (IOM)

76

is the number of languages spoken in the Philippines where English and Filipino are the official languages and there are over 500 spoken dialects (Philippine Government website).

What lessons did you learn from participating in projects of the Social and Human Sciences Committee of the Philippine National Commission?

DR MONA VALISNO, Special Adviser to the President of the Republic of the Philippines for Educational Reform

'The relevance of Social and Human Sciences is beyond doubt; they represent an important dimension of the work carried out by the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Education and the Presidential Task Force for Education. In my opinion, the projects of the SHS Committee of the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO contribute to promoting a holistic approach to education and applying critical thinking to social reality. Social and Human Sciences are particularly relevant to the project 'Schools of the People: A Philosophy of Education for the 21st Century', which was honoured by the SHS Committee in July 2007.' ¶



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Schools of the people: a philosophy of education for the 21st Century

The 1st Karunungan Festival was organized last July 7-8, 2007 by the SHS Committee of the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO in cooperation with the Ateneo de Manila University to celebrate the success of basic educational practices in the Philippines today. Dubbed as 'Schools of the people: a philosophy of education for the 21st Century', the forum provided an opportunity to present innovative teaching-learning especially from the least endowed places.

The city of Sta. Catalina, located in Negros Oriental in central Philippines, is a concrete example of the approach to basic education that takes into consideration social and human realities by associating local cultures

and population. In this town, after it was declared a 'no man's land' as a consequence of armed conflict between local insurgents and the military, people built elementary and secondary schools along with vocational schools and alternative learning systems, thus, actively contributing to offer a future to their city in less than 10 years. In Metropolitan Manila, one of the most populated Philippine urban zones, Payatas Elementary School is located beside a garbage dumping area and its students come from the slum community nearby. But this situation did not deter the teachers, the students, and their families. On the contrary, their common efforts and the teaching methods applied enabled the school

to move up from being the second lowest among 96 schools to become one of the top ten public schools in the city, within four years only.

Nestled in the mountains of Ifugao province in the north, Kiangan Central School was also presented during the Festival. Thanks to the indigenous teaching materials used to help its students do well, the school has become one of the top five ranking schools in the country, from a dismal below 50 per cent performance rating in school year 2002-2003. ¶

For more information, please contact: Rainier A. Ibana, Director, Philosophy Department, Ateneo de Manila University, ribana@ateneo.edu, tel.: +632 426 6001

Social and human sciences assess health education programme

An assessment of public school textbooks was conducted for the Social and Human Sciences Committee of UNACOM to assist the Department of Education in making informed decisions and choices in textbook selection for the basic Health Education Curriculum. A study, using quantitative and qualitative approaches, has been conducted in different stages. In 2002, a conceptual analysis of the Basic Education Curriculum and the Health and Science components of English textbooks and Teachers' Manuals, used health instruction content of areas such as environmental health; injury prevention and safety or even nutrition. The recommendations of the American Association for Health Education have also been used. A round table discussion has brought

together experts in medical anthropology and indigenous medicine, cognitive psychologists, social science and science experts, school health educators, and officials of the Department of Education. It also assessed instructional and other materials based on various criteria: accuracy, appropriateness, balance, comprehensiveness, organization and presentation among others. The review found that most of the books have a logical organization and demonstrate a deliberate focus on relevant science and health issues, specifically on nutrition and population. There were also significant omissions, such as the development of life skills and discussion of the health rights of children. There was also inadequate treatment of consumer health, substance use and abuse, and personal health.

As a stop-gap measure, the research team provided the Department of Health with teaching notes on the inadequacies, errors, and omissions, with their corresponding corrections and additions. The measure also was to stimulate the cycle of learning for all stakeholders – students, teachers, supervisors, and social administrators. It is hoped that it will foster a culture of quality at all levels of the teaching profession. ¶

For more information, please contact: Jaime Galvez-Tan, Head, National Institute of Health, jgalveztan@yahoo.com, tel.: +632 9297797

The Health Curriculum in Philippine Basic Education
J. Galvez Z. Tan, (editor)
116 pp., UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines and National Institute of Health Manila University of the Philippines, 2005.
ISBN 971-8520-11-2



© Michael Larson / U.S. Navy photo

What lessons did you learn from participating in projects of the Social and Human Sciences Committee of the Philippine National Commission?

.....
DR FLORANGEL ROSARIO BRAID, former Head and now senior adviser of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, Chair of UNACOM Communication Sector

'My staff at the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication was involved with several SHS Committee projects, especially the workshops on integrating social and human sciences in basic educational materials for primary and secondary school curriculum. These workshops were highly commended, and while there has been no formal evaluation of their impact, there is a clear evidence that they raised awareness about the importance of education values, teachers' training, and the need to improve criteria for evaluating educational materials such as books and other publications.' ¶

71

is life expectancy at birth for the 84.6 million Filipinos in the 2005 census (UNDP).

Social and Human Sciences to improve learning process

The SHS Committee is committed to quality social science education. In collaboration with the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC), it has updated the entry point for social and human sciences in the national curriculum for elementary and secondary students, particularly the subject area of social studies. In 2000, a first study on this theme conducted by independent social and human sciences researchers noted the absence of a clear, coherent, and rational conceptual framework to guide its scope and sequence. Two years later, the PSSC published a document proposing to use important social and human sciences concepts to improve learning content and processes in social sciences. This document is based on the results of the previous study and is strongly influenced by UNESCO's Education for All and Millennium Development Goals. Directed to teachers and textbook writers, this document explicitly supports the idea

of integrating and converging the different social sciences and linking the sciences and the humanities. This proposed conceptual framework requires continuing advocacy. Among the advocacy activities was a two-day workshop for selected social science textbook publishers, writers, editors and book designers, social science supervisors, and curriculum planners of the Department of Education and the private sector held in August 2004. During this Forum organized by the SHS Committee and the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC), dialogue among participants continued to highlight the importance of the proposed framework towards a more holistic social science education. This framework undergoes continuing enrichment with inputs from numerous social and human sciences scientists and experts with whom the Commission collaborates, as well as results of the projects implemented by the SHS Committee.

Recently, a new advocacy workshop was organized with the National College of Public Administration and Governance of the University of the Philippines (UP). ¶

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felicestamaria@yahoo.com, tel.: +632 4344957

The Social and Human Sciences in Philippine Basic Education
 Volume 1
 F. H. Hornedo, V. A. Miralao, F. P. Sta. Maria, eds.
 188 pp., UNACOM, 2000. ISBN 971-8514-15-5

Using Important Concepts in Social and Human Sciences to Improve Learning
 Content and Processes in Social Studies
 Volume 1
 F. H. Hornedo, V. A. Miralao, F. P. Sta. Maria, eds.
 212p., PSSC / UNACOM, 2002. ISBN 971-8514-21-X

The Philippine Social Science Council: a major partner

The SHS Committee of the Philippine National Commission for UNESCO and the Philippine Social Science Council (PSSC) have been joining efforts for many years to promote the use of social and human sciences at every level. This partnership emerged from the proximity of the concerns and activities of the two institutions. Founded in 1968, the PSSC aims to promote the development of social sciences and enhance the use of social science knowledge and expertise in public policy-making. It is a private, non-profit organization of around 50 experts

representing professional social science associations in the Philippines. The Council has been a partner of the SHS Committee in implementing projects, particularly those pursued under UNESCO's MOST Programme for the 'Management of Social Transformations'. Foremost of these projects was the establishment of the Philippine Migration Research Network (PMRN) in 1996. A second involvement of the SHS Committee and PSSC in a MOST activity was in the comparative case study on migration research and migration policy-making in Australia, the Philippines and Thailand. This is part

of a project on tracing the interface between social research and social action and policy-making. But the other joint project of the SHS Committee and PSSC on reviewing the social and human sciences content of basic education in the Philippines is probably one of the most outstanding results of this partnership. ¶

Virginia Miralao, Executive Director, Philippine Social Science Council, v.a.miralao@pssc.org.ph, tel.: +362 929 2671 Website: www.pssc.org.ph

Further reading



In De Olde Worlde: Views of Filipino Migrants in Europe
F. M. Hoegsholm (Editor)
420 pp., UNESCO MOST/PMRN/PSSC, 2007.
ISBN 978-971-8514-29-0

The Philippines as Home: Settlers and Sojourners in the Country
Maruja M. B. Asis. (Editor)
200 pp., UNESCO MOST/PMRN/PSSC, 2001
ISBN 971-8514-19-8

Exploring transnational communities in the Philippines
V. A. Miralao and L. P. Makil (Editors)
212 pp., UNESCO MOST/PMRN/PSSC, 2003.
ISBN 971-8514-26-0



Filipinos in Global Migrations: at Home in the world?
F. V. Aguilar Jr (Editor)
451 pp., UNESCO MOST/PMRN/PSSC, 2002.
ISBN 971-8514-20-1



Filipino Workers on the move: trends, dilemmas and Policy Options
B. V. Cariño. (Editor)
200 pp., UNESCO MOST/PMRN/PSSC, 2001.
ISBN 971-8514-14-7



Filipino Youth in Transition – Vol.1: a Survey of Urban Senior High School Students
J. Natividad (Editor)
155 pp., PSSC/UNACOM SHS Committee, 2004
ISBN 971-8514-24-4

Philippine Migration Studies: an Annotated Bibliography
A. E. Perez and C. P. Patacsil. (Editors)
UNESCO MOST/PMRN/PSSC, 1998.
ISBN 971-8514-13-9



Filipino Youth in Special High Schools-Vol.2 : A Survey of Senior Students at the Philippine Science High School, Philippine High School for the Arts and OB Montessori High School
V. A. Miralao
117 pp., PSSC/UNACOM SHS Committee, 2004.
ISBN 971-8514-25-2

Filipino Diaspora: Demography Social Networks, Empowerment and Culture
M. Tsuda
451 pp., UNESCO MOST/PMRN/PSSC, 2002.
ISBN 971-8514-22-8

TOOLS

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



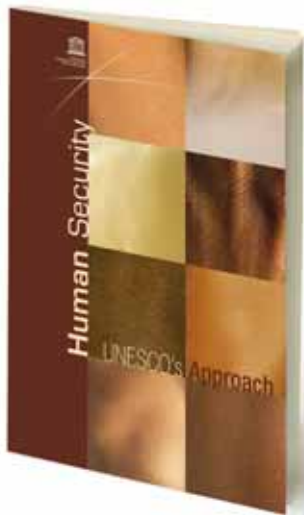
the 200 States existing in the world today, 181 have a Parliament. ¶

Guide de la pratique parlementaire
24 pp., UNESCO/IPU, 2003.
ISBN 92-9142-174-X

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

For more information, please contact:
ncp.pts@unesco.org,
tel. +33 1 45 68 18 67

Human Security viewed by UNESCO



Following the recommendations of the intersectoral working group on human security created on the initiative of the Director-General of UNESCO in 2006, the English version of a publication on UNESCO's strategy regarding this issue should be available in January 2008 with a French version to follow soon after.

The long-awaited *UNESCO's approach to human security* comes at a critical period for the concept of human security, which appeared in the first half of the 1990's in the UNDP Human Development Report 'New dimensions of human security'.

The extension and application of this concept to different contexts and cultures remains a subject of intensive discussions, as seen during the various international and regional meetings held by UNESCO since 2001. These meetings have brought to light the points of universal agreement, but also the differences between regional and cultural approaches to understanding the challenges and priorities in respect of the concept of human security.

Comparing the recommendations coming from these meetings, this publication stresses the evolving and flexible dimension of the concept of human security. The book also provides a retrospective insight on the activities conducted in this area by UNESCO, and summarizes the current projects ranging from education for all to gender equality, good governance and the normative framework of human rights.

Above all, this study presents for the first time the survey on human security developed and distributed all over the world by the Human Security, Democracy and Philosophy Section of UNESCO. This review, compiling the enlightening comments of numerous experts, students and members of the International Network for Human Security, goes beyond presenting opinions and proposes concrete strategies for action. In sum, *UNESCO's approach to human security* opens an absolutely necessary discussion on the emerging challenges and the windows of opportunity for actions for the Organization which at the moment is engaged in promoting intersectorality and interdisciplinarity, as well as the exploration of social and ethical questions.

Each chapter of the book highlights the interconnections and interdependences between human security and UNESCO's fields of expertise. What are the benefits of promoting a 'human security' approach to education and endangered cultural heritage? What are the implications of the fight against poverty and the early warning systems for natural disasters that are focused on human security? What forms of participation are most effective for civil society? These are among the questions raised in the book. Among the proposed answers, some

are fairly ambitious – creating new forms of partnership, pursuing concerted and continuous advocacy efforts for the most vulnerable populations, and strengthening the links between policy makers and academic communities. These are proposals to ensure the well-being of all human beings, but especially those who are most vulnerable to the common threats to human security. ¶

For more information, please contact:
Human Security, Democracy and Philosophy Section,
peace&security@unesco.org,
 tel.: +33 (0)1 45 68 45 53

Rethinking Human Security

In addition to the publication on UNESCO's approach to human security, a volume, co-edited by UNESCO and Blackwell publishing should be available in March 2008. Also written in English, this publication entitled *Rethinking Human Security* presents 7 studies addressing major issues in their interlinkages with human security such as the human rights and human security nexus, gender aspects of human security, ethical and environmental challenges, the human security Agenda developed by the Human Security Network or even the debates on this concept within the United Nations. Throughout the diversity of themes, which reveal the complexity of a concept and its wide scope, this publication proposes to refresh and enrich the discussion on the concept of human security. ¶

For more information or to order this book:
<http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/>

Countering Human Trafficking in Lesotho and in South Africa

The UNESCO project against human trafficking in Africa has just published two additional policy papers on trafficking in Lesotho and South Africa (studies on Benin, Togo, Nigeria and Mozambique are already available). Poverty, HIV, AIDS and a lack of proper education too often pushes women and children into the arms of traffickers. The laws that are currently in place in Lesotho are inadequate and financial resources insufficient for their enforcement. The Child and Gender Protection Unit, which should play a key role in the fight against trafficking, is under-funded, under-staffed and lacks sufficient trained personnel. According to the authors, the silence surrounding the problem should be broken and it should be more often taken into consideration by the government. In South Africa, various campaigns against child trafficking have been launched since 1996. However, many challenges remain. The AIDS epidemic, the persistence of harmful cultural practices, the growth of the reach and influence of organized crime and the persistent loss of women, children and men to sexual and forced labour exploitation require concerted and constant attention in the fight against human trafficking. ¶

Human Trafficking in South Africa: Root Causes and Recommendations
 Policy paper poverty series; 14.5
 71 pp., UNESCO, 2007.
 SHS/cct/2006/pi/h/6.
 (only available in English)

Human Trafficking in Lesotho: Root Causes and Recommendations
 Policy paper poverty series; 14.6
 60 pp., UNESCO, 2007.
 SHS/cct/2006/pi/h/7.
 (only available in English)



Fight against poverty: publication of the results of 39 research projects

A voluminous publication compiling the results of 39 research projects supported by UNESCO within the framework of the Small Grants Programme on Poverty Eradication will be available in printed version early 2008 and has been on the Organization's website since late December 2007.

This study summarizes the main recommendations of each research project conducted on various themes such as culture, tradition and marginalized communities (India, Pakistan), poverty and

the rights of indigenous people (Chile, Mexico and Peru), the rights of the young population in urban peripheral areas (Panama), the impact of HIV/AIDS on the elderly poor (South Africa), the challenges of environmental protection policies, the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples (Argentina, Mexico), etc. Launched in 2004, this research programme aims at assisting certain UNESCO Member States in the elaboration of strategies and plans of action in the fight against poverty with a human rights approach. Among its beneficiaries: Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. ¶

For more information, please contact:
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tel.: +33 1 45 68 47 20

*UNESCO Small Grants Programme on Poverty Eradication
Building national capacities
for research and policy analysis
Summary of the findings and
recommendations of the selected
research projects*
332p. UNESCO, 2008.
ISBN 9 78 9231 040764
(Available only in English)

Translating human rights into law



At a time when the international community is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNESCO joins the British publisher Ashgate to produce a volume which is certain to become an invaluable resource for all who work in the area of human rights.

Derived from an international human rights legal framework, *Human Rights in Education, Science and Culture: Legal Developments and Challenges* combines the assessment of the content, scope and State obligations relating

to these rights with the analyses of challenges concerning their implementation.

The volume begins with an overview of the principles of the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights. It then turns to questions related to economic, social and cultural rights, including their justification, their application in private law and the development of indicators for measuring their implementation.

Finally, it addresses the right to education, the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, and the right to participate in cultural life, with a special emphasis on the need to further elucidate the content and the scope of application of the last two rights. ¶

To order this publication (only available in English):
www.unesco.org/publishing

Human Rights in Education, Science and Culture: Legal Developments and Challenges
Edited by Yvonne Donders
and Vladimir Volodine
336 p., UNESCO / Ashgate, 2007.
39,00 €
ISBN 978-92-3-104073-3



IJMS: Migrants settle in rural areas

Available on-line, the new issue of the *International Journal on Multicultural Societies (IJMS)*, published exclusively in English, is devoted to the integration of migrants in rural areas of the new countries of immigration in Europe. The current issue of the IJMS explores various approaches to integration and suggests that migration to rural and remote areas can counter depopulation trends that have afflicted those areas for decades, and can also contribute to the sustainability of public and private services in rural communities. Throughout the various case studies, it becomes

clear that southern Europe has seen a relatively steady stream of migrants to rural areas since the 1990s, in part connected with their relatively large, labour-intensive agricultural sector. In some northern European countries, such as Ireland and Scotland, rural areas have particularly benefited from the 2004 EU enlargement: there is increasing evidence suggesting that the majority of migrant workers from the 2004 accession States have found employment in rural areas rather than in the traditional migration centres. ¶

To read this issue in English:
www.unesco.org/shs/ijms/vol9/issue1

Youth self-assessment in South Asia

A policy paper based on the results of a UNESCO project directed at adolescents girls has just been published to share this experience with as many as possible.

The project 'Breaking the poverty cycle of women' launched in 2002 within UNESCO's intersectoral programme against extreme poverty has indeed contributed to empower these adolescents girls by providing access to the necessary knowledge to transform their lives within their community.

Lessons in self-esteem development by acquiring knowledge were also learned, thanks to the commitment of youth in the same peer group

on the follow-up and the evaluation of the project. ¶

For more information or to order this book, please contact:
ucj@unesco.org

Assessing youth empowerment through peer-group monitoring and evaluation: lessons learnt and perspectives for replication
Poverty policy paper 09.1
108 pp., UNESCO 2007.

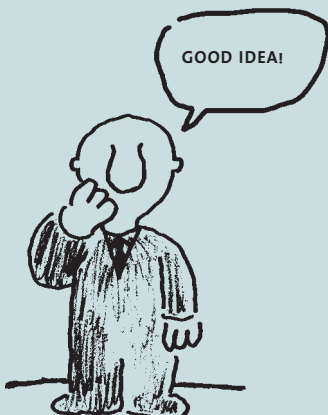
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Responses to news from the Sector for Social and Human Sciences and proposals to publish an article or a photograph on a topic relating to UNESCO's social and human sciences programme are very welcome at the following address: shs@unesco.org

GOOD IDEA!



Italian municipalities – responsible but not central

by Tiziana Caponi

Early interventions to facilitate the integration of immigrants in Italy were carried out between the late 1980s and early 1990s by municipal governments in the main cities located in the North of the country, often in collaboration with the service organizations involved in providing assistance and accommodation to the immigrants entering the country in the 1970s.

Throughout the 1990s, different models were implemented. For example, while the issue of housing has always been a central concern for the city of Milan, cultural issues such as intercultural education and cultural mediation as a means of access to social services have been a top priority for Bologna. In the case of Turin,¹ on the other hand, the municipal government has promoted a number of innovative initiatives to address the problem of unaccompanied minors.

By contrast, in Southern Italy, inertia and informal delegation to voluntary associations prevailed during the same period. Research on local policies in Naples, Caserta, Palermo and Rome has revealed the crucial role played by the network of Catholic parishes and by non-profit organizations in the provision of emergency shelter and housing for immigrants, including special humanitarian cases.

While the first two immigration laws of 1986 and 1990 did acknowledge to a certain extent the relevance of local administrations in dealing with the daily problems of immigrants, they failed to address the issue of regional differences in terms of access to social rights and

existing gaps in service provision between Northern and Southern regions and cities. Specific resources were made available for the regions in order to set up emergency shelters, but no national policy for integration at the local level was actually pursued.

The first attempt to forge a more coherent legal framework for streamlining integration measures at the local level took place in 1998. The 'National Integration Fund' was established, providing financial resources for the implementation of the 'Integration Programmes' approved by regional authorities. These had to be based on agreements reached with the municipal authorities responsible for coordinating the various organizations involved in providing services to immigrants within the municipal boundaries (charitable organizations, voluntary associations, etc.). Moreover, the 1998 law acknowledged the central role played by local administrations in dealing with categories of migrants in need of humanitarian protection, such as unaccompanied minors and victims of trafficking. A special budget was introduced to finance projects aimed at supporting the victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking.

In 2002, a centre-right immigration law, the so-called Bossi-Fini law, still in force today, assigned to the Municipalities further responsibilities in the provision of accommodation services to asylum seekers, following the positive experience of the 'National Asylum Project'. This was started in 2000

thanks to an agreement between the Home Office, the National Association of Italian Municipalities and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

In the meantime, the National Integration Fund suffered considerable cuts starting from 2003, and became part of the broader Social Fund, at the disposal of the Regions in order to finance general welfare services. Today, therefore, it is up to the regions to decide whether – and to what extent – to allocate resources specifically for policies on the integration of immigrants.

Despite these changes in the institutional framework, the role of municipalities in supporting immigrants' access to social services and their integration remains crucial. Actually, in the last five to six years, there has been increasing attention to issues relating to immigrants' participation in politics and the decision-making processes, as demonstrated by the growing number of local governments that have established immigrant advisory committees and/or special advisers representing foreign residents in the municipal councils.² Since 2001, a number of cities like Forlì, Turin, Venice, Genoa and Ancona have been putting pressure on the Italian Government to grant immigrants the right to vote.

Recognition of the right to vote at the local level for foreigners living in the country for at least 5 years is indeed one of the most salient features of the bill introduced in April 2007, aimed at reforming the centre-right law of 2001. This bill recognizes the role of local governments in dealing with the immigrant populations living in their territories, and assigns to them the full responsibility for the renewal of residence permits, which is currently done by the national headquarters of the police.

On the other hand, two new funds have been recently established: the Fund for the Social Inclusion of Immigrants, introduced by the Minister of Social Solidarity; and the Special Fund of the Home Office.

However, these funds do not specifically target municipalities: whereas the first is open to both public institutions and private/voluntary organizations, the second fund is allocated to the so-called Territorial Committees,³ established by the prefectures and charged with mobilizing all the actors dealing with migration at local level, including municipalities.

Yet this proliferation of special funds and ad hoc resources is clearly at odds with the aim of rationalizing local integration policies, which was a central goal of the centre-left immigration law of 1998. Local administrations in Italy today appear essentially responsible for emergency issues and assistance to problematic categories such as victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors and asylum seekers, while they seem to have lost much of their previous centrality in integration policy. ¶

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¹ For a review of local policies and policy-making on immigrants in Italy and in Europe more generally see: G. Zincone and T. Caponio, *The Multilevel Governance of Migration*, in R. Penninx, M. Berger and K. Kraal (eds.), *The Dynamics of International Migration and Settlement in Europe. A State of the Art*, Amsterdam, Amsterdam University Press, pp. 269-304. A longer version is also available on: www.imiscoe.org.

² See the Asgi-Fieri report available (in Italian) on www.fieri.it.

³ The Territorial Committees were established by the 1998 law with the purpose of delegating the planning of immigrant policies to a provincial level. In part, their competence was not clear and overlapped in many respects with traditional responsibilities of local – provincial and municipal – authorities. No budget was assigned to these institutions prior to 2007.



Tiziana Caponi

Born in Turin in 1970, Tiziana Caponi has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Florence and teaches political sociology at the political science department of the University of Turin. She is also a researcher at the International and European Forum of Migration Research (FIERI, Turin) and a member of the International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion European Network of Excellence (IMSCOE), where she coordinates the C9 group activities on 'multilevel governance on migration'. She is a member of the experts committee which evaluated a UNESCO Chair project on 'Urban Policies and Social Integration of Migrants' at the University of Venice. ¶



UNESCO commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On 10 December 2007, International Human Rights Day, UNESCO launched a commemorative year for the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The ceremony held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris was attended by the representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bacre Ndiaye.

On this occasion, two distinguished guests, Karel Vasak, lawyer and human rights expert and H. Gross Espiell, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Uruguay to UNESCO, recalled the drafting of the 1948 Declaration and UNESCO's contribution to its implementation. A short documentary retraced, with selected images and powerful statements, the 60-year history of the fight for promoting the fundamental rights of every human being. During the last part of the ceremony, human rights experts presented their views on the current and future challenges regarding the rights within UNESCO's core competence: the right to education; the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the right to take part in cultural life; and the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.

Camilla Crosso, General Coordinator of the Latin-American Campaign for the Right to

Education (CLADE), pointed out the need to continue a proactive defense of a rights-based approach to promoting universal education, placing at the centre of the agenda the need for free and compulsory quality education for all. Kwamé Karikari, Executive Director of the Media Foundation for West Africa, centred his presentation on the prevailing challenges of illiteracy, gender inequality, poverty, technological dependency and marginalization in the use of indigenous languages.

Virginia Bonoan Dandan, a member of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, reaffirmed her confidence in UNESCO's capacity to find solutions to the challenges that lie ahead on the path to the full realization of cultural rights, while Yvonne Donders, Deputy Director of the Amsterdam Center for International Law, applauded the initiative taken by UNESCO to elucidate the content of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.

In a message broadcast during the event, the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, emphasized that the United Nations system as a whole will undertake activities throughout the year leading up to 10 Decem-

ber 2008. UNESCO will grasp the opportunity presented by this commemoration to assess the situation with regard to the rights within UNESCO's competence, in collaboration with the Member States and their National Commissions, as well as its entire network of partners, above all the UNESCO Chairs and Clubs. Towards this end, the Social and Human Sciences Sector will organize several regional and two international conferences by the end of 2008. In addition, several regular activities will be placed under the banner of the 60th anniversary.

Moreover, in September 2008, the Organization will host in Paris the 61st NGO Annual Conference, in partnership with the United Nations Bureau of Public Information, specifically devoted to the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ¶

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Calendar

January

21-22 January

National seminar 'The Nation-State facing the challenges of regional integration in West Africa: the Case of Liberia', within the framework of UNESCO's most programme. Liberia. (bbarry@sentoo.sn)

21-23 January

Sport Contests for students in Thailand on the topic of 'Youth and Sportsmanship in Physical Education'. Surat Thani, Thailand. (s.sophia@unesco.org)

February

13-16 February

World Conference on 'Development of Cities: Democratic innovation and social transformation for inclusive cities in the 21st century'. Porto Alegre, Brazil. (marlova@unesco.org)

25-27 February

National seminar 'The Nation-State facing the challenges of regional integration in West Africa: the Case of Nigeria', within the framework of UNESCO's most programme. Nigeria. (bbarry@sentoo.sn)

March

5-6 March

South Asian Forum of Ministers of Social Development. Delhi, India. (m.faaninini@unesco.org)

8 March

Celebration of International Women's Day. Paris, France. (sg.corat@unesco.org)

21 March

Celebration of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Paris, France. (s.lazarev@unesco.org)

May

7-9 May

Training session for English-Speaking Mayors and local authorities on the UNESCO guide *Historic Districts for All* financed by Andalusia and Seville municipality at the UN-HABITAT training centre. Seville, Spain. (b.colin@unesco.org)