



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

New Delhi Office

Cluster Office for Bangladesh,
Bhutan, India, Maldives,
Nepal and Sri Lanka

e-Newsletter

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Dear Readers,

The past few months have been exceptionally busy, as UNESCO and UNICEF together took the lead in the United Nations Country Team (UNCT India) Joint Advocacy Campaign for Education organized in the month of September 2014.

During the Campaign a host of events were jointly organized involving the United Nations Task Team comprising of UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and ILO, both at local and national level, in cooperation with various UN networks, partners, stakeholders and the civil society to create a buzz around the UN Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative (GEFI) that focuses on three priority areas, namely, put every child in school; improve the quality of learning; and foster global citizenship.

The Campaign kick-started on 1st September 2014 with the launch of a dedicated GEFI webpage with the message from the UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova. "This Joint Advocacy for Education Campaign comes at the right time on the right issue. India has made tremendous advances to meet the 2015 deadline for the Millennium Development Goals as well as the objectives of Education for All" said the UNESCO Director-General. She further added "Access for all is essential for social cohesion and inclusive development, but we must also focus on improving the quality of education, to nurture the innovation and creativity India and all societies need for the century ahead."

Prior to the campaign in August 2014, a creative expression and arts competition on Right to Learn was held among the various UN school networks, including UNESCO Clubs and ASPnet schools across India. The winning art works were used in the outreach material published for this campaign such as brochure, posters and invitations. Some of these amazing artworks can be viewed on the GEFI webpage, as also the video messages from some eminent educationists.

To know more about the Campaign, kindly visit the GEFI homepage at: <http://in.one.un.org/task-teams/global-education-first-initiative>

Shigeru Aoyagi

Director and UNESCO Representative to
Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Reconnecting 31 countries in Europe, Arab, Africa and Asia - Kerala Tourism inks pact with UNESCO to preserve Spice Route heritage



journeys as well as academic and cultural exchange across some 31 nations involved in the Spice Route.

To formalize the framework of this cooperation, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Kerala Tourism Secretary Suman Billa and UNESCO Director and UNESCO Representative Shigeru Aoyagi in the presence of State Tourism Minister A P Anil Kumar and K M Chandrasekhar, Vice-Chairman, Kerala State Planning Board and Ms Bhaswathi Mukherjee, former India's Permanent Representative to UNESCO and presently a member of Spice Route Advisory Committee.

Kerala established itself as a major spice trade centre in 3000 BC. Across the Arabian Sea, the state had direct connection with all the major Red Sea ports, the Mediterranean ports as well as ports in the Far East. Traders from across the world came to her shores for precious commodities, such as the pepper, cinnamon, cardamom, turmeric, nutmeg and pearls.

At the heart of the Kerala spice trade was the port of Muziris described by Pliny the Elder as 'primum emporium Indiae' in his book entitled *The Natural History*. Muziris disappeared from the World Trade map in the 14th century following natural calamities. However the recent archeological research by the Government of Kerala is slowly uncovering the extent of this legendary port.

Taking this archeological expedition further forward, the Government of Kerala, in collaboration with UNESCO, intends to revive communication, trigger voyages and



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FEATURE ARTICLE

Felicitation Ceremony for Xiangyi Li (China), the winner of 2013 UNESCO-Kalinga Prize for Popularization of Science



UNESCO New Delhi organized a felicitation ceremony in honour of Prof. Xiangyi Li (China), the 2013 laureate of the prestigious UNESCO Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science on 10 September 2014, at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) Auditorium, New Delhi.

The UNESCO Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science is an international distinction created by UNESCO in 1951, following a donation from Mr Bijoyanand Patnaik, Founder and President of the Kalinga Foundation Trust in India. The purpose of the Prize is to reward the efforts of a person who has had a distinguished career in popularization of science among the masses.

Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and Prof R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and Chairman, Scientific Advisory Committee to Cabinet was the Guest of Honour at the event.

Mr Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO Representative felicitated Prof. Li by presenting him a traditional shawl as a token of honour. Whilst congratulating Prof. Li on winning the prize, he elaborated on importance of UNESCO Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science. He pointed out that in the 21st century science must respond to societal needs and global challenges.

Prof. Raghavan presented Professor Li the Kalinga Chair and Fellowship instituted by DST and hoped that various cities and organizations in India would immensely benefit from the lectures and interactions with Prof. Li during his extensive tour of India. He appreciated Prof. Li's efficiency and productivity, where he still continues his fascination and tireless work for popularization of science.

Prof. Xiangyi Li, in his address said that it is a great honour not only for him but also for his country to receive the Kalinga Prize. The award he said has been of tremendous value for science education and science communication among the schools, colleges and universities in his country. Prof Xiangyi Li concluded his speech by explaining that the popularization of sciences is a shared responsibility.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Chidambaram explained about the role of Kalinga Awards in spreading science literacy by honouring eminent scientists and personalities for their significant contribution to the cause of science popularization. He made special mention of the achievements of Prof. Li in popularization of science among masses in China. The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr Bhikajee Mitrasen, Senior Programme Specialist on behalf of UNESCO.

UNCT INDIA JOINT ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION

2014 International Literacy Day celebrations in New Delhi



The International Literacy Day, 8 September 2014, commenced with the prestigious celebratory event organized by the National Literacy Mission Authority, Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. In attendance were Shri. Pranab Mukherjee, Hon. President of India; Smt. Smriti Irani, Hon. Union Minister of HRD; Shri Kalyan Singh, Hon. Governor of Rajasthan; Mr Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO Representative to Bhutan, India, Maldives and Sri Lanka; Mr R. Bhattacharya, Secretary of School Education and Literacy, MHRD; Mr Y. S. K. Kumar, Director General National

Literacy Mission, ambassadors, representatives of E-9 countries, UN and bilateral organizations. Also present were representatives from various ministries, Jan Shiksha Sansthan, State Literacy Resources centres (SRC), literacy volunteers, members of Zila Parishads (village councils) and panchayats.

In his address, the President reaffirmed India's dedication in spreading adult literacy to marginalized and vulnerable groups, particularly girls and women. He also illuminated the challenges that India faces in universalizing literacy. Smt. Smriti Irani, Hon. Union HRD Minister, directed the nation by urging the corporate sector to support the cause of the eradication of illiteracy. She took this opportunity to discuss the work conducted by MHRD in the areas of electoral and financial literacy, which she hopes to align with the Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi's scheme "Jan Dhan Yojana."

Director and UNESCO Representative, Mr Shigeru Aoyagi had the honour of conveying UNESCO's message on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, Ms. Irina Bokova. The message focused on the need for change in traditional literacy programmes that move beyond narrow definitions of education and focus on development of life skills, environmental integration as well as civic participation which hold significant transformative potential.

In continuation to the International Day Celebrations and within the framework of UNCT-India Joint Advocacy Campaign for Education, a Comic's Exhibit on the "Right to Learn" was held at the KRITI Exhibition at Dilli Haat, New Delhi. The comic book on the "Right to Learn" was launched by Dr. Ramakrishna Sura, Director, Directorate of Adult Education, MHRD. On this occasion, Mr. Sharad Sharma, Founder and Director, World Comics India introduced the collection of stories from children, youth and supporters reflecting their views on literacy and education, raising issues of access, equity and quality education for life-long learning and sharing their aspirations of living in sustainable, prosperous and peaceful societies.

For information on other events organized under this campaign, please visit: <http://in.one.un.org/task-teams/global-education-first-initiative>

EDUCATION

International Seminar on Higher Education Statistics and Public Information System



The International Seminar on Higher Education Statistics and Public Information was inaugurated by Mr T. C. A Anant, Chief Statistician of India (CSI) and Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, on 3 July, 2014 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The Seminar was jointly organized by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Planning Commission and UNESCO New Delhi.

During the inaugural session the following three reports were released:

- University Compendium (published by Government of India, MHRD)
- Indian Standard Classification of Education (pub-

lished by Government of India, MHRD)

- Higher Education in Asia: Expanding Out and Expanding Up – The rise of graduate education and university research (published by UNESCO Institute of Statistics)

The inaugural session was addressed by Mr P. Aggarwal, Advisor, Planning Commission; Mr Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO Representative; and Mr Rob Kynes, Director, British Council India. Mr Shigeru Aoyagi, said “it is important to focus on good quality of education and equipping India with a mass of human capital who can be gainfully employed and can innovate for the development of the country.” The Advisor Planning Commission in his address briefly outlined the vision and importance of the seminar.

The workshop brought together prominent statisticians and policymakers from the country and abroad who made presentations on administrative survey (AISHE), household surveys, classification of education institutions, student portal and classification of education programmes. The main objectives of the seminar were to: (i) share the importance of standardization of concept and definition of education statistics; (ii) share and learn from international experiences of quality, coverage and use of education statistics; managing student portal; and classification of higher education institutes; (iii) identify the key issues on the concept, definition between administrative and household surveys on education statistics and identify the next steps to harmonize it; and (iv) make consensus among the different actors using education statistics on the concept, definition and other methodological issues.

The seminar helped to identify next steps, roles and responsibilities for various stakeholders in harmonizing the concept, definition, strength, limitations and other methodological aspects of calculating education indicators to make it nationally and internationally comparable; and understanding of the importance, contents, indicators and framework of student portal and higher education institutions classification.

NATURAL SCIENCES

UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training



The Foundation Stone laying ceremony of UNESCO Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region was held on 30th August 2014 at the Worldlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. The Foundation Stone was laid by Mr Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India and subsequent commemorative events were attended by various dignitaries including Dr S. S. Garbyal, Director General of Forests & Special Secretary to Govt. of India, Mr A. K. Srivastava, Additional Director General of Forests, MoEFCC, Chief Executives and senior officials of sister organizations in Dehradun, WII faculty members, and students.

UNESCO Office was represented by Mr Ram Boojh, UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector, who had the opportunity to talk about UNESCO programmes and the WHBPI project which has strengthened the Natural Heritage programme in India; the Category 2 Centre is an outcome of that effort and commitment. Mr Ram Boojh also met with Dr Vinod Mathur, Director of WII, to discuss the future programmes for the Centre.

Harithkram Model United Nations Environment Assembly



UNESCO New Delhi participated as a knowledge partner in the Model United Nations Environment Assembly (MUNEA); an academic simulation of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environmental Programme. The main objective of the Assembly was to educate participants about current events, topics in international relations, diplomacy and the United Nations agenda pertaining to the environment. The MUNEA Assembly provided a discussion platform to students interested in some

of the pressing issues pertaining to environment, energy and sustainability that confront the world today. The forum engaged in a lively debate, searching for solutions to the complex issues of the contemporary international environmental politics.

NATURAL SCIENCES

On this occasion Mr Mitrasen Bhikajee, Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO New Delhi, delivered the keynote address, where he congratulated the Steering Committee of Harithkram - the Environment Society of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi, for organizing the conference and said that the youth of today must be adequately trained and stay committed to facilitating environmental education for a better world.

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A community dialogue on Kaas Plateau Northern Cluster of Western Ghats – a World Natural Heritage Site



© S. Thangaraj

The community dialogue on Kaas Plateau - Northern Cluster of Western Ghats World Natural Heritage Site, was organized at the Kaas Village on 26th August 2014. The objective was to review the progress of conservation efforts undertaken for this World Natural Heritage Site and plan for future activities with active involvement of communities and organizations working at the grass-root level, as also at state, national and international level.

Mr Ram Boojh represented the UNESCO New Delhi Office as the keynote speaker. He explained that the plateau in addition to being a biodiversity hotspot is also an important cultural site and therefore its development needs to be linked with conservation. A buffer zone of about five km around the site would restrict unwanted development and complement conservation. Therefore protecting the fragile plateau had to be at the top of the agenda if unwanted development, as is the case in some tourist places was to be avoided. The event was attended by around 50 participants including local communities, youth, researchers, academicians, entrepreneurs, eco-tour operators and guides, government representatives, NGOs and the media. The organizers included the Forest Department-Maharashtra, Gram panchayats of Kaas and other villages, MTDC, TERRE Policy Centre, Pune and UNESCO as the knowledge partner.

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SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Their Own Country: A Profile of Labor Migration from Rajasthan



On the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, UNESCO, in partnership with Aajeevika Bureau Udaipur, and the support of UN Women, is organizing a half day policy dialogue and media launch of the first ever State report on internal migration in India titled *Their Own Country: A Profile of Labor Migration from Rajasthan*, on 17 October 2014 in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

The report prepared by Aajeevika Bureau and a group of civil society organizations, documents the state of seasonal migration in Rajasthan and aims to provide

policymakers and government officials with fresh perspective and information on migration trends and positively influences state policy. This is the first serious attempt to put numbers and narratives together in order to make a case for much better attention to the vast and mostly neglected migrant workforce of Rajasthan. The research method put to use to arrive at a state level figure is also 'a first' and can guide future course of similar investigations at the national level.

Strong and urgent actions are needed to bring lasting changes in the precarious situation of migrant workers. The report proposes a framework of action to address migrants' issues in an impactful manner. The state has to create an enabling environment with strong regulatory mechanisms as well as welfare measures that keep perverse practices in check and ensures stable livelihood for migrant workers and their families. These provisions need to be supported by the setting up of Rajasthan Migrant and Unorganized Labor Protection and Welfare Authority and an inter-state task force comprising representatives from both Rajasthan and key labor receiving states such as Gujarat and Maharashtra

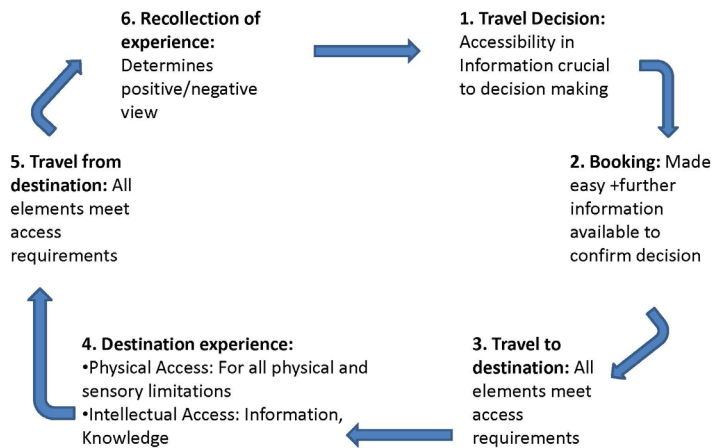
For more information: <http://www.solutionexchange-un-gen-gym.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Brief-Note+Highlights.pdf>

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CULTURE

A first step towards participation of persons with disabilities in Arts and Cultural Life

The Chain of Accessibility in Heritage Sites and Museums



There are 650 million persons with disabilities in the world and potentially 22 million persons with disabilities in India. The right to enjoy art and cultural is part of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights as well as UN Convention for the Person with Disabilities, yet it remains perhaps one of the least explored topics particularly in India and South Asia.

The National Conference on the theme 'ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Taking Stock and Identifying Opportunities' was organized by UNESCO and the Open Knowledge Community (OKC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India and civil society partners in New Delhi on 9 and 10 September 2014.

Seizing this opportunity, UNESCO New Delhi Culture Sector initiated the first discussion group on the access to and enjoyment of arts and culture by person with disabilities. The session exchanged ideas and available technologies to enhance the accessibility to and enjoyment of the museums and heritage site as well as film and TV programmes by persons with disabilities.

The discussion led to an overwhelming expression of interest by all the participants who, together with UNESCO New Delhi Culture Sector, agreed to form a voluntarily working group to take the issue forward. Among the key stakeholders are the National Gallery of Modern Art, the National Museum, School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) Bhopal, National Council for Education, Research and Training (NCERT), Delhi University, Google Cultural Institute, Deakin University (Australia), Saksham Trust and several NGOs working in the area of art education and with PWDs and ICT assistive technologies.

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION

National Conference and Exhibition, 'ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Taking Stock and Identifying Opportunities'



UNESCO and the Open Knowledge Community, in collaboration with the Department of Electronics and IT (Ministry of Communications and IT, Government of India) and civil society partners, organized the National Conference and Exhibition on 'ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Taking Stock and Identifying Opportunities', from 9-10 September, Hans Hotel, New Delhi

The Conference examined India's achievements and challenges in the space of ICT-related policy formulation and implementation, innovation, content development, and provision of access for persons with disabilities (PWDs). Through a series of roundtable discussions on specific themes, the Conference identified gaps and opportunities, and encouraged stakeholders to take concrete steps to empower PWDs through the use of ICTs.

The Exhibition, titled the 'Knowledge Mall for ICTs and Assistive Technology', showcased selected ICT innovations, solutions and best practices focused on PWDs. The exhibition brought together PWDs and technologists face to face to verify whether existing technologies meet the needs of the PWDs, and to explore how they can be refined to do so more efficiently.

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INTERNATIONAL DAYS OBSERVED AT UNESCO

International Youth Day

12 August 2014

“In order to unleash potential of young people, we must consider them to be key partners in the formulation and implementation of youth policies.”

Extract from the message by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

International Literacy Day

8 September 2014

“International Literacy Day, devoted this year to the connection between literacy and sustainable development, provides us with an opportunity to remember a simple truth: literacy not only changes lives, it saves them.”

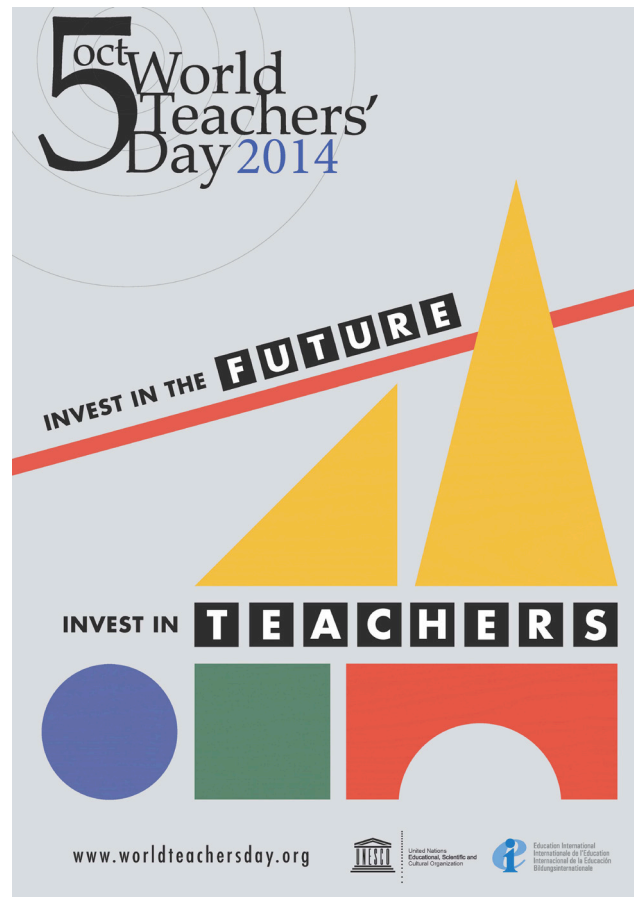
Extract from the message by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

International Day of Peace

21 September 2014

“To build peace, we must open our eyes also to the reality of the hidden crisis facing education in conflicts, with schools being targeted and education becoming a means of indoctrination and to sow the seeds of hatred.”

Extract from the message by Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO

**Upcoming International Days**

2 November - International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists

10 November - World Science Day for Peace and Development

16 November - International Day for Tolerance

20 November - World Philosophy Day

World Teachers Day

5 October 2014

“An education system is only as good as its teachers. Teachers are essential to universal and quality education for all: they are central to shaping the minds and attitudes of the coming generations to deal with new global challenges and opportunities. Innovative, inclusive and results-focused teaching is crucial for 2015...”

Extract from the joint message of UNESCO, ILO, UNICEF, UNDP and Education International

CALENDER OF EVENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

“Their Own Country: A Profile of Labor Migration from Rajasthan” - Policy Dialogue and Media Launch of the first state report on internal migration in India

Jaipur, India

17 October 2014

Contact: Marina Faetanini (m.faetanini@unesco.org)

Conference on Environment, “Planning Today for Tomorrow” (UNESCO as knowledge partner)

The Leela Palace New Delhi

30 October 2014

Contact: Ram Boojh (r.boojh@unesco.org)

National Teacher Training Workshop on Introducing Multiple Perspective Approaches to Biodiversity

WWF Auditorium, New Delhi

31 October - 1 November 2014

Climate Trails - Policy Dialogue and Media Launch of a documentary on Migration and Climate Change in India

UN Conference Hall, New Delhi

18 December 2014

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PAST EVENTS

International Competition on Cultural Landscape

Thimpu, Bhutan

7 - 20 August 2014

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First National Expert Meeting on a draft Bhutanese National law on Intangible Cultural Heritage

Thimpu, Bhutan

22 August 2014

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5th World Renewable Energy Technology Congress and Expo-2014

New Delhi, India

21-23 August 2014

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ICOMOS Upstream Advisory Mission for WH Nomination process in Maldives

Male, Maldives

23-30 August 2014

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National Conference and Exhibition on ‘ICTs for Persons with Disabilities: Taking Stock and Identifying Opportunities’

New Delhi, India

9-10 September 2014

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Sub-regional workshop on South-Asia Silk Road

Kathmandu, Nepal

23 - 24 September 2014

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UN Public Lecture by Dr Karan Singh

Teen Murti Auditorium, New Delhi

26 September 2014

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CALENDER OF EVENTS

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UNESCO Volunteer, Natural Sciences

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