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The battle for peace

A better world is possible

One may not like it, but every new year is an opportunity to take stock. The mood may vary: one may look on accomplishments with satisfaction or, on the contrary, regret what could not be done or failed to work as planned. It is always, however, a time to look ahead. As it opens, each year bears the promise of renewal.

At this time last year the UNESCO Sector for Social and Human Sciences could be satisfied with the adoption by the General Conference of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. The international community had, thereby, made a further step towards putting scientific and technological progress to work for the benefit of human beings, and in particular of the most vulnerable among them.

In the meantime, months have passed and a year has come to a close. In every continent, many countries have committed themselves to carrying forward the Declaration that their own efforts helped to produce. In the process, they have no doubt become more concerned than they were about emerging ethical challenges.

Here are just some of the challenges that we currently face: equal access to health for all, the struggle against discrimination, urban development, the eradication of poverty, gender equality, international migration. Every day, every week, every month of the year, new challenges spring up and new emergencies intrude. They require responses which call for constant reinvention. For the world does not stand still, even for a moment. It is the task of the social and human sciences to register that ceaseless movement, to offer a sharper focus on the world as it is and to anticipate what it might become.

Foresight into risks and threats, on the basis of research, normative action and advancement of human rights, is the *raison d'être* of the UNESCO Sector for Social and Human Sciences. That is why we swore that in 2006 we would dare to invent.

We did so when, in February, we organized the first International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus in four cities in Argentina and Uruguay. UNESCO's initiative helped establish a new space for dialogue, exchange of experience and collective development among those who do social science and those who design and implement policies.

The path we opened in 2006 will continue to be explored in 2007. In January, an international conference will be held concurrently with the World Social Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. It will be followed by regional forums in Latin America, in Africa, in Asia and, for the first time, in the Arab States. These events will bring together men and women from research and from policy who will seek to sharpen the new tools designed to make a practical contribution to turning the world into a better, and achievable, one.

Even before they meet, I wish to thank them for their efforts. Every participant, with his or her distinctive identity, will be taking part in the renewal of what the 44th session of the International Conference on Education, meeting in Geneva in October 1994, defined as the culture of peace: "a process of non-violent social development linked to justice, human rights, democracy and development, which can be built only by the participation of individuals at all levels".

May the year 2007 find us ever more numerous in working together to build a world of peace. ¶



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Assistant Director-General for
Social and Human Sciences

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In a world undergoing great change, the “conscience” aspect of the United Nations, which has been UNESCO’s since its inception, is becoming increasingly important. Among UNESCO’s five priority programmes, **the Ethics of Science and Technology, implemented by the Organization’s Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) aims, through ethical reflection, to guide progress in the life sciences and technological development.** This ethical reflection takes into account the cultural, legal, philosophical and religious heritage of the world’s different communities. Through normative action, awareness-raising and strengthening the capacities of its Member States, UNESCO is striving to fulfil its mandate as the “lead” international organization for ethical issues.

COMEST in Africa for the 1st time

For the first time since it was established in 1998, the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) will meet on the African continent. COMEST’s 5th session is being organized in Dakar, Senegal, from 6 to 9 December 2006.

The four previous COMEST meetings were held in Norway (1999), Germany (2001), Brazil (2003) and Thailand (2005). The 5th session of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology will take place in Senegal at the beginning of December.

It will be the first time this intellectual forum meets on the African continent. COMEST was established by UNESCO to detect early signs of risk in situations associated with science and technology. This session thus offers an excellent opportunity to debate the ethical issues raised by advances in science and technology in a region of the world facing enormous economic and social challenges.

The meeting is taking place not long after the Third World Network of Scientific Organizations (TWNso) and the Group of 77’s Ministers of Science and Technology endorsed the creation of a Consortium on Science, Technology and Innovation for the South (COSTIS) whose aim is to promote South-South and North-South cooperation in science and technology.

Historical context

The 5th session of COMEST, organized in partnership with Senegal’s Ministry of Scientific Research, is thus taking place at an opportune moment for promoting science and technology in developing countries. The session hopes to establish a regional network of experts and set up a platform for future activities for the whole Africa region.

Analysis to improve use of texts

At its 175th session, UNESCO’s Executive Board invited the Director-General to analyse the ethical principles of the UNESCO

Recommendation on the Status of Scientific Researchers (1974) as well as of the ethical aspects of the Declaration on Science

and the Use of Scientific Knowledge (1999), in order to encourage their use by Member States.



Ethical issues concerning science and technology in the Africa region will be discussed, including the problem of toxic waste.

Ethical issues concerning science and technology in the Africa region will be discussed, including the problem of toxic waste that is dumped there by the ton. Indeed, one of the items on the agenda is a “Draft policy advice on environmental ethics” on that particular concern. Other topics include ethics education and the teaching of bioethics, regional consultation on science ethics and the responsibility of scientists, and the ethical dimensions of the relation between biodiversity, genetically modified organisms and biotechnology.

A Youth Forum on the ethical and social responsibilities of scientists in Africa will be held prior to the COMEST meeting. One of the questions the Forum is expected to tackle is the brain drain issue of young scientists emigrating. This 5th session of COMEST, which will be chaired by Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, also plans to host a meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to discuss the incorporation of ethics of science and technology in African public policies and to consider a “Dakar Declaration on the Ethics of Science and Technology” in order to launch a wide-ranging international debate. ¶

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Bioethics – GEObs database pilot phase online

In order to expand utilization of the Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs), in early 2007 UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector will be putting a fourth database online: ethics-related legislation and guidelines for countries worldwide.

One year after launching the GEObs system – a worldwide knowledge-sharing platform of ethics-related data freely accessible on Internet – from early 2007 a fourth database will provide a comparative, educational tool for legislation, and guidelines for countries developing similar legal instruments.

Data collection is carried out in stages. In this initial phase only data concerning Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, Hungary, Japan, Jordan and Saudi Arabia will be accessible online. In December 2005, a review committee of legal experts established a methodological framework for data collection, and decided on the first group of countries and legal experts to be

included in the research. The committee's second meeting, in September 2006, took place with legal experts from the group of eight countries to review the research material submitted thus far and to refine the methodological framework.

Research findings were compiled according to five bioethical themes: medical research with human beings, access to health care and essential medicines, genetic counselling, protection of future generations, and freedom of scientific research; drawing upon five sources of law: multilateral, regional and bilateral treaties, constitutions, domestic laws (binding instruments), guidelines (non-binding instruments), and authoritative cases; and cross-referenced for relevance with the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005).

These initial findings will be online from early 2007, when legal experts from the first group of countries will widen their research to include six additional themes: human cloning (reproductive and therapeutic), organ transplantation, bio-banking, non-discrimination in health care, protection of genetic resources, and ethics committees.

At the same time, legal experts from a second group of countries will carry out research according to the first set of five bioethical themes in the pilot phase. This process will be repeated, gradually increasing the number of countries with relevant data for the GEObs database. ¶

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To access GEObs: www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs

Intellectual property – a delicate subject

The United Nations Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics held its sixth meeting at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on 9 and 10 November 2006.

UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura opened the meeting which focused on intellectual property and bioethics. Given the complexity of these issues and the controversies to which they give rise because of economic and political implications, the Committee decided to draft a document summarizing the current status of knowledge and the issues at stake, in order to raise awareness among the Committee's Members and Associate Members, and subsequently with Member States, with a view to arousing their interest in the subject.

The Committee also discussed the issue of access to essential medicines. ¶

For more information: www.unesco.org/shs/bioethics

IBC to meet in Africa in 2007

From 20 to 22 November, over 200 participants from forty countries attended the Thirteenth Session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Discussions focused on two of the principles set out in the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted in 2005: Consent (Articles 6 and 7) and Social responsibility and health (Article 14). At the end of 2005, two working groups had been set up to study these two principles.

At the November 2006 meeting, one working group presented a draft report and the other reported on the need for the debate on bioethics and advances in science to be opened out to include the whole political and social spectrum.

Reports will be finalized prior to the next IBC session which will take place in Africa, in 2007. ¶

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The promotion of human rights as inscribed in UNESCO's Constitution is one of the main assignments of the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS). Within the United Nations reform strategy, which places human rights at the heart of all its programmes, SHS works to encourage and disseminate human rights research; to promote education in human rights; to lead action in the fight against all forms of discrimination at national, regional and international level; to encourage cooperation among all actors and networks; to promote democracy and to further reflection on new forms of violence, notably by drawing up regional plans for human security.

Expansion of network against racism

Next year, 2007, will see the official launching of the International Coalition of Cities against Racism, but it was this autumn that the two regional Coalitions for Africa and Latin America were established.

Africa

In Nairobi, Kenya, during the 4th "Africities" Summit, held from 18 to 24 September, the regional Coalition of African Cities against Racism and Discrimination was officially launched.

More than 150 people took part in the event, including no fewer than 54 mayors and deputy mayors of African cities who all signed the Declaration of Intent to join this new Coalition, and all signatories agreed to present to their respective city councils the Ten-Point Plan of Action which takes into account the specificities of each region; among those specificities is discrimination relating to HIV/AIDS (see pages 8-9).

In order to mobilize as many municipalities as possible in the fight against racism, no less than four cities have been designated "lead cities" in Africa.

Africa has 4 lead cities to mobilize all the subregions.



For West Africa, it is Bamako, in Mali, which will be the driving force for the Coalition's action against racism; Durban, South Africa, will be doing the same for Southern Africa; Kigali, in Rwanda, will be the lead city for the Central African region; and Nairobi, in Kenya, will endeavour to expand the network in East Africa. The current mayor of Cotonou, former President of Benin, had already responded positively to the invitation from the mayor of Nairobi and has since joined the Coalition.

Several representatives of civil society organizations and city networks against AIDS discrimination also took part in the launching of the International Coalition and expressed interest in joining as associate members, while members of the European Coalition – the first Coalition that UNESCO established – travelled all the way from London, United Kingdom, to restate the importance for African municipalities to sign up to the commitment to fight against racism and discrimination.

Latin America and the Caribbean

In the building that houses Mercosur Headquarters, in Montevideo, Uruguay, the Regional Coalition of Cities against Racism for Latin America and the Caribbean was launched on 25 October 2006, on the occasion of the Forum of mayors of Latin American cities, which was being held in Montevideo, prior to the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government.

Montevideo, the capital of Uruguay, has been designated "lead city" of the region. It has already been playing an active role in preparing for the launch of this coalition by hosting a meeting of experts for the elaboration of a Ten-Point Plan of Action which would reflect the



The struggle against racial intolerance is one of the priorities of the Latin American Coalition.

specificities of the region. Mayors of a large number of Latin American cities have already agreed to submit this Plan to their city councils. The following are among the priorities of the Latin American Ten-Point Plan of Action against racism and discrimination: the fight against ethnic and religious intolerance; the consequences of colonization; and discrimination towards street-children. ¶

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World AIDS Day 2006 – Faci

Nearly 40 million men, women and children in the world are living with HIV, with many countries facing an epidemic against which medical solutions are ineffective since taboos, fear and prejudice mean the number of those infected with the disease keeps rising – hence the importance of fighting against discrimination.

For twenty-five years, AIDS has had a devastating effect on human development, to the point where the international community recognizes that the disease now constitutes a major obstacle to fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals, particularly the first goal – eradication of poverty.

The latest World Health Organization (WHO) report points to a shortage of health workers in 57 countries, 36 of which are in sub-Saharan Africa, and the number of HIV infections continues to rise each year. So how can we try to reverse this trend?

A priority for African cities

Launched in September 2006, the African Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination has made the fight against HIV-related discrimination one of its top priorities. Africa is the continent the most affected by AIDS, and yet the disease is still shrouded in

silence, prejudice and fear. People who are most in need of health care and education do not benefit from these services even when they are available, exacerbating the vulnerability of the whole population to HIV infection. ¶

By multiplying our activities against prejudice, misinformation and fear – factors that contribute to the rise in numbers of people infected with the disease.

All AIDS specialists agree that the AIDS epidemic is fueled by ignorance. Within its fields of competence, UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector is therefore doing what it can to contribute to the Organization's AIDS programme and to the efforts of all those who are fighting the spread of this disease, by combating the discrimination suffered by people infected with the virus.

Survey in Russia

Thus, SHS is striving to promote human rights and to target the structural causes of people's vulnerability. In close cooperation with other Specialized Agencies of the United Nations system and civil society actors, several projects have been implemented and have already contributed to and continue to strengthen the development of both local and national responses to HIV and AIDS through promotion of the rights of the most vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, young people, people living in poverty, migrant workers and sex workers.

In one way or another, all these projects help face reality, through fostering the development and implementation of better strategies. The project carried out by the UNESCO Moscow Office is a good example. It targeted the sensitive issue of pregnancy and HIV-positive women. Together with UNFPA, and a regional public organization "Community of People Living with HIV/AIDS", experts carried out a survey and analysed public opinion on the reproductive rights of women living with HIV/AIDS in the Russian Federation.

Countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia are now facing the grim reality of an expanding epidemic. In this region of the world an estimated 220,000 people were



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newly infected with HIV in 2005, bringing to 1.5 million the number of people living with HIV – a 20% increase in less than a decade. *

In the Russian Federation, which has the biggest AIDS epidemic in the whole of Europe, especially alarming is the growing number of women infected: in 2005 an estimated 420,000 women aged 15 years and above were living with HIV, which represents 40% of the infected population. A large majority of these women are between 18 and 30 years of age – the most favourable age for reproduction.

The survey carried out by the Moscow Office showed that the general public's →

* UNAIDS, 2006 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic.

ng reality



© UNAIDS / G. Piazzi



1. **Valeria, HIV-positive, at home with her daughter in the Ukraine.**

2. **In Kenya, NGO *Kicosehp* activists on their way to talk to young people.**

3. **In India, this mother did not reject her son when he told her he was HIV-positive.**

4. **According to UNAIDS, only 9% of HIV-positive pregnant women benefit from antiretroviral drugs.**



© UNAIDS / G. O'Hanlon

working the streets to get training in baking, embroidery, tourism-related enterprises and hairstyling, thus offering them an alternative way of gaining a living and a far less risky future; six micro-businesses were thus launched in 2006.

In June, the UNESCO Beijing Office launched a project at Tsinghua University. This project aims to train local officials in five pilot sites in China and Mongolia, on the most effective ways of delivering HIV/AIDS prevention education to migrants and ethnic minorities in both countries, while developing anti-discriminatory attitudes among the general public of the host countries. ¶

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➔ attitude to HIV-positive women is far from ideal: more than half thought that HIV-positive women should be prohibited from giving birth. Such a negative attitude has serious consequences and shows ignorance about the disease, such as the widespread belief that HIV-positive women could not give birth to a healthy child. And yet, according to WHO, a combination of appropriate treatment during and after pregnancy as well as a responsible attitude towards pregnancy decrease the chances of mother-to-child transmission to almost zero.

That said, as this survey also reveals, HIV-positive women themselves are often unaware of issues concerning pregnancy and of their rights, hence the need for

reliable information to be made available. To help women and the general public be better informed, the Moscow Office has just published the findings of this survey as well as a brochure which gives basic information on HIV infection, pregnancy, the rights of HIV-positive women and the existing legal mechanisms for protecting those rights.

Training in Burundi and China

Within the framework of these activities for the promotion of human rights, the UNESCO Office in Bujumbura has also just completed a project to combat prejudice. Carried out in the Ngozi region – one of the most densely populated in Burundi – this initiative enabled around fifty young girls

Mobilization of youth in Latin America

As part of the Youth Initiative on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights programme that UNESCO is working on with UNAIDS, the UNESCO Office in Lima will launch in 2007 six projects in Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Peru. Via public

performances, arts education workshops, the use of ICTs and media, young people taking part in these projects will help to dispel the misconceptions among their peers and the general public about HIV-positive people living in their communities. ¶

Islamic feminism? an instructive debate in Paris



© D. Roger / UNESCO

Many muslim women claim the right to *ijtihad* (independent reasoning, religious interpretation).

the words of the speakers, some of whom were pioneers of Islamic Feminism, and a representative of the Malaysian group “Sisters in Islam”, which launched a ten-year study of the Koran and Islamic law from a feminist perspective. Two French scholars enhanced the discussion with their comparative and historical perspectives on women and religion.

The seminar drew attention to the work of an increasing number of Islamic feminists from across the globe and their involvement in social change, particularly in connection with the struggle against patriarchy and gender inequality, which is carried out from within a Muslim framework but is part of the global women’s rights movement.

Those attending the seminar learned that Islamic feminists claim the right to *ijtihad* (independent reasoning, religious interpretation) along with the right to take part in or even to lead prayers. This trend is not accepted by all within the Muslim community, but it is part of a larger reform movement within Islam, and it may be seen as part of global feminism.

However, in order to contribute to such social transformation, Islamic feminists will need to move beyond textual analysis to engage more directly with the social and political questions facing their countries and the world. ¶

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A seminar organized in September at UNESCO Headquarters, gave the floor to feminists involved in social change from within a Muslim framework and as part of the global women’s rights movement.

Over the past few years, the status of women in the Muslim world has been the subject of considerable study. Less known or discussed is the discourse and emerging movement known as “Islamic feminism”, which is scorned by some people who refuse to accept the notion that feminism and Islam are compatible.

With a view to helping people see society as it really is, the French NGO *Commission Islam et Laïcité* together with UNESCO’s Social and Human Sciences Sector co-organized the seminar: “What is Islamic Feminism?” at UNESCO on 18 and 19 September 2006.

Over the two-day seminar, an answer to this question began to emerge through

TOOLS

Human Rights at the United Nations

A study on the process of mainstreaming human rights into the programmes of the United Nations Specialized Agencies, highlighting the progress made as well as the challenges still to be overcome, has just been published in English and French. The study, by André

Frankovitz of the Human Rights Council of Australia, was received in May 2005, but up to now had only been available on the SHS website. ¶

To download the study: www.unesco.org/shs/humanrights/promotion
To order a copy, please contact:
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TOOLS

2006 Guide to international treaties

UNESCO’s Division of Human Rights and the Struggle against Discrimination has just published the annual status report of ratifications, accessions and successions to the main universal and regional treaties relating to human rights. This bilingual English-French publication provides readers with an accurate picture, as at 31 May 2006, of the state of the world with regard to human rights.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted two principal international instruments on human rights on 10 December 1966, and this

publication shows how the whole ratification process of normative instruments evolves. The year 2006 is a double anniversary – the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) as well as the 30th anniversary of their entry into force. Neither the ICCPR nor the ICESCR has yet been universally ratified. ¶

To order this publication please contact:
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To download the brochure: www.unesco.org/shs



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Promotion of human rights in the media: UNESCO produces a series of 7 films

In 2006, several UNESCO films won international film festival awards. The films, part of a series called “Revisiting Public Service Television”, were the product of an intersectoral project aiming to contribute to the development of human rights, peace, tolerance and the fight against discrimination. (Project ICT@PSB)

To order the DVD of the series, please contact: creativecontent@unesco.org



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The Children of Darfur ★★★

This film received awards from the 25th Documentary Grand Prix at the 2006 Monte Carlo TV Festival, and the International TV3 Actual Award in Barcelona. “The Children of Darfur” by Danish anthropologist Camilla Nielsson, shows the refugee camps in Darfur through the eyes of the children who live there. In the support centres throughout Darfur, the camera follows the children as they give a very moving account of their daily lives; the narrative of this 24-minute documentary is punctuated by the children’s drawings, like cries for help. The film received recognition as one of the best productions in 2006 in the field of investigative journalism.

Author: Camilla Nielsson
Genre: Documentary / **Country:** Denmark



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Village nomade ★★★

URTI 2005 Bronze Medal
In the middle of an African desert landscape, a man is standing, his face serious. He looks at the dead palm trees and an abandoned well: the remains of a village. The man is Zeinami Maltam Boukar, a peasant from the remote region of Manga. His village, Gonidi, is in danger of disappearing, like most of the surrounding villages. The desert is encroaching, moving nearer every day. With the other villagers, he tries to prevent the sand from coming any nearer but soon there is nothing left, not even a palm branch to stop the relentless advance of the desert.

Author: Mahaman Souleymane
Genre: Documentary / **Country:** Niger



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Cualquier Ciudad

The district of Cazuca, located to the south-west of Bogotá, represents diversity. From all over the country people end up there for a variety of reasons, but all have been damaged by the lack of opportunities and the trauma of war. Despite the social unrest, the young people of Cazuca try to move ahead, and try to find a way of expressing themselves; but so many friends and others around them are murdered that any outside activities are too dangerous and so they become prisoners in their own home.

Author: John Jairo de los Rios Echeverri
Genre: Documentary / **Country:** Colombia



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The Box

All too often people all over the world, particularly those from developing countries, are afraid to reach out to different cultures, fearing that contact with people radically different from themselves will result in the dilution of their customs and traditions. Those who make the effort to reach out are, in fact, “leaving the box”. That is the tale of this cartoon made by a team who regularly work with the World Wildlife Fund (wwf).

Author: Sumaira Latif and Co.
Genre: Cartoon / **Country:** Pakistan



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Meena

Rohan, 12 years old, has skipped school. He hates homework and has not done it today. He is fed up with being told what to do by everyone so he decides to take a break. In the street he meets a boy and his sister, Meena, who is a ragpicker. Through Meena, Rohan discovers there is another world far removed from his own. Meena’s eagerness to learn to read and write makes Rohan appreciate the worth of his own education.

Author: Avinash Roy and Jasmine Kaur
Genre: Fiction / **Country:** India

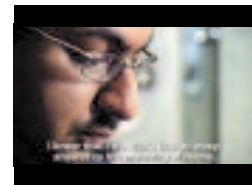


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Mothers on Wheels

Monica became ill with poliomyelitis at the age of seven, during one of the national epidemics in 1957. Despite being confined to a wheelchair and having great difficulty in moving her arms and legs, Monica became an English teacher, giving private lessons at home. Almost in defiance of her physical limitations and the serious risks involved, she became a mother at the age of 39. Her husband, father of their child, made this documentary.

Author: Mario Piazza
Genre: Documentary / **Country:** Argentina



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The place I call home ★★★

Al Jazeera Documentary Film Festival
Randa wants to go to Canada, but is afraid of a possible identity crisis for her four-year-old son after watching a film about Arabs in New York, post-9/11. Mohamed failed to become a famous singer in Cairo and wants to try to start afresh in Australia. Darah was brought up in Canada but her mother insisted she return to Egypt. Throughout the film, there is the question: where is the place called home?

2005 Golden Award
Author: Tamer Ezzat
Genre: Documentary / **Country:** Egypt

Alain Caillé: the world and the social

The fact that several thousand community activists, researchers and decision-makers will be gathering in Nairobi, Kenya, from 20 to 25 January 2007, to take part in the seventh World Social Forum (wsf) to reaffirm that “another world is possible”, led *SHS Views* to interview French economist and sociologist, Alain Caillé, on whether he thought the present state of the world was conducive to such a possibility.

Since 2001, when it was first held in Brazil, the wsf has opened up a space for global dialogue on the concept: “another world is possible”, but no specific views seem to emerge. Are you under the same impression?

I think, in fact, that the whole concept is slipping and gradually losing its impact. The wsf is a space that tries to build common ground. It has reopened spheres of possibility and helped ideas and experiences to become globalized such as participatory economy, micro-credit, solidarity economy, fair trade, etc. But the coexistence of several “other worlds” does not of itself produce anything really new in the field of thought or even of action.

We are still just placing separate ideas alongside each other. Everyone goes to the Forum armed with scraps of great discourses of the past – Marxist, Christian, humanist, and so on – or experiences of an alternative economy that do not offer a global economic alternative. Paradoxically, it is very difficult to get all that across and to combine it into a coherent whole because of the overriding concern to reach consensus. That kind of objective is an untenable position as all the elements of ideological discourse refer to final values that are very different and as such cannot be added together. And so it becomes difficult to describe the world as we would like it to be other than by turning back to the old ideals.

That overriding concern to reach consensus, as was the case with political systems in the past, ends in declarations of principle which are mere pious hopes and tend to put a stop to constructive thinking.

Interview



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How would you suggest we move away from the endless declarations of principle that are never applied, and merely add to a feeling of ineffectiveness and inevitability?

It seems to me we need to invent a formula that would keep structured *dissensus* alive rather than weak *consensus*. It is simply not realistic to fight the present state of the world by replicating its basic features, and particularly not with the kind of networking structures that disclaim all power issues, endorse fragmentation of the world and then reproduce it.

Those in search of “another world” do not have the critical tools to come to terms with the current social trend towards fragmentation as a general social form. Indeed, apart from the capitalist takeover of our societies, there is a general tendency to reduce everything to fragments – fragments of knowledge, fragments of groups, fragments of topics, etc. – that is what seems to me to be the problem.

Among the “consensus” terms is the very revealing example of “governance”. It is a remarkable kind of verbal noun that suggests that everyone and no one governs at the same time. This entails an aspiration to a form of power that denies itself as power, and where everything is permanently dismissible. Then there is the area of decision-making, which is also fragmented at several different levels: local, regional, federal, national, etc. Surely it is not necessary to have quite so many. Our societies are all tending towards fragmentation. If we accept that, then we say goodbye to any possibility of a social bond and, hence, of building a collective structure. →

sciences have become fragmented

→ In the totalitarian regimes of the twentieth century, the aim was to make everything communal. Individualism was reviled and to be stamped out at all costs. Now today, we have the opposite situation: it is collectivism that is reviled. We are under an obligation to disconnect. That is dangerous.

How can we move from a culture of fragmentation to one of renewed connection without seeking consensus, and from a culture of war to one of peace?

There is no magic formula. As soon as we realize there is fragmentation, there are but two possible attitudes to take. One, we shout out “Unite! Unite!” – in my view that seems pretty pointless; or two, we could recognize and accept that a degree of conflict is inevitable and deliberately stage conflict by creating a space where all viewpoints can be debated.

How can we hope to move from war to peace apart from the total destruction of the warring factions? By combining two elements: first of all, the emergence of a situation that makes it possible to gamble on mutual trust. Next, the existence and the intervention of one or several figures sufficiently endowed with historical weight and symbolic power to interpret and driven forward the gamble on trust. And that is where UNESCO could have a role to play: by modifying the terms and conditions of thinking and by providing a space where such personalities might emerge.

➔ BIOGRAPHY

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Would promoting the interface between social science research and policy development help prepare the ground for the climate of trust you mention?

On the face of it, a better understanding between the social sciences and political decision-making is indeed desirable but that in itself is not enough to move forward. We have to face facts. There is a lack of a common language, and the contemporary social sciences are no exception. They too take the form of fragmented knowledge. We are in precisely the same position as the totalitarian regimes were when everything was over-encoded. But nowadays, each of the many different practices is self-referential, mute, incapable of explaining itself and under-encoded. It is exactly the same with the social sciences which should be explaining things clearly. Everything is becoming “technicized” – words and action – rather in the way that general medical practice is being superseded by specialists.

The paradox is that we are far cleverer and more intelligent than before. When it comes to economics, ethnology, or any of the social science fields, we have made great analytical and empirical advances. And yet in the established world of academia there is a steep decline in general intelligence, a growing incapacity to bring out true interdisciplinarity and to think globally. The same goes for the new forms of mobilization we were talking about earlier. They have adapted to the current state of the world. They mobilize elementary particles without ever managing to magnetize them. And since we can no longer manage to create that common ground, we have political decay.

How can the gift experience, as studied by Marcel Mauss, be beneficial for today's world?

It can often be difficult to find the right words to express an idea. This is particularly true of giving, which is frequently associated with charity, absence of payment, and incongruous idealism. The study of giving in primitive societies provides a totally different picture. The whole essence of the gift lies in the search for an alliance that remains conflictual because giving is a process that does not remove conflict but, on the contrary, contains it – in all senses of the word. It is a social bonding mechanism. Giving and politics share the same logic. The modern form of the gift principle is simple the spirit of democracy. If we share the human experience of “giving-receiving-giving back”, then we strengthen positive mutual indebtedness and, hence, trust. It is a positive cycle: more cooperation equals more production. ¶

Interview by **Cathy Bruno-Capvert**

The fight for peace

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IS DEMOCRACY THE ONLY MODEL FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION?

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For more information on the Social and Human Sciences Sector, and in particular the initiatives in the fields of human rights, peace and democracy, please consult the website:
www.unesco.org/human_rights

Building peace for the world is a struggle. UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) renews that fight each day in striving to build a culture of peace.

From human rights education to conflict prevention, through the Organization's activities for the promotion of democracy and local governance, UNESCO's fight for peace is laid down in the preamble to its Constitution: "building the defences of peace in the minds of men". SHS also attacks the root causes of hatred by trying to bring together social science research findings with policy makers so as to contribute to the development of public policies better suited to today's world.

Although it would have been pertinent to feature the full range of SHS activities in this dossier on peace, only a few programmes are highlighted here, to open up new lines of reflection for 2007 to become a year in the service of peace.

What culture of peace in a world at war?

After the Second World War came the cold war with two opposing blocs of clearly identified adversaries. Today's threats are blurred in comparison. There is a feeling of insecurity everywhere. And yet the architects of peace have still not given up. Far from it. They are pondering how to move away from violence and war to a new culture of peace.

21 September 2006. The "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World" began five years ago and the International Day of Peace has been celebrated for twenty-five years. This year, to mark the Day and as part of the award ceremony for the 2006 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education, the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS), organized a round table on "Culture of peace today", at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

For several prominent peace scholars and activists, the debate provided an opportunity to question UNESCO's very mission and also the meaning of their own engagement in the fight for peace. Indeed, how can we cultivate a culture of peace in a world fraught with conflict and violence?

Respecting diversity

With the fall of the Berlin Wall, the political economist, Fukuyama, announced "the end of history". But the threats have not receded – quite the reverse. In many regions of the world the flames of war are fanned by winds of xenophobia that were thought to have died down. Threats of different kinds are everywhere; many are hidden.

Given this context, it is more important than ever before to celebrate cultural diversity and encourage intercultural dialogue. That was the



Children playing in a street in Grozny, but it could be anywhere.

key message of Judge Christopher Gregory Weeramantry of Sri Lanka, laureate of the 2006 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education, when he spoke of the cultural and religious differences that reflect the rich diversity of humankind, and further declared that there has to be recognition and respect for this diversity, otherwise there can be no peace.

Professor Mohammed Arkoun, member of the International Jury for the 2006 Prize, who took part in the round table discussions, held →

Development helps curb juvenile violence in Central America

UNESCO set up an intersectoral working group in 2005, to meet the repeated demands of countries in the Central American Integration System (SICA), who are confronted with increasing violence on the part of organized gangs of young people.

With funding from Japan, the intersectoral working group has developed various projects on "Youth development and prevention of violence" in coordination

with the authorities of the countries concerned and the UNESCO Field Offices. The first project – to last for two years – was launched in El Salvador in September 2006; a second project, for Nicaragua, is in the process of being finalized; a third project, for Guatemala, is hoping to receive funding from the Italian Government; and a fourth project, this time for Honduras, should be finalized by 2007.

UNESCO is studying the possibility of carrying out subregional activities for the coordination of youth policies, including a Forum of Central American Youth Ministers, in cooperation with UNDP and subregional coordination agencies. ¶

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→ that it was essential to maintain interreligious and intercultural dialogues in order to eliminate any risk of misunderstanding or prejudice; he gave the example of the controversy and violence that erupted following a recent university lecture given by Pope Benedict xvi. On the occasion of the award ceremony for the Prize, the Director-General of UNESCO voiced the same opinion when he stressed the fact that “peace education is the most urgent need of the hour if the world is to be saved from violence and war”, and again, a few days later when he addressed the Organization’s Executive Board: “the prevention and resolution of many conflicts and crises hinge on a better knowledge and understanding of the culture, values and religion of the Other”.



Given the utmost importance of this concern, dialogue among civilizations is central to UNESCO’s Medium-Term Strategy proposal for 2008-2013. This same concern is also central to SHS activities: a year after the Sector organized the meeting “Democracy and Social Justice”, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, SHS organized an “Interregional Philosophical Dialogue: Asia and the Arab World” on 18 November in Rabat, Morocco, as one of this year’s World Philosophy Day events.

Questioning current policies

Respect for the culture of the Other, for democracy and social justice – all these words, ideas and conditions for building a world of peace, were echoed in the round table discussions of 21 September last, bringing to mind Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s words on sustainable peace and human security when he said “security can no longer be narrowly defined as the

absence of armed conflict, be it between or within States”.¹ The same idea threads through the minds of all these speakers, and through UNESCO as well: peace is not merely absence of war, there has to be human security for people to live without the constant fear of violence.

The Greek philosophers and philosophers of the Enlightenment already knew this. Thomas Hobbes declared “the nature of war consisteth not in actual fighting; but in the known disposition thereto, during all the time there is no assurance to the contrary. All other time is peace. (...) [In time of war] there is continual fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short”.²

QUESTION //////////////// How can we change from a culture of war and violence to one of peace? //////////////////////////////////////

TADATOSHI AKIBA, MAYOR, THE CITY OF HIROSHIMA //////////////////////////////////

“The essential difference between the culture of war and culture of peace lies in the approach to conflict. In the war culture, conflict initially leads to dialogue and negotiation, but if one side believes total victory is possible through force, or becomes desperate, dialogue will give way to violence. In the peace culture, conflict also leads to dialogue and negotiation, which continue until a mutually satisfactory resolution is found. A fundamental difference between these two cultures is respect for all life. For the hibakusha, the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the overriding imperative is ‘no one should ever suffer as we did.’ The pursuit of this goal led logically to the rejection of nuclear weapons, which led, in turn, to rejection of war and even animosity, the cause and result of war. To follow the path of reconciliation, one must deliberately reject the path of animosity. Thus, the most important attitudinal step in shifting to a culture of peace is absolutely rejecting animosity and war. The most obvious practical step is to stop electing warmongers.” //////////////////////////////////////

On 21 September 2006, some round table participants commented that we appear to be living in a time of war: there are many factors today that contribute to this fear and constant threat of a violent death – endemic poverty, systematic violations of human rights, structural inequalities, large-scale displacement of populations, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and environmental disasters. →

1. Official records of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, Supplement No. 1 (A/55/1) of 30 August 2000.
2. Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, 1651, Chapter XIII.



Sport in the service of peace, in Mali

As part of International Peace Day celebrations, UNESCO’s Bamako Office organized from 19 to 21 September, the first Youth Peace Games, in collaboration with Mali’s Olympic Committee, the American Embassy in Mali, and three NGOs: International Medalist Association, Right to Play and Peace-Youth Initiative. The aim of the sports event was to reach out to young people and promote tolerance,

fair play, non-violence, solidarity and peace. Six hundred boys and girls from different regions of Mali joined 3000 military personnel at the Modibo Keita stadium for a basketball tournament, athletics competitions and an 8 km. cross-country run, with parachuting demonstrations, Tae Kwan Do, wrestling and sports for the disabled. Owing to the great success of this year’s

initiative there are already plans for the 2007 event to include the neighbouring countries of Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Niger and Senegal. ¶

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Festival for peace in Brazil

In Brazil, several events were organized by the UNESCO Office in Brasilia to celebrate the International Day of Peace.

In the state of Santa Catarina, from 1 to 6 September, the World Peace Festival with the University of Peace (UNIPAZ) and the Federal University of Santa Catarina, gathered together people and institutions to share and develop a culture of peace through various activities in the fields of science, philosophy, religious traditions and the arts.

On 21 September, in São Paulo, a round table was held on the consequences of violence for public health – a particularly pertinent

subject in today's Brazil, where limited public health resources can no longer cover the rising costs of treating victims of violence.

The prevention of violence is far more efficient and cheaper than treating the effects of violence. ¶

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TOOLS

An experiment worth sharing

In “Days for Peace – keeping State schools open at weekends for the community”, Brazilian journalist Gabriela Athias has published the experiences of eight schools participating in a programme that offers social inclusion and an alternative to violence. Keeping schools open at weekends redefines

the school as a place of learning and as a vector for positive change in the community. Since the programme first began in 2003, there has been a significant decline in violence in these schools as well as in the surrounding neighbourhoods. ¶



→ In fact, the multifaceted nature of human security and all who strive to promote a culture of peace are obliged to adopt policies that address all of these interdisciplinary challenges, particularly poverty. For almost half of the world's population poverty is the main obstacle to the realization of dignity and basic human rights. Poverty is both the cause and expression of structural violence that entraps some societies within a conflict or brings others close to the brink.

According to participants in the round table, the cornerstone for building the reality of peace for tomorrow is the eradication of poverty – an opinion which, a few days later, was further reinforced with the award of the 2006 Nobel Prize for Peace to Mohammad Yunus and his creation – the Grameen Bank – which empowers poor people by providing them with financial loans even though they have no collateral, thus helping them to become agents of their own development.

Giving power to women

In a witty yet insightful twist to the famous first sentence of the preamble to UNESCO's Constitution, Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General for UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector, who chaired the round table discussions on 21 September, remarked: “‘Since wars began in the minds of men’, give power to the women!”

In parallel with SHS action on intercultural dialogue and the development of public policies in line with today's changing world, the Sector also endeavours to promote the role of women in post-conflict societies.

SHS helps set up specialized research and documentation centres like the one in Ramallah, Palestinian Territories, which was officially opened in January 2006, and the Sector also supports the participation of women in reconstruction, democratization and governance processes, as can be seen with an ongoing project in the Great Lakes region in Africa.

“Without forgiveness, there is no future” – the words of Father Leonel Narvaez Gómez, Director of the *Fundación para la reconcil-*



Burned out cars in Beirut. This scene could also be anywhere.

iación. The 2006 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education awarded a Special Mention to the Foundation for its work in Colombia on how to build a culture of peace through forgiveness and reconciliation in societies ravaged by violent conflict.

Judge Weeramantry drew the round table discussions to a close with the thought that although the twentieth century might be seen as a century of lost opportunities in terms of world peace, “the twenty-first century is a century of *last* opportunities... if we bungle this century, as we bungled the last, we will not have a twenty-second century in which to put the house in order”. His message is a challenge we have to face: “because the very survival of humanity depends on it”. ¶

Irakli Khodeli

What is human security?

Improving human security – UNESCO’s Strategic objective 5, means addressing the needs of the most vulnerable populations at subregional and regional level. Workshops such as the one organized in South-East Asia last October, have been discussing these issues.

Improving human security by better management of the environment and social change is no. 5 of UNESCO’s strategic objectives for 2002-2007. By mobilizing networks of the MOST

programme, the Organization is helping to advance research on the different dimensions of human security in order to identify new risks and threats at regional level. Through its worldwide network of peace research and training institutions, UNESCO sets out to anticipate the risks and root causes of conflict, and to take into account the needs of the most vulnerable populations at regional and subregional level.

Thus, within the framework of the 1998 partnership agreement between

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and UNESCO, a Concept Workshop on Human Security in South-East Asia was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 25 to 27 October 2006.

Chaired by Ong Keng Yong, Secretary-General of ASEAN, and Pierre Sané, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, this workshop brought together representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as several regional and international experts.

After an overview of the approach adopted by UNESCO with regard to human security, there were six presentations which laid emphasis on the priorities for human security in each of the regions of the world, addressing recommendations for public action to States and regional bodies, with further discussions concentrating on South-East Asia.

UNESCO had commissioned a study on “Promoting human Security – ethical, normative and educational frameworks in South-East Asia”; Amitav Acharya of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies in Singapore presented this concept

Hunger and social inequality foster permanent insecurity.



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paper which will be adapted to include the discussions of the Jakarta workshop before publication in 2007. ¶

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Fight inequality to bring about harmony

For some time, the Chinese Authorities have recognized the need to fight against inequality in order to achieve a “harmonious society”. It is in this context that led to the UNESCO Office in Beijing launching the “Human Security in China – a North-East Asian perspective” research project, in April 2006, which entails drawing up a status report on human security in China, defining indicators and a human security index. The first stage of this research project is a bibliographical review, which is still being

carried out. The second part of the project is the collection of empirical data, which began in July 2006. This includes on the one hand qualitative interviews with individuals and groups, and on the other hand, a quantitative survey of 3,000 people from the most vulnerable groups, such as migrant workers. Comparative research is also being carried out with researchers from Japan and the Republic of Korea. In June 2006, an international conference was organized at the University of Nankai,

in Tianjin. The conference enabled experts from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea to discuss the concept of human security and the real nature of human security in those three countries. A second international conference will be held in August 2007 to discuss the findings of the survey and the conclusions of the research project. ¶

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Is democracy the only model for conflict resolution?



The International Centre for Human Sciences in Byblos, Lebanon, was established in 1999 to coordinate UNESCO's international programme on democracy. For the past few years the Centre has been carrying out a comparative study on 15 countries; the findings shed new light on the culture-democracy nexus.

The Government of Lebanon and UNESCO established the International Centre for Human Sciences (ICHS), in one of the oldest cities of the world, Byblos, in Lebanon. The initial agreement set out the following tasks for the Byblos Centre:

- undertake, organize and promote research and training in the fields of human and social sciences;
- constitute a documentation and information centre and a specialized library;
- publish and diffuse studies and research undertaken by the Centre;
- organize each year one or several forums on the Centre's research findings;
- give priority to the constitution of research networks and encourage cooperation among them.

For some years now, the Byblos Centre has been running a worldwide network of researchers and institutions studying the status of culture in peaceful, democratic situations, and democratic modalities for conflict resolution. The research carried out comparative surveys of fifteen countries with distinct cultural groups and whose histories oscillated between periods of inter-group conflict and peaceful coexistence.

The findings shed new light on the culture-democracy nexus. In fact, many conflicts, which initially appear to be conflicts of "culture" (or ethnicity, or religion), turn out to be far more complex and rather different when they are studied in greater depth. Citizens' perceptions of those in power have a strong bearing on democratic attitudes and practices.

A matter of education

Data from Georgia confirm that minorities may well have good reason to fear the democratic majority, precisely because the minorities are more attached to tolerance and peaceful coexistence than are the majority. Socio-economic inequality also plays a role. Research carried out in the Democratic Republic of the Congo shows that differences in attitude towards democracy have no correlation with ethnic differences; but instead, the findings clearly reflect the differences in levels

of education. In South Africa, with its heavy history of apartheid, new identities are expressed in socio-economic, rather than ethnic, terms. The fifteen studies all conclude that with a higher level of education, attitudes to democracy are more positive. What is more, this causal link between education and democracy does not appear to depend on pedagogical content. Thus it appears that whatever the curricula, teaching methods or subjects taught, education produces democrats, and that different models of peaceful coexistence are all, to a greater or lesser degree, democratic.

In addition to research, the Byblos Centre is actively involved in capacity building. Every year, an Autumn School offers young researchers and doctoral students the opportunity to attend an intensive training session in areas such as peace research, conflict resolution and new approaches to international relations, and special tutorials are offered to doctoral students working on subjects that link up with the Byblos Centre programme.

The Centre is also contributing to Lebanon's post-war reconstruction efforts. It has carried out a survey on citizens' priorities; organized a workshop on restoring education; and held a seminar: "Power-sharing systems compared", a subject hotly debated in Lebanon today. ¶

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QUESTION //////////////// **How can we change from a culture of war and violence to one of peace?** //

COLIN ARCHER, SECRETARY-GENERAL, THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU //

"Francophones say 'L'argent, c'est le nerf de la guerre' – money is the sinews of war. Indeed, without the colossal investments in the apparatus of militarism, war would not have a future. Unfortunately, the subject of military spending has remained a taboo, even among development agencies and peace organizations. Annual world military spending by governments has now increased to \$1,118 billion – higher than the Cold War peak. Let us imagine the world in which such a vast treasury is used differently: to save lives, develop poor communities, employ teachers and nurses, tackle climate change, and more. To respond to this challenge, the International Peace Bureau has adopted a major programme: "Sustainable Disarmament for Sustainable Development". From a human security perspective, all weapons systems present dangers to vulnerable civilian populations. IPB's message is that wrong priorities must be changed: let's invest in the sinews of peace." ////////////////

A peacekeeper in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



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QUESTION //////////////// How can we change from a culture of war and violence to one of peace? //////////////////////////////////////

CHRISTOPHER GREGORY WEERAMANTRY, LAUREATE OF THE 2006 UNESCO PRIZE FOR PEACE EDUCATION //////////////////////////////////////

“I shall focus attention on one major hindrance to spreading the culture of peace – religious barriers, which arise from the fact that in today’s world most religions are still taught in total isolation from all others. While education in one’s religion is very important, children should be given the benefit of a basic understanding of the main outlines of other religions. Children in schools could be made aware of a few extracts each day from the major scriptures of other religions – today a few lines from the Bible, tomorrow from the Quran, the day after from the Bhagavad-Gita, and later from the Dhammapada. In all of these texts, there are beautiful passages on the fundamental human values. If we do this systematically we will eliminate one of the major causes of misunderstanding – and it is because of misunderstandings that wars eventually result. We are depriving our children of essential wisdom, which is their birthright, if we hem them in within the confines of one religion.” //////////////////////////////////////

Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong River Basin

TOOLS

Great ancient civilizations were built around rivers which nourished people, supported agriculture and facilitated trade. Could these majestic rivers be the messengers for peace and prosperity today as they cross the borders of different nations and cultures? This is the concept explored by the “Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong River Basin” project, launched in 2005 by the UNESCO Bangkok Office, in cooperation with several regional universities and the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and recently extended until 2010. The Mekong River is a unifying element for 60 million residents in six nations who use it for food, water, transport and other aspects of daily existence. The river runs through the region rich with diversity of natural

resources, biology and cultures. At the same time, the river is a means for drug trafficking, illegal migration, the exploitation of children and women, and armed conflicts. Through sports, songs and arts, the project enables youth from high schools and universities to develop awareness and express their feelings and views on the pressing issues their societies along the Mekong River are facing. Fostering the Culture of Peace among this generation is of crucial importance, since they will carry the torch of peace in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. ¶

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dvd of the project “Sowing Seeds of Peace in the Mekong River Basin” is the title of a dvd documentary presentation of peace activities which were performed by the youth of Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam during the execution of the project under the same title. The dvd is produced in two parts: the first one contains traditional music “Stream of Love”, which opens our

imagination to a world full of love and peace; the second part presents the various peace activities in each country covered by the project in the Mekong River Basin. ¶



Why prizes?

Three UNESCO Prizes under the purview of Social and Human Sciences Sector were awarded in the second half of 2006, while the Nobel Prize for Peace was awarded to a former recipient of the UNESCO Simon Bolivar Prize.

December 10 2006 will be the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). It will also be an unforgettable day for the person who will receive, because of individual commitment or in an institutional capacity, the 15th UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education.

Continue the struggle

The Prize, which has a monetary value of 10,000 us dollars, will officially recognize as an exemplary contribution the recipient's action, often over many years, to promote human rights. Once thrust into the limelight, the recipient will doubtless feel encouraged to continue the struggle, just as others will feel authorized to follow the same path. That is, perhaps, one of the purposes of honorary awards: to grant recognition of the community to encourage them to continue their work.

In 2004, the Prize was awarded to a Thai law professor who, after serving as Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography for the

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3

1. **Mohammad Yunus**, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize
2. **V. Anandasangaree**, 2006 UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and non-Violence
3. **Judge Weeramantry**, 2006 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education

United Nations Human Rights Commission, was appointed Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This year, the International Jury will recommend to the Director-General a laureate chosen, after careful consideration, among 52 applications.

In the last quarter of 2006, two other prizes managed by the Sector for Social and Human Sciences were awarded, while a former recipient of the UNESCO Simon Bolivar Prize Mohammad Yunus, the so-called "poor persons' banker", received the Nobel Prize for Peace.

On 16 November – the International Day for Tolerance, UNESCO awarded the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence to Veerasingham Anandasangaree, President of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) in Sri Lanka. There was palpable emotion in Room I of UNESCO House as the spokesperson for moderation and non-violence, in a three

decade-long conflict marked by extremism and violence, stepped forward, dressed in pure white, to receive his prize. His unrelenting endeavor to stand up against all forms of violence, including terrorism, seemed more relevant than ever for today's Sri Lanka.

Restating the commitment

From 1996 onward, the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize has been awarded every two years for advancing the spirit of tolerance in the arts, education, culture, science and communication. The prize was made possible by the generous donation of the Indian artist, writer and diplomat Madanjeet Singh, who is also a Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO. Along with the Prize, honorable mentions were awarded this year to the Afro-Reggae Cultural Group from Brazil, Professor Valery A. Tishkov from Russia, The Palestine-Israel Journal from East Jerusalem, Israel, The municipality of the city of Derbent →

Human Rights at the centre of all UNESCO programmes

The importance of incorporating Human Rights into all United Nations programmes was reaffirmed at the 2005 World Summit. This is a priority for UNESCO. The Social and Human Sciences Sector has the task of helping all UNESCO programmes

adopt a human rights-based approach. With support from the Bureau of Human Resources Management, SHS regularly organizes staff training sessions like the one to be held in January 2007, in Bangkok, Thailand, for staff of the UNESCO Bangkok

Office as well as for programme specialists elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region. ¶

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→ in Russia, and Professor Herbert C. Kelman from the United States. Two months earlier, on September 21st – the International Day of Peace–, the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education was awarded to Sri Lankan judge Christopher Gregory Weeramantry, in recognition of his efforts to promote the universal values of peace and tolerance through education. A Special Mention was also presented to the *Fundación para la reconciliación* of Columbia in recognition of its efforts to infuse the concept of “emotional literacy” into the process of reconciliation and forgiveness.

The UNESCO Prize for Peace Education, awarded annually since 1981, aims at sensitizing and mobilizing the consciousness of the international community in favor of peace. Like all other UNESCO prizes, it is the moral and symbolic affirmation of a collective commitment. UNESCO honours a recipient, but also the values of which that recipient is the bearer. ¶

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 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education:
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QUESTION // **How can we change from a culture of war and violence to one of peace?** //

PATRICIA WILLIS, WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM //
 “Women and girls make up 52% of the world’s population. Virtually all live in patriarchal societies. Patriarchal societies seek the oppression and control of women/girls with domination by men/boys. This domination is accomplished in various ways, both institutionalized and informal, but all with one method in common and this is the threat, and often the actual use, of violence against them. The war on women and girls by patriarchal social and cultural forces is pandemic. It is a war that takes many forms. For example: rape, whether in war, in marriage, by fathers on daughters, of prostituted women, is a weapon. Female feticide; forced underage marriage and early pregnancies; refusal to educate girls equally to boys; violent entertainment; trafficking for work and prostitution. The list is overlong. When all of the other 48% of the world’s population learn to view women/girls as full human beings, then we will be a very long way on our journey to a culture of peace.” //



A mural for peace in El Salvador

Inter-American Congress of Education on Human Rights

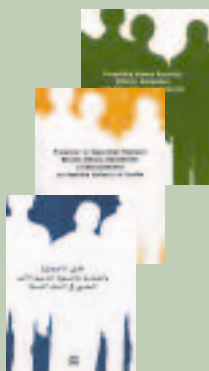
From 30 August to 2 September, the UNESCO office in Brasilia, together with various government institutions of Brazil charged with promoting education on human rights, convened the Inter-American Congress of Education on Human Rights to promote the exchange of experiences, facilitate debates on relevant issues and strengthen an international network of policy makers and experts. The participants debated public policies of education in human rights and made proposals for the development of this area in Brazil and in other countries of the

region in the spirit of South-South cooperation. As a response to the United Nations’ decision to establish the Decade on Education on Human Rights, the Brazilian Government created in 2003 the National Committee of Education on Human Rights and elaborated the first version of the *National Plan of Education on Human Rights* as a public policy. During the Inter-American Congress, the participants launched the second, updated version of this Plan. This version was prepared after a wide consultation among 26 Brazilian states,

and includes inputs from NGOs, government bodies and specialists. It is composed of five thematic areas: primary and secondary education, non-formal education, higher education (teaching, research and extension), justice and public security education systems, and education and media. ¶

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Further reading



Promoting Human Security: Ethical, Normative and Educational Frameworks in the Arab States

Bechir Chourou
111 pp., UNESCO, 2005.
SHS/FPH/PHS/2005/PI/H/2
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001405/140513E.pdf>
(also in Arabic)

Promoting Human Security: Ethical, Normative and Educational Frameworks in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Claudia F. Fuentes & Francisco Rojas Aravena
205 pp., UNESCO, 2005.
SHS/FPH/PHS/2005/PI/H/1
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001389/138940E.pdf>
(also in Spanish)

Promoting Human Security: Ethical, Normative and Educational Frameworks in East Asia,

Shin-wha Lee
123 pp., UNESCO, 2004.
SHS/FPH/PHS/2004/PI/H/1
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001388/138892E.pdf>

Violence and its Causes: A Stocktaking

144 pp., UNESCO Publishing, 2005.
€ 13.00, ISBN 92-3-103989-x
http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?Code_Livre=4403

La pauvreté, une fatalité ? Promouvoir l'autonomie et la sécurité humaine des groupes défavorisés : Bénin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger

284 pp., UNESCO/Karthala, 2002.
€ 16.00, ISBN 92-3-203878-1
http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?Code_Livre=4006#
(in French only)

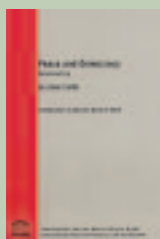


Women and Peace – Case studies on traditional conflict resolution practices

131 pp., UNESCO, 2003.
SHS-2003/WS/38
(in English only)

Peace and Democracy: Benchmarking

Alain Caillé
113 pp., UNESCO, 2004
SHS. 2004/WS/6
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001354/135498E.pdf>
(also in Arabic and French)



Security in East Asia Proceedings of the International Conference on 'Human Asia'

289 pp., UNESCO/Korean National Commission for UNESCO/Ilmin International Relations Institute of Korea, 2004.
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001365/136506E.pdf>
(in English only)

Seguridad Internacional Contemporánea: Consecuencias para la Seguridad Humana en América Latina y el Caribe

197 pp., UNESCO/FLACSO-Chile, 2005.
(in Spanish only)

Proceedings of the Expert Meeting on "Peace, Human Security and Conflict Prevention in Latin America and the Caribbean"

373 pp., UNESCO/FLACSO-Chile, 2002.
http://www.unesco.org/securipax/seguridad_humana-english.pdf
(also in Spanish)



What Agenda for Human Security in the Twenty-first Century? Proceedings of the First International Meeting of Directors of Peace Research and Training Institutions.

154 pp., second edition, UNESCO, 2005
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001405/140553E.pdf>
(in English only)

Cooperative Peace in Southeast Asia –

Proceedings of the International Symposium held in Jakarta, Indonesia, 11-12 September 1998.
220 pp., UNESCO/ASEAN, 1999.
CAB.99/WS/3
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001162/116272E.pdf>
(in English only)

Peace, Human Security and Conflict Prevention in Africa.

Proceedings of the UNESCO-ISS Expert Meeting held in Pretoria, South Africa, 23-24 July 2001.
114 pp.,
www.unesco.org/securipax/UNESCO_ISSfinal.pdf
(in English only)



Violence: A UNESCO Notebook

72 pp., UNESCO, 1995.
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0010/001007/100776E0.pdf>

What Kind of Security?

156 pp., UNESCO, 1998.
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0010/001096/109626E0.pdf>

From Partial Insecurity to Global Security –

Proceedings of international symposium, UNESCO, Paris, 12 - 14 June 1996.
208 pp., UNESCO/IHEDN, 1997.
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0011/001106/110639E.pdf>

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Manuel de l'éducation à la citoyenneté: «La défense au service de la paix»

UNESCO / French National Commission for UNESCO / CNDP, 2005. € 25.00
(in French only)
This Manual was produced in partnership with the French National Commission for UNESCO. It provides information on France's system of defence, the way it functions, and all the different aspects and corollaries of citizenship, human rights, democracy and the universal

values of law and civics. The Manual is a loose-leaf ring binder holding around 40 sheets under three main sections: "Foundations of peace and international security", "Threats to peace and international security", "Peacekeeping – worldwide action". Designed by secondary school teachers, this publication is a useful work of reference and teaching aid. www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy
(in French only) ¶



TOOLS

The Interaction between Democracy and Development – Executive Summary

Boutros Boutros-Ghali
47 pp., UNESCO, 2003.
SHS. 2003/WS/24
Between 1998 and 2000, there were three meetings of the International Panel on Democracy and Development (IPDD), chaired by former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. This is a summary of

the Panel's discussions, recommendations and conclusions. <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001323/132343E.pdf>
(also available in French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese) ¶

International migration, urban development, local populations keen to become involved in drawing up public policies, etc. **Today's world keeps changing.** Through its support for social science research and its efforts to share the findings with as many people as possible, **UNESCO contributes to a better understanding of current trends on the part of the international community,** thus helping to improve countries' responses to the challenges posed by change. In UNESCO it is **the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) which is responsible for coordinating the only United Nations programme on management of social transformations** (the MOST Programme). It strives to strengthen the links between researchers and, in the broadest sense of the term, the policy-making community.

Yesterday's migration – museums for tomorrow

As announced in *SHS Views* No. 14, the UNESCO-IOM (International Organization for Migration) joint project on the history of migration and migrants' recollections was launched in Rome, Italy, on 23 October 2006.

At a time when the issue of immigrants' integration into their new societies regularly hits the headlines, UNESCO and the IOM launched a project last October that aims to support the development and creation of migration museums in countries in different parts of the world.

In Rome, Italy, at the Headquarters of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, a meeting of international experts was held from 23 to 25 October. This meeting, which marked the first step on the way to setting up the project, drew up a list of migration museums that already exist and similar projects that are under way.

Attending the three-day meeting for an exchange of information and experiences were around twenty specialists from Australia, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Participants voiced the concern that although authorities give support to and are often behind the actual creation of spaces dedicated to the history of migration, in some countries this kind of cultural space is threatened with closure through lack of funds.

They also said there was an urgent need to (re)create links between the sending countries and the established populations in the receiving countries. Participants felt this could be achieved through fostering the integration of second-generation immigrants, promoting respect for difference, listening to personal accounts and through the history of the different waves of migration.

Participants in the Rome meeting spoke of the challenges shared by all museums on the history of migration: being at one and the same time places of conservation, preservation, restoration and above all, living spaces of interest to everyone, particularly to those who are far removed from immigrant cultures.

In the course of the meeting, participants debated how best to use these migration museums so that they play a part in helping to build a new multicultural identity both nationally and on a personal level, and also to help towards the implementation of policies – communication and public education policies – to reach as wide a public as possible.

All these questions gave rise to in-depth discussions which will be reproduced in a series of articles to be published in the *International Journal on Multicultural Societies*, whose next issue will be devoted to “Transnational communities and networks of international knowledge”. ¶

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Migration and development – working group proposals in 2007

The challenge of African migration was a subject of debate at the 175th session of UNESCO's Executive Board.

African emigration to Europe has increased dramatically since 2005. Images immediately spring to mind of young Africans trying to cross from Morocco into Spain, or boarding makeshift craft in the hope of reaching Europe's coastal waters – off the Canaries or Sicily.

Although these tragic events were not on the agenda, UNESCO's Executive Board decided to address the issue and discuss international migration at its 175th session, which was held from 26 September to 12 October 2006.

“UNESCO's role and the challenge of African migration” was the agenda item proposed by Senegal on behalf of the Africa Group. Senegal stressed the need for the Organization to improve the lot of young Africans who risk their lives in desperate

attempts to reach Europe because of their poor socio-economic prospects.

Members of the Board welcomed the proposal and passed a Decision that emphasizes the human rights aspects of migration, recalling in particular the need for further promotion of existing international legal instruments, such as the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Following on the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in September 2006, UNESCO is setting up a working group whose task will be to put forward proposals on African migration and development issues. The working group will present their initial proposals to the Executive Board at its 176th session in spring 2007. ¶

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(See the dossier in *SHS Views* No. 14, also available online:
www.unesco.org/shs/views.)

Meeting on migrant diaspora knowledge networks

Researchers in the social sciences and engineering sciences met in Paris from 3 to 5 October, to discuss the Migrant diaspora knowledge networks project carried out by UNESCO and the International Committee for Social Science Information and Documentation (ICSSD).

One item on the agenda was: how can migrant diaspora knowledge networks be created with the new information and communication technologies so as to contribute to the economic and social development of migrants' sending and receiving countries?

Organized around six working sessions, one of which was a round table with participants from OECD, CNRS and UNESCO, the meeting took a critical look at the concepts of “diaspora”, “knowledge” and “networks”. The round table also discussed the status of ongoing knowledge network research projects in Colombia and New Zealand, as well as other projects elsewhere. ¶

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OPEN DEBATE IN CHINA

As a continuation of the Together With Migrants festival – whose 2006 event proved a great success and was taken up by international media as well as one of France's main television channels – the International Conference on Migration, was held in Beijing, China, on 19 and 20 October last. With nearly 300 participants, the Conference was the stage for intense debate and lively discussions on the ability of the country to respond to the needs generated by the growing influx of migrants from rural areas, particularly in terms of social services and urban integration. While some researchers contested the positive aspect of urbanization, concerned in particular by the emerging shanty towns and the rise in violence, others reminded participants that migration movements could be highly beneficial to the development of average-sized towns and cities, saying that they were convinced such development could be channelled. The Conference, which was organized by UNESCO and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), was the penultimate stage of the “Together With Migrants” project, launched five years ago under UNESCO's Poverty programme. The final stage will be reached before the end of 2006 with the submission to the Prime Minister of China of policy recommendations for improving the integration of migrants. ¶

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The MOST programme in Europe – towards a society for all ages



© Sayeed Nayyer Reza / UNESCO

On 29 and 30 November 2006, a seminar on one of the most important challenges of our times: Ageing Populations, was held in Brussels, Belgium, under the aegis of UNESCO's MOST programme – the only United Nations programme on the management of social transformations.

How can we ensure a better connection between research on “active” ageing and cultural policies? That was the focus of the two-day seminar held in Brussels on 29 and 30 November last: “Towards a multi-age society – the cultural dimensions of age policies”. The seminar was organized in cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee, the network of European cultural institutes (EUNIC), and the European Older People's Platform (AGE).

Ageing populations are not only the concern of pension funds and health systems but they also constitute one of the greatest challenges for contemporary society, particularly in Europe where people are living longer, hence the increase in the number of old people making up the population. This poses real challenges for all aspects of social

policy: health, pensions, housing, social welfare, employment, continuing education, taxation and cultural policy with the passing on of knowledge from one generation to the next. The older members of the population do indeed have a role to play as actors in a society where there is a place for everyone.

Supporting research

Clearly, since no solution can be considered which would mean “young” versus “old” people, we need to devise a society that really is for all ages, which was the prime aim of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted in 2002 in Madrid, Spain, at the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

Although the Second World Assembly on Ageing emphasized that taking demographic change into account clearly calls for an ethical structure, based on dignity and human rights, that in itself is not enough. More research needs to be carried out – in developing countries as well – in order to integrate into policies perspectives on ageing that are backed up by a thorough understanding of the issues.

Taking “ageing populations” as its regional priority for Europe and North America, over the next few years, through conferences, seminars and publications, the MOST programme will be highlighting the importance of the link between research and public action in order to contribute to the development of public policies better able to cope with such contemporary challenges. ¶

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For more information on the seminar:
www.unesco.org/shs/most/ageing/conference

Second Summer School

Many researchers, postgraduate students and higher education specialists will be meeting from 26 February to 2 March 2007 in Bahia, Brazil, to take part in the MOST programme's Second Summer School for Latin America and the Caribbean. With the main theme of “Social policies and management for local development: overcoming poverty and inequality in Latin

America”, there will be lectures, workshops on specific case studies, and two seminars organized by the Latin American Centre for Human Economy (CLAEH), the Interdisciplinary Centre for Social Management and Development (UFBA) and UNESCO. ¶

For full details of the Summer School, see: www.claeh.org.uy/most.htm

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DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION

From 15 to 20 October 2006, the MOST programme brought government officials and senior civil servants from Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico to exchange experiences with officials from South-East France – Provence, Alpes, Côte d'Azur – (see photo); and to Brussels, Belgium,

to meet the European Commission's Directorate General for Regional Policy, the Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions (CoR). ¶

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Beijing Conference on urban revitalization

In January 2007, there will be an international conference in China for researchers and local representatives seeking a balance between social cohesion and heritage conservation. The event will provide an opportunity to take stock of the revitalization project for “Old Beijing” which UNESCO has been carrying out since 2002.

Over the three-day session, participants will be able to see for themselves the transformations under way in several historical city centres, notably in Old Beijing. This international conference will provide an opportunity to take stock of a project which UNESCO has been carrying out there for the past five years. The project began in 2002, with the UNESCO initiative of a “human” revitalization project for Old Beijing, which was threatened with numerous renovation plans prior to the Olympic Games.



Beijing station where several renovation projects have been launched in preparation for the Olympics.

Quarry redevelopment in Tunisia

After workshops on the problem of sprawling urbanization in the Palmeraie region of Marrakesh, Morocco, and the study on linking the rural with the urban in the peripheral suburban area to the north of the city of Saïda, Lebanon, this year’s on-site workshop of the UNESCO Chair in landscape and environmental design at the University of Montréal (see page 26) took place from 16 to 25 November in Mahdia, Tunisia.

The topic “Ten planning projects for the sustainable development of the Mahdia quarries”, aimed to provide solutions for the redevelopment of the old quarries – four of which are still being worked.

The quarries bear witness to earlier times and to the people who lived in this coastal city of Tunisia. They are nothing but empty, excavated terrain creating a kind of barrier between the rural and urban areas, restricting Mahdia’s urbanization and, in some places, representing a danger for walkers.

The field workshop put forward several ideas for possible redevelopment of the quarries since the local municipality is willing to develop the area. The workshop benefited from a multidisciplinary, international approach thanks to the participation of researchers from six countries: Canada, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia. ¶

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From 22 to 24 January 2007, an international conference “Balanced urban revitalization between social cohesion and heritage conservation” will be held at the University of Tsinghua in Beijing.

The Conference will enable mayors and researchers from China and elsewhere to exchange views on urban revitalization and to reflect together on the best way of controlling the gentrification phenomenon brought about through urban revitalization. The revitalization of historical districts in city centres often brings with it gentrification of those districts to the detriment of the poorer inhabitants who find themselves obliged to move out to the suburbs.

Case studies

What are the similarities and the differences between the processes of urban renewal that are taking place in Asia, Latin America, the Arab States and Eastern Europe, with those in Western Europe and North America? What is the physical impact on the built environment? What are the consequences for inhabitants of historical districts in cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Gangjin, Karachi, Ispahan, Banska Stiavnica and Budapest? How do they compare with those in Montréal, Lyon, Paris and Barcelona? How can the effects of this phenomenon be foreseen and the socio-economic and cultural challenges tackled? These are the issues the Conference will address through case studies and discussions.

A model project

After a seminar in 2002 on conservation and modernization of historical districts, a research-action project was launched the following year on social sustainability of the Yandaixiejie district, with the Sociology Department of Tsinghua University. The research findings were published in a report and recommendations were made on renovation of the district. Cooperation between Tsinghua and UNESCO continued with a workshop on the preservation of Old Beijing, which was organized in November 2004, and two new research projects were launched in 2006 on the Baimixiejie and Huashi Est districts.

In 2005, UNESCO organized “Beijing and Beijing”, a week-long information session to raise the general public’s awareness on urban revitalization and social cohesion issues. Architects, urban specialists, developers, students, artists and residents of the old districts were thus able to exchange views on urban development and conservation in Beijing. With a photograph exhibition, “Beijing and Beijing” also shed light on how local residents viewed their own district. ¶

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Urban Development – two new UNESCO

With the establishment of two new UNESCO Chairs in 2007 linked to the Urban development and international migration programme – it is time to remind our readership of the essential role played by these university research posts.

As a laboratory of ideas and catalyst for international cooperation, UNESCO would be nothing but an empty shell if it were not fuelled by academics and intellectuals the world over, and in particular by a large network of universities focusing their research on the Organization's strategic objectives.

Hidden behind the UNESCO Chair label, there are hundreds, even thousands of people on every continent carrying out interdisciplinary research, with the aim of benefiting the whole international community.

This is particularly the case with regard to the Chairs in Urban development and international migration, which contribute to the programme on the Management of social transformations (MOST) by supplying essential data for developing public policies likely to respond to the challenges posed by the increasing pace of urbanization.

Urbanization and migration

University departments that carry out research into all aspects of the city – including landscape, new citizenship and the contribution of migrants to urban development – will be adding two more to their number in 2007, thus increasing the quantity of available data and information on cities.

For several years, UNESCO has enjoyed productive cooperation with Canada and various countries around the Mediterranean on the Urban development and international migration programme, and in 2007 UNESCO will be extending this activity further with the establishment of two new Chairs in Europe.

The first one to be set up will be in France at the *École Nationale des Travaux Publics* (ENTP) in Lyon. It was originally an idea of the ENTP to establish a UNESCO Chair there. It will be a Chair in Urban Policy and Citizenship, conducting interdisciplinary research on active citizenship in urban areas, and will look into the non-voting phenomenon which over the past few years has changed the relation between the world of politics and civil society.

The creation of this Chair is a follow-up to the debate held at UNESCO Headquarters in 2005, on Urban Policies and the right to the city. Each year the Chair will organize workshops to present its findings and share them with academics and representatives of the various towns and cities involved in the UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs programme in →



Philippe Poulbauc Gondrec

Every year, the UNESCO Chair at Montréal holds on-site training workshops (here in Saïda, Lebanon, in 2005).

Montréal: one Chair – three programmes

The UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design at the University of Québec at Montréal, is one of the most dynamic with its focus on the growing concern of contemporary societies with regard to quality of life and the environment. The social development and cultural characterization of urban and suburban areas; the development of practices and aims in landscape architecture, taking into account the possible sociocultural and environmental

implications of architectural development; and the role of landscape in social restructuring, together with the phenomenon of urban migration – all are interconnected issues that research in landscape architecture links to other planning and development disciplines (architecture, urban studies and design), as well as the social and human sciences, and the natural sciences (anthropology, geography and ecology). The Chair was established in 2004

and bridges three UNESCO programmes: Management of Social Transformations (MOST), Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and the World Heritage Centre (WHC). Every year, in conjunction with these programmes, the Chair holds on-site training workshops where government or social actors are confronted with specific problematic issues. ¶

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Chairs

→ the social and human sciences, particularly in Latin America, the Arab States and North America (Canada).

The other new Chair to be established in 2007, also linked to the Urban policy and international migration programme, will be at the University of Venice, in Italy.

After carrying out a wide-ranging study with UN-Habitat on International migration and the city, the University of Venice expressed its interest in joining with UNESCO to research issues on the social cohesion and spatial integration of migrants in cities.

The Chair at the University of Venice will carry out interdisciplinary research, covering social, economic, cultural and political domains. It will need to call on specialists in the fields of urban planning, political science, economy and sociology from several universities and research centres in Latin America, Asia, North America (Canada) and Europe. ¶

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The right to the city

In spring 2006, UNESCO published a report of two public workshops on urban policy and the right to the city, which had taken place in 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The publication came out in time for the World Urban Forum held in June, in Vancouver, Canada, but the printed version was soon out of stock. In addition to the electronic version,

accessible on UNESCO's website, there is now a CD-ROM so as many people as possible can learn about the thoughts and ideas of "the right to the city" concept that was born in France in the 1960s and later took on a variety of forms in urban policies, particularly in Europe and Canada. At the 2005 World Social Forum held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, some "right to housing"

urban community action groups and NGOs proposed a "Charter on the right to the city". ¶

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“Growing Up in Cities” in Kenya

From January 2007, the project carried out by the UNESCO Chair at Cornell University, USA, will enable young people in Nairobi to become involved in their own city's development.

Building on its success over the past ten years, the Growing Up in Cities project, carried out by the UNESCO Chair at Cornell University, is now launching a new initiative to address one of the great challenges of contemporary urbanization – the lives and prospects of young people growing up in Africa's slums.

Africa is the world's most rapidly urbanizing continent, with urbanization rates rivalling those of Europe during the Industrial Revolution – and conditions that are equally harrowing. Over two-thirds of Africa's urban residents live in self-built settlements, where infrastructures, services and resources are severely strained. For these citizens, life requires daily improvisation, resulting

in a complex landscape where “hard data” are elusive, city form is fluid, and social and political relations are ever shifting. In other words, the structures on which planners, designers and policy makers typically rely do not exist.

Growing Up in East African Cities (GuIEAC) seeks to engage local residents in collaboration with planners, architects and other city professionals to evaluate and respond to conditions in some of urban Africa's most challenging contexts. Specifically, it will build on Africa's greatest asset: its young people.

The GuIEAC initiative will be launching its first pilot project in Nairobi through a joint effort led by the UNESCO Chair for Growing Up in Cities at Cornell University in collaboration with UN-HABITAT, the UNESCO Youth Forum of Kenya and the One Stop Youth Centre of Nairobi. Beginning in January 2007, the pilot project will include fieldwork with young people and other community residents as well as a planning and design workshop at Cornell in the spring, to involve



From January 2007, young people in Nairobi will give their views on their neighbourhoods.

architecture, planning and engineering students in developing design, governance and environmental system strategies to support rather than supplant local initiatives to transform slums into places of stability, safety and economic vitality. ¶

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Regional integration – a challenge for West

On 12 and 13 February 2007, when the second Forum of Ministers of Social Development of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will be taking place in Guinea, UNESCO will be organizing a national seminar in each of the ten ECOWAS countries on “Nation-states and the challenge of regional integration in West Africa”.

National seminars have already been held in Benin, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Ghana and Mali; now it is the turn of Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo to have national seminars on “Nation-states and the challenge of regional integration in West Africa”.

The UNESCO programme on the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) organized wide-ranging discussions on this subject in 2005. And in March 2006, many scientists from ECOWAS countries met

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African researchers stress the need for transport development.

its territorial form, both of which are a legacy of colonialism. In the course of the three-day meeting, participants frequently went back over the issues of

in Dakar, Senegal, to take part in the seminar marking the first stage of the project. The final report of the meeting was submitted in October 2006.

Halfway through the project, discussions confirmed that although the issue of the integration of African States has been debated for decades, it has now become a matter of urgency to find ways of achieving sustainable development in order to respond to the needs and aspirations of the people of Africa.

Participants in the Dakar seminar definitively shelved the nation-state and

moving beyond the bounds of national sovereignty, identity and citizenship as well as the question of conflict resolution in Africa and the ensuing economic situation.

Noting that a very large majority of West Africans know nothing about ECOWAS or other institutions with similar aims, speakers emphasized the importance of communicating with the general public using community media and broadcasting in national languages. It was felt that such measures would make it easier for the general public to understand policy makers’ decisions. →

Forum of intellectuals for the Horn of Africa

Intellectuals and researchers of the easternmost region of Africa have decided, from 2007 onwards, to call on their peers to combine their research efforts and direct their work towards the common future of the people of the Horn of Africa.

The launching of a Forum of reflection of intellectuals and researchers who are keen to contribute to the development of the Horn of Africa is scheduled for 2007, with support from UNESCO’s Social and Human Sciences Sector.

The initiative goes under the name of “The horizon of the Great Horn” and is the brainchild of a group of researchers from all countries in the region. The Forum of reflection aims to:

- contribute to the search for a firm consensus on a long-term perspective for stability, sustainable development and regional integration;
- produce studies and analyses likely to help in the formulation of proactive policies that respond to the new challenges of the region;
- organize regular training sessions in the fields of intercultural dialogue and regional integration for the various parties concerned;

- encourage universities and research institutes to develop studies that target the main trends in the region by using forecasting approaches and scenarios.

The initiators of this Forum intend to submit a code of conduct to all intellectuals and researchers who have expressed an interest in the future of this region, which is afflicted by endless political, social, economic and environmental crises. The code of conduct states that “this approach has the advantage of facilitating the efforts needed to go beyond the polemics of the past and the present, which often divert intellectual debate on the region”. →

African countries

→ All participants agreed it was essential for the various programmes and agendas of the different subregional organizations to adopt a coherent policy in order to strengthen their effectiveness and visibility with local populations.

In their positive assessment of the process, which began with the first International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus, held in February 2006, in Argentina and Uruguay, participants in the Dakar seminar were of the view that Africa should have a parallel link-up between researchers and decision-makers.

Discussions ended with a proposal which received unanimous approval: the establishment of a Study Centre on Regional Integration in West Africa. ¶

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A report of the first five national seminars is accessible (in French) on the UNESCO Dakar Office website: www.dakar.unesco.org

→ The Horn of Africa is a melting pot of cultures, some closely linked, others further removed, but always intermingled. It is the easternmost region of the African continent and is so called because it resembles an animal's horn. The region includes Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia, and sometimes with the addition of the other countries of the region, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda – all are Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). ¶

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TOOLS

Gambia debates on DVD

The Gambia seminar, held in Banjul, was in the first series of national seminars organized on “Nation-states facing the challenges of regional integration in West Africa”. The Gambia seminar made its presentation in the form of a DVD. Chaired by Dr Siga Fatima Jagne, this seminar underlined the importance of the role played by women in the subregional integration process – this dimension of the debate was also highlighted in the Mali seminar.

At the end of their deliberations, participants in the Gambia seminar recommended that a grassroots

communication policy be set up so that the general public could be better informed on policies. To achieve this aim, participants stressed the need to use community radio networks, and for State policy decisions on integration – within the framework of the subregional organizations – to be broadcast in national languages. ¶

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Cape Verde – ambivalent position on integration

From 15 to 19 January 2007, in Praia, Saõ Tiago Island, Cape Verde, the most programme will be holding one of the seminars since the series on regional integration in West Africa. The seminar will take place on the eve of National Heroes' Day in Cape Verde, which commemorates the death of Amilcar Cabral.

The first set of national seminars, held since 2005 (see page 28), and at the presentation of the report on those meetings, the complex nature of the integration issue was emphasized.

For there to be a thorough debate on the integration issue it is clearly of the utmost importance to take into consideration the historical, economic, political and cultural relations of Cape Verde with West Africa, as well as to discuss their combined future while taking into account all the specificities of the archipelago, in particular the way it was populated, how its economy developed, the singularities of an island State, the problematic issue of national identity and the relation of Cape Verde with the Cape Verdean diaspora.

Cape Verde is one of the few African countries making good headway to attain the Millennium Development Goals. It is a land of mixed races which benefits from its exceptional geographical situation in the Atlantic: south of Europe, west of Africa and east of Latin America.

In spite of being a member of ECOWAS, and strong supporter of NEPAD, the archipelago keeps coming up against obstructions with regard to transport, banking facilities and contacts with economic operators, which are restricting the development of a closer economic partnership.

Cape Verde gained independence in 1975. More than two-thirds of its commercial transactions are with the European Union, mainly Portugal. ¶

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“The horizon of the Great Horn” – conflict and famine, as here, in the Sudan, must be left behind.

Success of the 5th World Forum on Sport

The 5th session of the World Forum on Sport, Education and Culture was held at the end of October 2006, in Beijing, China, which will host the next Olympic Games.

From 24 to 26 October 2006, over 700 personalities from the worlds of sport, politics and education, met in Beijing at the 5th World Forum on Sport, Education and Culture.

For two days, athletes, academics, NGO activists, National Olympic Committee (NOC) and International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials, representatives of governments and local authorities – met together in various workshops to discuss how Olympic education and culture has a strong role to play in building a harmonious world.

At the opening ceremony Pierre Sané, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, spoke of the universality of sport, its common language and shared values, and how sport can bridge cultural differences and political convictions. This was a view shared by the participants who pointed to the contribution sport can make to the development of a multicultural world and an inclusive society.

Delegates from more than 150 countries stressed the need for the IOC to provide assistance in training Olympic educators and encouraging NOCs to make ethical values a universal concern because Olympic values and sport can help build a more peaceful world.

In a unanimously adopted Declaration, participants urged NOCs in developing countries to set up museums and documentation and information centres, to protect their sporting and Olympic heritage.

Participants also stressed the need for all partners in the Olympic Movement to attach greater importance to physical activity, to people with disabilities and to disadvantaged communities, and they requested them to ensure gender equality in all their activities as well as in the recruitment of volunteers.

Calling on UNESCO to encourage “fruitful cooperation” among Ministries for Education, Youth and Sport, participants in the 5th World Forum on Sport, Education and Culture asked the Organization to do its utmost to encourage States to ratify the International Convention against Doping in Sport and thus accelerate its entry into force. ¶

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➔ 11th World Sport for All Congress

The 11th World Sport for All Congress took place in Havana, Cuba, from 31 October to 3 November 2006. The overall theme of the Congress was “Physical activity: benefits and challenges”. Hosted by the Cuban Government, the Congress was sponsored by the International Olympic Committee in cooperation with the World Health Organization, the General Association of International Sports Federations and UNESCO. Discussion topics included the specific needs of developing countries and the need to take into consideration the ageing populations of industrialized countries. ¶

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***** Observatory on women and sport

The year 2007 has been declared European Year of Equal Opportunities for All, and it looks as though 2007 might also be the founding year of a web-based observatory on women, sport and physical education.

At the 2004 Fourth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS IV), in Athens, Greece, the meeting considered the idea of such an observatory and suggested that a project to that effect be submitted to UNESCO.

This has now been done. A draft project, proposed by the Greek Government, was submitted last October to the 175th session of the UNESCO Executive Board which will present it to the General Conference of the Organization when the 192 Member States meet in 2007.

The Greek Government, who put forward the proposal, considers that such an observatory would “greatly contribute to the organization and systematization of existing information and data” on women,

sport and physical education. In addition, the innovative nature of such a project “could serve as an exemplary contribution by a Member State to one of UNESCO’s aims, namely to raise awareness of the significant benefits of the educational, social and moral values of sport and physical education and their crucial role in achieving the goals of Education for All (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)”.¹ ¶

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1. UNESCO Executive Board document 175 EX/47 § 10



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Convention against doping – 3 more countries need to sign

One year after UNESCO's General Conference adopted the International Convention against Doping in Sport, on 19 October 2005, it only needs three more countries to ratify the Convention for it to enter into force. By the end of 2006, twenty-seven States had ratified the Convention: Australia, Bahamas, Bolivia, Canada, China, Cook Islands, Denmark, Iceland, Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Mauritius, Monaco, Mozambique, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Romania, Seychelles, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and United Kingdom.

One month after the thirtieth instrument of ratification is deposited, the Convention will enter into force, which will enable the first session of the Conference of States Parties to be convened. ¶

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TOOLS

Educating young people

In partnership with the World Anti-Doping Agency, UNESCO has just published an anti-doping education brochure for young people. With the emphasis on fair play and sporting ethics,

the brochure gives an outline of the World Anti-Doping Code, including prohibited substances and prohibited methods. This teaching tool is currently available in English and French, with Chinese and Spanish versions under preparation. ¶

To obtain the brochure, please contact:
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Diogenes seeks the beginning

The new issue of *Diogenes* (No. 214) focuses on the origins of language and symbolic thought. It skilfully tackles the beginnings of the human mind and so-called “cultural modernity”.

On the occasion of the 15th World Congress on pre-and proto-historical science, held in Lisbon, Portugal, in September 2006, a special issue of *Diogenes* was published (French edition), co-edited by Maurice Aymard and Luca Maria Scarantino.

Diogenes, published with UNESCO support, is the review of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies. Issue 214 carries essays by researchers in the human sciences all of whom have set out to analyse the impulse behind the evolutionary development of hominization, characterized inter alia by the dawn of language and symbolic thought.

What is the connection between the emergence of the first art forms and the structuring of the human mind? How can reflection on the conditions of the emergence of human language somehow come to

identify the fundamental moment of Homo sapiens sapiens?

From Emmanuel Anati's essay, which shows how the first art forms mark the beginning of the development of the human mind, through to Marcel Otte's contribution which delves into the origins of language, acknowledged unquestionably as being the key human trait, the authors shed light on Man's emerging possibilities of action. From what period is Man considered to be “modern”? How can we define “cultural modernity”?

This issue of *Diogenes* multiplies the different points of view and approaches to understanding the crucial issue of the origins of Man and of his “being in the world”, to use Heidegger's terminology – questions that once again give rise to the notion of an initial fraternity and humankind's common dawn of minds – the lines of thinking we tend to forget nowadays. ¶

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Diogenes No. 214 “Origins of Language and Symbolic Thought”, (English edition – February 2007).

International Social Science Journal

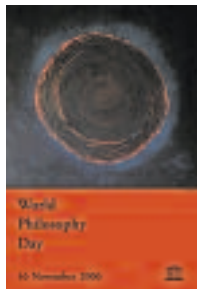
N°189. The first dossier in this issue includes a selection of material from the plenary sessions of the International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus. It reiterates the objectives and issues at stake in creating a more dynamic relationship between research and policy. The work of the Forum will be further echoed, with a more thematic focus, in the various issues of the ISSJ in 2007. The second dossier in issue 189 is devoted to the role played in post-conflict processes by active participants in civil war. It includes case studies on Northern Ireland, Rwanda, Bosnia, the “Pieds-Noirs” in France, El Salvador and South Africa. ¶

International Social Science Journal, n° 189, September 2006
 UNESCO / Blackwell

N°190. The changing age structure of societies appears as a “problem” for pension and health systems or for the labour market only because the elderly are regarded as necessarily inactive. If active life is extended ageing may well become an opportunity to be grasped rather than a barrier to be overcome. But how coherent is the idea of “active ageing”? What does it imply for the development of economic and social systems? Is it ultimately simply a way to redistribute resources from the “old” to the “young”? On the basis of case studies from a range of European experiences, the main dossier of ISSJ 190 draws some preliminary conclusions. ¶

International Social Science Journal, n° 189, September 2006
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World Philosophy Day 2006 special feature in the next issue



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Around the third Thursday in November, thousands of people celebrated Philosophy Day at various events all over the world, particularly in Morocco.

Although it is often said that fate is a good provider, it can sometimes be dates that coincide with very positive effect. In 2006, World Philosophy Day, celebrated each year on the

third Thursday in November, fell on the same day as the International Day for Tolerance – 16 November.

What better way could there be to remind people all over the world that these events are to honour philosophical reflection? Each event provides an opportunity to encourage people to welcome new ideas and different ways of thinking while fostering public debate among intellectuals and civil society on the challenges confronting our world today.

Last year, Philosophy Day became World Philosophy Day with its inclusion on the UN list of international days, with special celebrations organized in Chile to honour the occasion. This year, the flagship event took place in the country that first put forward this initiative – Morocco.

From 15 to 17 November 2006, in Rabat, several events attracted hundreds of people, particularly to the lecture on “Philosophy and the modern world”. In the course of the Day, other events also met with great success: a Philosophy Café, a book fair and art exhibition, organized alongside round tables on a variety of topics to celebrate philosophy in the Kingdom of Morocco.

Taking place at the same time, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, were two seminars: “A century with Levinas: Levinas-Blanchot, thinking difference” and “Philosophy as a cultural, educational practice – a new citizenship”. Visitors were also invited to view two exhibitions: Philippe Maurice’s paintings and the *Collectif fragmentaliste*.

World Philosophy Day was celebrated through a variety of events in twenty-seven countries: Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Congo, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania, U.S.A., Viet Nam, Zimbabwe and, of course, Turkey, where the Government has issued an invitation for the main 2007 philosophy celebration to be organized.

The next issue of *SHS Views*, to be published in March 2007, will carry a special feature on World Philosophy Day. ¶

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DECEMBER 2006

1st December: World AIDS Day
(a.tayftali@unesco.org)

6-9 December: 5th Ordinary Session of COMEST. Dakar, Senegal.
(h.tenhav @unesco.org)

10 December: Awareness-raising seminar for policy makers on the worldwide programme for the promotion of human rights education in schools. Bujumbura, Burundi.
(y.matuturu@unesco.org)

11-12 December: 3rd working meeting of UN-HABITAT/UNESCO research group for policy makers on the worldwide programme for the promotion of human rights education in schools. UNESCO, Paris, France.
(b.colin@unesco.org)

11-13 December: National consultation on poverty and human rights. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
(t.escotto-quesada@unesco.org)

11-19 December: International training programme on traditional wrestling sports. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.
(m.boavida@unesco.org)

15 December: Dialogue with civil society on poverty as a human rights issue. Cotonou, Benin.
(ma.tevoedjre@unesco.org)

18 December: International Migrants Day.
(p.deguchteneire@unesco.org)

18-20 December: International Congress on Religions and Mediation in Urban Areas. Barcelona, Spain.
(p.deguchteneire@unesco.org)

FIRST HALF OF 2007

15-19 January: Conference on regional integration in West Africa. Praia, Cape Verde.
(iva.cabral@parlamento.cv)

20-26 January: “From research to policy action”. Meeting organized by MOST Programme during the World Social Forum. Kenya, Nairobi.
(g.solinis@unesco.org)

22-24 January: International Seminar “Social sustainability in historical districts”, Beijing, China.
(g.domenach-chich@unesco.org)

12-13 February: Second Forum of Ministers for Social Development of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Conakry, Guinea.
(Cecilie.golden@unesco.org)

12-16 February: Regional workshop on “Youth Initiative on HIV/AIDS, Gender and Human Rights”. Bujumbura, Burundi.
(y.matuturu@unesco.org)

15-16 February: Meeting of experts for drafting guidelines for review of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) from a human rights perspective. UNESCO, Paris, France.
(c.tekaya@unesco.org)

26 February-2 March: Second Regional MOST Summer School for Latin America and Caribbean – the fight against poverty and social inequality in the local development policies. Salvador de Bahía, Brazil.
(g.solinis@unesco.org)

27 February-1 March: International meeting “Presentation of research findings funded by UNESCO Small Grants Programme on Poverty Eradication”. Lisbon, Portugal.
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8 March: Celebration of International Women’s Day. UNESCO, Paris, France.
(sg.corat@unesco.org)

21 March: Celebration of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. UNESCO, Paris, France.
(j.morohashi@unesco.org)

29 April-4 May: Joint UNISOL, SAHARA, TICH and NACC Conference: “Innovations in access to prevention, treatment and care in HIV/AIDS”. Kisumu, Kenya.
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4-5 May: International Seminar on “Urban policies and the social and spatial integration of migrants”. Venice, Italy.
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