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**Information Society Division  
Communication and Information Sector**

# WSIS

## Working Group on Internet Governance

As part of the follow-up of WSIS 1 and preparation for WSIS 2, the Working Group on Internet Governance held its first meeting in Geneva from 23 to 25 November 2004 and part of the session took the form of consultations open to all governments and stakeholders in order to prepare a report with recommendations aiming to facilitate the negotiations at the second phase of the Summit in Tunis.

Interaction with governments and stakeholders at the open meeting allowed group members to listen to the input from a wide range of actors. In general, participants expressed their appreciation for the balanced composition of the group. Some time was devoted to addressing the need for the group's work to be as open and inclusive as possible. In light of these discussions the group decided to alternate between "plenary meetings" (open to observers without the right to speak) and closed "working meetings".

Discussions focused on the structure and outline of the report and on what should be the point of entry into its substantive work. The group agreed on a draft preliminary outline for the structure of the report, which would serve as a basis for its future work. It was understood that this structure would not be final but could be modified in the course of the work. The group decided to postpone the discussion on the definitions of Internet and Internet governance and chose an issues-based approach as a starting point.

At this stage it was generally felt that it would be best to take a comprehensive approach before setting priorities and begin with looking at a wide-ranging list of issues. These issues would be identified and categorized as follows, according to agreed language contained in the Declaration of Principles:

- equitable distribution of resources
- access for all
- stable and secure functioning of the Internet
- multilingualism and content
- other issues for consideration.

The group agreed to prepare issues papers in a bottom-up process with the involvement of

all its members. The papers would be developed according to a common template that would be finalized after the meeting and would be posted on the WGIG website. Each issue should be measured against the crosscutting principles contained in the Geneva documents and assess the adequacy of current arrangements. These principles included transparency, democracy, multilateralism, the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations as well as the capacity to address governance issues in a coordinated manner. The papers should be ready by 25 January 2005 and made available on the WGIG website.

The group discussed the organization of its work and set out the timeline for its activities. The next meeting will take place in Geneva back-to-back with WSIS PrepCom-2. This will allow for another round of open consultations with governments and all stakeholders in February 2005, thus giving PrepCom participants the opportunity to interact with the WGIG. The group will then meet in a working session to prepare the preliminary report it has been asked to submit to PrepCom-2. Two further meetings will be held in April and June 2005.

Agreement was reached on the importance of the developmental dimension and Internet governance was seen in the broad context of WSIS and efforts to harness ICTs to promote the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. A development focus would therefore be one of the crosscutting priorities. In this regard, measures would have to be taken to improve the representation of developing countries in the various Internet governance mechanisms and arrangements. In particular, it would be necessary to develop capacity building measures to allow developing country representatives to make their voices heard in all relevant forums.

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# MEMORY OF THE WORLD

## First National “Memory of the World” Registers Recognized

**T**HE first two national registers for UNESCO’s Memory of the World Programme – China and Australia – were formally recognized in a ceremony in December 2004 at the National Archives of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur during a meeting of members of the Bureau of the Regional Memory of the World Committee for Asia and Pacific.

The Register of China, established in 2000, has now inscribed 44 items of national documentary heritage recognized by China’s national Memory of the World Committee. To make this heritage better known, a colour volume illustrating the first group of inscriptions has been produced under the sponsorship of the State Archives Administration of China. A similar volume covering the second group of inscriptions is under preparation. The Committee invites and evaluates nominations on a two yearly cycle which parallels the process used for the International Register.

Australia’s National Register was established in 2002. It can be accessed at [www.amw.org.au](http://www.amw.org.au) and currently lists 15 items of significant Australian heritage. The Australian National Memory of the World Committee follows a shorter, annual cycle in inviting and processing nominations.

Both registers use the same criteria and nomination forms as the International Register, slightly adapted in each case to meet national circumstances. Other countries in the region are being encouraged to establish their own national registers.

The Bureau of the Regional Committee for Asia/Pacific has also decided to establish a Regional Asia/Pacific Register in 2005.

UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register lists documentary heritage items that were identified by the International Advisory Committee in its meetings in Tashkent (September 1997), Vienna (June 1999) Cheongju City (June 2001) and in Gdansk (August 2003) and endorsed by the Director-General of UNESCO as corresponding the selection criteria for world significance.

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## ‘Sorry Books’ registered as historic documents

**A** collection of 461 Sorry Books recording the thoughts of thousands of Australians on the unfolding history of the Stolen Generations has been formally recognized as having powerful historical and social significance. The books are among nine significant documentary heritage items recently inscribed on the Australian Memory of the World Register – part of UNESCO’s Programme to protect and promote documentary material – that records or reflects significant milestones and events in Australia’s history.

The items listed are an illustration of Australia’s evolution, telling important stories about the distant and recent past and provides an insight into aspects of Australian life which help inform and explain who they are as a nation.

The Sorry Books (1998) are held by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Studies (AIATSIS) in Canberra. Many books produced after 1998 are still to be located but it is estimated that more than half a million signatures were generated as part of the campaign.

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## Timbuktu Manuscripts Project

UNESCO continued to demonstrate its commitment to the Timbuktu Manuscripts Project, an initiative to preserve the unique literary heritage of the Malian city of Timbuktu, by sponsoring a two-week study tour in France of two renowned Malian scholars, from the Ahmed Baba Institute, and from the private library of Alwangari.

Familiarization and training sessions on the preservation and management of historical documents and digitization techniques were conducted on their behalf in a number of institutes as part of a project funded by the Government of Luxembourg. The main goal of the Timbuktu Manuscripts Project is to preserve and provide wide access to the invaluable cultural and literary heritage held in both public and private collections of historical manuscripts in the Timbuktu area.

Through training and upgraded facilities, the project will increase the capacity of the national

Ahmed Baba Institute (IHERI-AB) to perform its essential missions of restoration and conservation, and scientific exploitation and dissemination of the content of the manuscripts currently in its possession as well as collections held in other libraries in Timbuktu.

Today the city of Timbuktu has some 60-80 private collections, the largest of which, the Mamma Haidara Memorial Library, has been revived through a grant from the Mellon Foundation, while a catalogue of its contents is being published by the Al-Furqan Islamic Foundation. Several other private collections were acquired by the Centre Ahmad Baba, a public institution that now contains over 18,000 manuscripts.

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## The Slave Trade Archives Project

SPONSORED by UNESCO and organized by the National Archives of Cuba, an international meeting on the Slave Trade Archives Project took place in November 2004, in Havana, Cuba with the attendance of over 25 delegates from 11 countries.

The project began in 1999 and concluded at the end of 2004, involving countries such as Argentina, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde, Colombia, Cuba, Gambia, Ghana, Haiti and Senegal.

The meeting presented works on the digitization of archives, on CD-ROMs and Websites, showing the richness of historical documents, which cover almost 400 years of a history poorly known, of the tens of millions of Africans who were victims of the slave trade. The Durban Conference in 2001 acknowledged this histori-

cal event as a crime against humanity, and the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed



2004 as the International Year to Commemorate the Struggle against Slavery and its Abolition.

The projects developed different models reflecting, for example, the high technical quality of documentary methodologies and software solutions, exhibited by the National Library of Brazil allowing their project to be considered a model of excellence. The project presented by Haiti was also commended as this almost heroic task, in the middle of civil war, under the threat of death, lack of electricity and political instability, was finished on schedule resulting in the first CD-ROM to be made in Haiti. The richness of the archives of Senegal, which comprise the documents of former French West Africa, inscribed on the Memory of the World Register; the dimension of the project presented by Colombia, with the digitization of over 150,000 images; the systematic compilation undertaken by the Museum of Barbados for the 14 English-speaking countries of the Caribbean; and each of the remaining projects, can be browsed through the official web page of the site: <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/slavetradearchives/>

The meeting recommended:

- the establishment of reciprocal links among the Websites in order to directly navigate from one project to the other;
- use of open source and public domain solutions provided by or in collaboration with UNESCO;
- a general work methodology for selection, description, preservation, and site content. Emphasis is on ISAD(G), MARC and ISO 2709 standards;
- better visibility of the project in institutional sites, through web promotion, improving the usability and lay-out of the site. A common logo for the project was recommended;
- use of available local technical resources for seminars and workshops, and the establishment of regional centres with adequate infrastructure for digitization projects.

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# AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVES

## Digitization of Radio Archives

NINE workshops on improving radio programming through the digitization of radio archives in Central and South-East Asia and the Pacific are being conducted to improve capacities in radio and broadcast archives. Funding is provided under UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC).

### Thailand

More than 50 managers, archivists and engineers from various electronic media organizations attended a course in Bangkok, from 18 to 26 November organized by the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD). The workshop clearly showed the deep interest of broadcasters and the urgency to develop sound and video archives.

In order to obtain invaluable and lasting support from management, the workshop informed them of the perils facing media archives but also outlined the benefits that broadcasters will accrue from well-organized archives. Emphasis was placed on the dangers of obsolescence which affects traditional and new equipment and renders video and sound carriers unplayable due to lack of spare parts to maintain equipment in working condition.

In Thailand, a number of institutions hold rich film, photo, video and sound archives. This diverse structure and the countrywide distribution of the documents will pose a special challenge when it comes to the implementation of modern media archiving concepts in Thailand, and in particular, for the development of a union audiovisual catalogue.

Therefore one full day was devoted to the development of metadata systems for audio and video archives that would allow audio and video documents to be easily and quickly found and retrieved to enrich and enhance radio and TV programmes.

Other concepts covered the conversion of analogue sound recordings to digital formats

including questions related to digital optical storage media and selection policies for the storage and preservation of audio and video documents.

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### Kyrgyzstan

In Kyrgyzstan, managers and staff of the archives and technical departments of the National Broadcast Corporation of the Kyrgyz Republic (SNBC) were trained in modern methods and technologies of sound archiving in order to support SNBC in its strategy to preserve its sound archive for the next 50 years.

The seminar covered the same topics as in the Thai workshop. The SNBC holds more than 10,000 hours of sound recordings in its archives, with unique examples of the Kyrgyz oral and musical heritage. Of these, 175 hours of the most important recordings, dating back to the 1950s, are kept under special conditions and are referred to as the "Gold Fonds".

All of the recordings are stored on analogue magnetic tapes and are therefore highly endangered as obsolescence will leave the radio station without suitable players in the not too distant future.

Both the sound recordings and the archive's cataloguing system will have to be modernized and, as one is useless without the other, participants were informed of the technologies and systems which are available currently for the storage of catalogue data as well as of digital audio recordings.

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## Digital Preservation of Audiovisual Archives

SOME 20 experts from national audiovisual archives, main broadcasting organizations and national committees of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme in Central Asia participated in a two-day training workshop on digital preservation of audiovisual archives in Almaty, Kazakhstan in November 2004.

Starting with a review of the current situation in the field of preservation and access in archives and broadcasting organizations and a presentation of methods of migrating digital documents, archivists and other specialists were trained to start the process of digital migration in broadcasting organizations and to enhance cooperation with state archival institutions in the field of audiovisual heritage.

The main focus of the seminar was on the use of ICTs, including electronic cataloguing and digital libraries to facilitate access to audio data.

The workshop was organized by the UNESCO Office in Almaty in collaboration with the Central State Archive of Audiovisual and Photo Documents of the Republic of Kazakhstan as part of UNESCO's support for digital migration of content in audiovisual archives.

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# DIGITAL HERITAGE

## Digital Preservation of the Silk Roads Heritage

A 3-day regional workshop on Preservation of Images of Carpets as Sustainable Open Resources (PICASOR) was held from 30 November to 2 December 2004 in the Azerbaijan State Carpet Museum within the framework of UNESCO's Digital Silk Roads Project.

This workshop discussed the history of carpet production and their preservation as part of cultural heritage, and involved over 30 eminent experts on carpet history from countries such as Japan, Turkey and Turkmenistan. It offered them an opportunity to assess the status of this form of heritage in Silk Roads countries; as well as to examine methods of promoting free access to carpet museums or other institutions in Silk Roads countries under the UNESCO public domain initiative. Participants were also invited to study the possibility of creating multilingual databases and integrating them into ASPICO-DSR (Advanced Scientific Portal for International Cooperation on Digital Silk Roads); identify technical solutions for networking, systems/network administration, digitization and other applications; and draw up

a strategic vision and proposals for submission to the third Symposium on Digital Silk Roads.

The commerce route linking the West and the East, which is known as the Silk Roads, over the centuries carried not only precious merchandise but also culture, knowledge and beliefs and had a profound impact on lives of Eurasians. Centuries-old connections led to mutual enrichment of different cultures and served as a major instrument of cultural heritage development.

Unfortunately, this heritage is disappearing due to a combination of different factors which include natural causes, deliberate destruction and lack of maintenance. Therefore it is necessary to propose a joint plan of action to preserve the invaluable Silk Roads heritage for transmission to future generations.

Carpets, as an essential part of the historical and cultural heritage, also need to be preserved and restored. All Silk Roads countries have some carpet weaving traditions, but only three of them (Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey) have carpet museums. There are more than 2000 unique

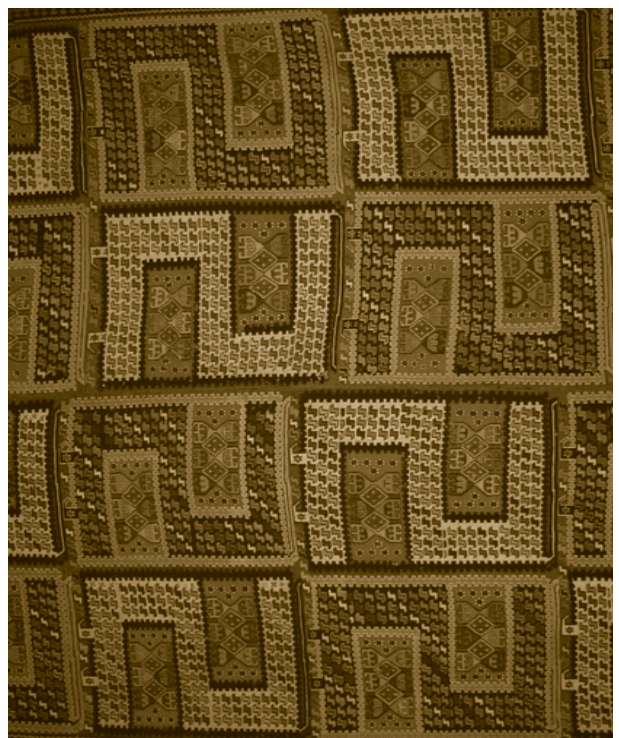


carpets in museums all over the world that may be lost to future generations unless immediate action is taken.

Creating portals, databases and a virtual museum as a worldwide network based on the digital archives of the precious historical, cultural and natural heritage is crucial. It will promote the Silk Road carpet heritage, help to

preserve and restore old art items and allow the general public to learn about the great Silk Road carpet heritage.

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# ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT

## UNESCO and Microsoft Sign Cooperation Agreement to Help Bridge the Digital Divide



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**M**ICROSOFT joined the coalition of major private sector partners supporting UNESCO's global strategy to draw on information and communication technologies (ICT) to improve education, social and economic development worldwide.

UNESCO's Director-General and Microsoft's Chairman and Chief Software Architect signed a cooperation agreement at Organization Headquarters in November 2004. The agreement defines eight areas in which UNESCO and Microsoft will work together, exchanging experiences, know-how and developing projects. These are:

- education and learning;
- community access and development;
- cultural and linguistic diversity and preservation;
- digital inclusion and capacity;
- exchange and promotion of best practices on the use of ICT for socio-economic development;
- fostering web-based communities of practice, including content development, knowledge sharing and empowerment through participation;
- facilitating exchange of information and of software applications;
- sharing expertise and strategies.

Projects in these areas will draw on cooperation with a variety of partners: from the private sector, government, and intergovernmental organizations, as well as civil society actors.

The partnership in the agreement is strategic in that it is based on the exchange of knowledge and experience rather than funding. The agreement, for example, envisions the building of knowledge communities, i.e. web-based communities of practice, which will facilitate the pooling of intellectual resources independently of geographical barriers.

The agreement emphasizes the need to develop a teacher training syllabus on how to integrate ICT in the classroom. The intention is to provide guidance and global benchmarks to improve the quality of training for teachers on the use of ICT. This will be a multistakeholder initiative with key foundation partners.

The relationship between Microsoft and UNESCO is not exclusive, and the Director General reaffirmed the Organization's continued support for different software models, both proprietary and open-source software, in keeping with Paragraph 27 of the Declaration adopted by the international community at last year's World Summit on the Information Society.

## First Group of Trainees Obtains “Microsoft-Certified Professionals” Certificate

**T**RAINEES from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan obtained “Microsoft-certified Professional (MCP)” certificates in December 2004 after a 30-day UNESCO-sponsored training course on advanced system technologies at the Regional Academy for Online Network Governance and System Administration (RAONGSA) in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The main purpose of the training was to establish one of two pivotal groups of specialists, both system and network professionals, who can set up and maintain local systems to ensure linkage between regional and national institutions. The course provided hands-on training to local institutions to facilitate their effective cooperation with partners, focusing on designing and populating web-sites linked to databases of digital data and providing regular technical support to the region together with UNESCO-trained Cisco-certified specialists. The course consisted of five modules.

Training in advanced system technologies in combination with the certification systems is highly desirable for successful capacity-building of ACCESS-net (Association of Computer Centres for Exploiting Sustainable Synergy) members because it builds enormous enthusiasm among participants.

Since its creation in 2001, RAONGSA has developed two quality training courses for certification on advanced network technologies and on advanced system technologies. To make sure that outcomes of training are measurable and in order to encourage participants, RAONGSA has introduced certification systems, which are based on online examinations developed by Cisco and Microsoft.

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## SOFTWARE

### Second CDS/ISIS International Meeting to be held in Brazil

THE first world meeting of CDS/ISIS was held in 1995 in Colombia. Ten years after, the celebration of the second meeting from 20 to 23 September 2005 in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil will provide an excellent opportunity to reunite once again the international CDS/ISIS community, summoning information, computer science professionals, national and regional distributors, end users, partner organizations and all those interested in the “Family of CDS/ISIS software” who have contributed, throughout the years, to the democratic and equitable access to data produced or collected in thousands of institutions worldwide.

In 1985 UNESCO marked a milestone in the scene of information processing with the launching of the CDS/ISIS software for personal computers. CDS/ISIS soon became one of the most widely used tools for information organization and retrieval, especially in developing countries. CDS/ISIS made and continues to make a substantial impact in different ways:

- Initiating the process of automatization in thousands of libraries with the creation of bibliographical data bases with affordable costs.
- Fostering, and in many cases, initiating, information literacy by means of the development of new capacities and abilities in information professionals.
- Favouring the development of an important community of practice at international level, in the use of the program and the development of new applications.
- Fostering collaborative work between professionals of computer science and library and information workers.
- Facilitating the networking and sharing of information at national, regional and international levels.

On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of its creation (1995), the “International Congress of CDS/ISIS” was organized in Bogotá, Colombia, where representatives of 40 countries from

Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe were reunited in the Plenary Assembly, and signed the Bogotá Declaration: <http://library.wur.nl/isis/declspa.html>

Deep changes have taken place since then, mainly because of the Internet and increasing globalization. At the same time, there have been other influences: the Free Software movement; the recognition of the need to promote multilingualism and the efforts towards universal access to public domain information in cyberspace, among others.

The setting of the UN Millennium Development Goals and the declaration of the World Summit of the Information Society also contributed to a new environment in which the CDS/ISIS community will have to face new challenges.

The accomplishment of the 9th World Congress on Health Information and Libraries (ICML9)/ 7th Regional Congress of Health Sciences Information (CRICS7), that will reunite thousands of information professionals, constitutes an excellent opportunity to celebrate, jointly, the 2nd World Congress on CDS/ISIS, a family of software which historically is a significant tool for the management of information and knowledge in health in numerous international communities and libraries.

Adhering to the motto of the ICML9/CRICS7 “Commitment to equity” and on the occasion of the celebration of 10 years after its first world meeting and 20 years after the launching of CDS/ISIS, the moment is propitious to exchange experiences, to present new developments, to get to know new colleagues from different parts of the world, to evaluate the CDS/ISIS journey and construct a shared vision for the future.

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# MULTILINGUALISM

## Multilingualism in Cyberspace

RECENT research carried out by Aston University in the United Kingdom, with UNESCO funding, shows that the World Wide Web is fracturing into language communities and examines whether the WWW is a medium which is encouraging language diversity at all levels. Its name suggests that it will disseminate information among all peoples and that it will establish global networks.

In the early days of the WWW there was some reason to see the new technology as one way of uniting the world. In theory, an individual, an institution or an enterprise can set up a Web page and be read by other users. However, this theoretical possibility depends on whether Web author and browser have a common language or not. In the early days the majority of pages were in English. This was unsurprising given the influence of the English-speaking world in the development of the technology.

It also reflected the fact that many of those who had computers able to connect to the Web in the early days were in English-speaking countries. Thirdly, WWW browsing was at first the preserve of an educated elite. The likelihood of those who do not have English as their first language having it as a second language is quite high in this group. For a number of years, Website constructors were catering for this readership and English was the most widely used language on the Web.

The research project was intended to show how and why this situation may be changing. The research did not simply report on the growing numbers of sites in languages other than English, but also attempted to identify trends among users. The major findings fall under two headings:

### Fracturing into Language Communities

The vertical penetration into societies of hardware ownership, IT literacy and internet access is both a reason for and a result of the spread of official state languages on the WWW. Understandably people prefer to use their own language where information is available in it,

even when they are competent users of English as a second language.

Efforts by state institutions and private commerce to provide information in the language of their citizens and consumers construct virtual language communities on the WWW. Website builders in "standard" European languages (French, German, Italian, etc) spearheaded this trend, but as the technical problems of non-roman alphabet languages were overcome, Arabic, Chinese and Japanese Websites increased exponentially.

However, the technical solutions that allow non-roman language users to browse the web cause fracture at an even deeper level. Web users do not simply choose to remain in their own language circle through choice; technology makes it difficult for them to do anything else.

Following on these findings the next phase of the research looked for evidence that the WWW is encouraging the maintenance or revitalization of smaller and lesser used languages by providing a cheap medium for publication. Research was limited to Europe because pilot projects found lack of hardware among minority speakers in the areas of Africa and Asia that were trialled. There, IT literacy and Internet access were still, at the time of the survey, the privilege of educated elites.

### Language Diversity

Speakers of some regional and minority languages are using the WWW to publish and promote their own language. There is evidence that far more is published in this medium than in traditional print or in audio-visual formats. However, the extent of the readership is not at all clear. It may well be an activist-led activity rather than response to general demand.

The apparent background and origin of the authors of many Websites in regional and minority languages confirm indications that the profile of users of these languages is developing. From the mid 20th century, speakers of regional and minority languages were mostly located in rural areas and were often stereotyped as poor, with little education and from the older generations

in the community. From the information that can be gleaned about them from their sites, these Website authors do not appear to conform to this stereotype; they are young, educated – and overwhelmingly male.

Where States have accorded official status to minority languages, the effects are disparate. In some cases the new status appears to be encouraging their use, in others, the population has not responded in large numbers to this new language opportunity.

The use of regional and minority languages in a symbolic way is widespread. The practice may contribute to the formation or maintenance of group identity even though it plays little role in language maintenance or revitalization.

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## INFOYOUTH

**U**NDER the INFOYOUTH Programme, considerable emphasis is being given to activities in the area of preventing HIV/AIDS. Thus, support was provided for the development of information networks, facilitating the interaction of various youth groups and ensuring effective coordination and backing for partners engaged in combating HIV/AIDS. Logistical and financial support was also provided for on and off-line workshops and courses, the design and implementation of coherent information and ICT training schemes adapted to regional contexts and directed to disadvantaged youth, creation of youth infocentres, content production, design and launching of specific Websites on HIV/AIDS prevention, developing information materials and media campaigns.

HIV/AIDS information centres for youth were established in Bulgaria, Mozambique, and Tanzania. The information structures serve to implement preventive HIV/AIDS activities by improving access to information and raising awareness among youth, in particular young girls, about the potential risks and how to ensure more efficient prevention. The activities included seminars and training sessions in ICT skills, as well as creating Websites in local languages. The information provided aimed at educating youth to assume new attitudes, in order to implement preventive measures against HIV/AIDS and broadly disseminate the best practices collected in this area. Website for ICT project in Tanzania – [www.infoyouth.or.tz](http://www.infoyouth.or.tz)

In cooperation with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonian National Commission for UNESCO, a youth-oriented information scheme was launched to improve HIV/AIDS



awareness and prevention in order to decrease the spread of the infection through access to ICT and non-formal education activities, taking into consideration the specificities of each of the participating countries: Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro. Through this project, support was provided for:

- Improving access to information and raising awareness among youth about the potential risks and devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and prevention methods.
- Preparing and making accessible, through a specific Website, an electronic database presenting the situation of HIV/AIDS in the countries concerned by the project as well as the major governmental and non-governmental institutions involved in preventive activities.

- Producing information materials for dissemination among the target group and reaching the audience in the languages used in the three participating countries.

Finally, an information and training scheme to improve HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention among disadvantaged youth was implemented with the involvement of partners from the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama. On-line discussions facilitated the preparation of a comparative study on policies

and strategies in this field, and a partnership was also developed with the World Bank for the assessment and strengthening of the capacities of youth NGOs in Latin America to participate more efficiently in HIV/AIDS preventive activities.

*For more information on Infoyouth Programme, please contact Mr Boyan Radoykov, UNESCO, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (331) 45 68 36 66. Fax: (331) 45 68 55 83. Email: b.radoykov@unesco.org*



Infoyouth Center in Bulgaria



## STAFF CHANGES

### Abel Caine



Mr. Abel Caine commenced duties as the Communication and Information Adviser for the Pacific sub-regional Office in Apia, Samoa in January 2005. He is responsible for all of UNESCO's programmes and activities in communication and information for 16 Pacific Island member states and associate members.

Prior to joining UNESCO, Abel served as the Assistant Manager Business Development for ITC Services, Ministry of Finance, Government of Fiji from 2001 to 2004. He was responsible for strategic IT planning including the formula-

tion of a National ICT Policy, e-Government Strategy Plan, and securing funds and resources for implementation with the result that all Ministries and Departments across Fiji are connected to a high-speed Government Network with e-mail and broadband internet access. Abel represented the Fiji Government at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Phase 1 in Geneva, 2003.

### Misiko Ito





The Information Society Division welcomes Ms Misako Ito who has joined the Division under the Young Professional Programme. Misako is an engineer, specializing in information systems management. She has previous experience working in a French public institute for scientific research and technical cooperation and with the French cooperation agency (AFD) where she undertook activities relating to the implementation of a Website for the European fisheries project in Western Africa; methodology to design project monitoring information systems; implementation of a Central African environment Knowledge Management System.

She also worked as a volunteer with an international association to enhance the use of IT in collectivities as well as with an NGO for non-formal education programmes in Senegal.

### Dana Ziyasheva

In September 2005, Ms Dana Ziyasheva took up duties as the Communication and Information Adviser for UNESCO in Beijing, People's Republic of China. Ms Ziyasheva joined the UNESCO Communication and Information Sector in 1995 and during her 8-year stint with the Information Society Division she managed a number of ICT projects across the globe. A former journalist, she also worked as an Education Specialist in Iraq on detachment to the "Oil-for-Food" programme in 1999.

In Beijing, she will handle communication and information activities in the Cluster Office concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea. She is particularly interested in promoting inter-regional links between Africa, Latin America and Asia in area of media development, information access, distance education and ICT for social progress.

### Claudio Menezes



He has returned to UNESCO Headquarters after a four year stint as Regional Adviser for Informatics and Telematics in Brasilia, Brazil (August 1995 – June 1999) and as Communication and Information Adviser in Montevideo, Uruguay from June 1999 to November 2004.

Claudio has a wide professional experience in areas such as:

- advisory services on information technology policies formulation;
- organization of conferences, forums and international cooperation programmes;
- preparation and implementation of projects for national bi- and multilateral funding;
- elaboration and edition of publications;
- organization of thematic campaigns and networks;
- elaboration of thematic documents on the use of technologies in education, science and culture;
- management, implementation and evaluation of international cooperation projects;
- contributing papers on information, informatics and communication technologies and policies;
- other related activities.

He is replaced in Uruguay by Gunther Cyranek.

### Gunther Cyranek

After six years in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Mr Günther Cyranek has transferred to the UNESCO Office in Uruguay with effect from November 2004. He brings to his new posting a wealth of experience gained first-hand of the most urgent problems in the field of information and informatics in Africa. In sub-Saharan Africa, his main focus was ensuring broader access to information in all sectors, providing support for National Information and Communication Infrastructure (NICI) policies, open and distance education in the knowledge society with support of interactive media, adaptive technologies for blind people, developing community multimedia centres concentrating on communities at cultural heritage sites, and project development within UNESCO's Regional Information Society Network for Africa (RINAF) with the Web competition for educational institutions as well as the Virtual Multimedia Academy (VMA) on different design strategies e.g. on development-related themes such as water and sanitation. He also cooperated closely with the UNESCO Institute for Capacity Building in Africa, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (NICI),

and the infrastructure cluster (ICT) within the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), a project of the African Union.

His prior years of experience in the field of Information Technology for development will be particularly useful as he focuses on implementing the priorities for the MERCOSUR region.

### Paul Hector



Mr Paul Hector replaces Günther Cyranek in the UNESCO Office in Addis Ababa. Paul joined UNESCO within the framework of the Young Professionals Programme after having worked in the public and private sectors in addition to joint public-private partnerships in the area of international development.

In Africa, Paul will be involved in activities giving priority to the opportunities and risks of ICTs for learning within the NEPAD Programme. Closer co-operation with the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in the field of communication, information and informatics will also be among his objectives. Among the projects to be implemented will be the Initiative B@bel which will be promoting languages in the Horn of Africa, e.g. Ethiopic script, Amharic.

## REGIONAL OFFICES

### ASIA & THE PACIFIC

#### Bishkek Workshop for the Memory of the World Programme

Representatives of the Memory of the World National Committees of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in regional workshop for the Memory of the World Programme (Memory of Central Asia) at the National Commission of the Kyrgyz Republic for UNESCO in Bishkek.

The workshop was designed to raise the capacity of the national committee members to work on a common platform in cyberspace to promote Central Asian documentary heritage, exchange information, knowledge and experience relating to the Memory of the World activities in Central Asia, and establish tools for nominations. Participants were introduced to MOWCA (Memory of the World Central Asia) platform as a collaborative tool for the national committees and made recommendations concerning the development of a newer version of the platform.

Training also include exercises to learn how to build a common knowledge shared by Central Asian MOW participants and how to improve

the existing new page on the MOWCA Website (<http://www.unesco.kz/mow>). The workshop also included open discussion based on proposals by the participants and the development of recommendations for cooperation between national committees to build a common Central Asian Register.

By the end of the workshop, participants were able to use the on-line platform to add nominations, edit and/or add images, publish on Internet, etc.

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#### Second Meeting of Asia Pacific Information Network

Thirty participants from seventeen countries in Asia and the Pacific met in October for the second session of the Asia Pacific Information Network (APIN) at the Institute for Scientific and Technical Information of China (ISTIC) in

Beijing, China. The main point of the discussions concerned the important role of information literacy in the region.

Participants agreed that APIN should launch campaigns to raise awareness of information literacy in the region, for example, by promoting reading and encouraging partnership with the media for publishing success stories and promote champions of information literacy. The final declaration stressed that APIN should be an “authoritative and comprehensive information hub in the emerging knowledge societies with active participation and contribution by APIN National Units (NU) in all member countries”. They stressed the need to “strengthen and empower APIN NU to play an effective role as gateways to ensure provision of and access to information and knowledge resources.

APIN, a regional branch of UNESCO’s Information for All Programme (IFAP), is a network formed through the merger of the Regional Network for the Exchange of Information and Experiences (ASTINFO), the Regional Informatics Network for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (RINSEAP) and the Regional Informatics Network for South and Central Asia (RINSCA).

APIN promotes ICT literacy and application, information and knowledge networking, sharing of information resources, and use of international standards and best practices in communication, information and informatics.

*For additional information please contact Ms Susanne Ornager, Adviser for Communication and Information in Asia and the Pacific region, B 5/29 Safdarjung Enclave, 110 029 New Delhi, India. Tel.: 91 11 671 3000. Fax: 91 11 671 3000. Email: s.ornager@unesco.org*

## Nepali Font Standardization

Improved data transfer and a wide-range of computer applications in Nepali language are the main results of a UNESCO-supported project to normalize Nepali “Devanagari” as the standard font for local language computing that was implemented by Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya, a non-governmental organization based in Lalitpur, in Nepal.

In Nepal, the Nepali Devanagari font (language) was utilized by some organizations while others used fonts such as ‘Preeti’, ‘Kantipur’ and ‘Fontasy Himali’. Each institution had customized the software for its own use and there were no common standard in the country. The lack of standardization limited the transfer of data and

information from one font to another because various fonts had to be downloaded and kept on each and every computer in order to open any document.

The lack of a standard font discouraged Nepalese IT professionals from developing utility software such as a language dictionary or a spell-checker as it would have required too much work in customizing the software for each font currently in use.

Faced with this proliferation of formats, UNESCO supported the Madan Puraskar Pustakalaya in promoting the use of computing in the Nepali language and the principal archives of books and periodicals in the mother tongue to develop a standard font for Nepali.

The range of outputs generated from the project unlocked the possibilities for developing a wide-range of Nepali computer applications. On the basis of this groundwork many applications and the operating system are now in the Nepali language.

Nepal already hosts a vibrant IT sector, which is determined to respond to the dramatic advances that are represented by the standardization of the Nepali Devanagari font. UNESCO’s support for this project came at a very crucial moment and made it possible for MPP to carry on its work in this area. The development at MPP regarding Nepali computing and the font standardization was the main reason behind IDRC recently selecting MPP as the representative institution from Nepal for the Pan Asia Network Localization Project. MPP will be utilizing the experiences gained in its past UNESCO/CI projects to push the momentum of Nepali computing in the future.

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## UNESCO Workshop on the Future of e-Books

A UNESCO workshop featuring the potential of e-Books was recently hosted in Bangalore, India. Participants from Asia and Europe identified the issues and complexities involved in e-book projects and delineated the role of e-Books in education, research and libraries from the perspective of the publishers, distributors and users.

E-book publishing is a dynamic, fast-paced and still evolving field. It is estimated to be a big industry, worth an estimated US\$400 billion that will reach a 250 million e-book reading public by 2005. The stakeholders in the e-Books community: authors, publishers, distributors and consumers are faced with twin challenges of technological obsolescence, both hardware and software; and the diversity in formats and standards which are often incompatible and non-interoperable.

According to one of the leaders of UNESCO e-Book Project Strategy Group at Mysore University in India, the e-Book industry and market place is a nebulous one with each of the players continuing to test waters while gingerly transiting into the arena. While most of the stakeholders believe in the potential of the e-Books, none is ready to take the plunge. The e-Book revolution, though foretold in the year 2000, is yet to happen.

The invitation-only workshop in September 2004 was an important milestone in the UNESCO e-book project, with more than seventy participants representing a wide range of stakeholders. The format of the workshop was designed to be interactive and was structured into four sessions with the inaugural session intended to set the tone and context of the landscape of e-Books through speakers providing overviews from different angles. The other three sessions provided a forum for the concerns of different stakeholders groups. They surveyed e-Books from three perspectives: user and technology; author and publisher; and the aggregator and library.

In the session focusing on user and technology perspective, the different facets and phases of the publishing cycle of e-Books and technologies from the perspectives of the different stakeholders generated heated debate on the pros and cons of technology and also on proprietary vs. open source software. Whereas, the e-Books from the aggregators and library perspective, outlined the array of issues and enumerated the librarians' wish list for the aggregators of e-Books. The differences in the business and access models of different e-Book aggregators were discussed in depth.

The objective of gaining insights from different perspective was achieved, while the interactions helped in drawing meaningful conclusions and provided the necessary inputs for the drafting of framework for the guidelines document.

*For additional information on the activities above, please contact Ms Susanne Ornager, Adviser for Communication and Information in Asia and the Pacific region, B 5/29 Safdarjung Enclave, 110 029 New Delhi, India. Tel.: 91 11 671 3000. Fax: 91 11 671 3000. Email: s.ornager@unesco.org*

## Development and Dissemination of Video Programmes in Samoa

The development of video programmes with Samoan local content and their dissemination via the Internet is the focus of a project supported by UNESCO's Information for All Programme (IFAP). An agreement that has been recently signed by UNESCO and the Samoa National Commission for UNESCO foresees the completion of the project within one year.

Funding secured for the project, that is being developed in cooperation with the Samoa Broadcasting Corporation and implemented by Computer Services Limited, will cover training and first year's operating costs for the transfer of Samoan television programmes to the Internet.

The project is also expected to develop and publish on the Internet a digital library of video and audio recordings in support of Samoan's information literacy efforts and actions to bolster the promotion of Samoan language and culture, both in Samoa and abroad. At least one hundred five-minute productions depicting current events, aspects of Samoan culture, history, environment, sports and religious life will be web cast with 20% in English and 80% in Samoan languages.

This activity is a part of UNESCO's contribution to the implementation of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society in December 2003, in the field of capacity building, promoting the preservation and development of indigenous languages and fostering multilingualism in cyberspace.

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## EUROPE

### International Conference “Law and Internet”

Experts in legal and ethical cyberspace issues from European and Central Asian countries met in October in Moscow, Russian Federation, at the 6th International Conference “Law and Internet”. The Conference was organized within the Framework of UNESCO’s Information for All Programme.

In addition to legal experts, the conference brought together other professionals in the field of education, science, culture, communication and information, members of the Internet community, and other professionals. It was organized by the Russian National Committee of UNESCO’s Information for All Programme (IFAP), the Ministries of Culture and Mass Communication and of Information Technologies and Connection of the Russian

Federation, the Higher School of Economy of the State University, the UNESCO Office in Moscow and the Global Internet Policy Initiative Foundation (GIPI).

The conference was one of the preparatory events of the upcoming International Forum “UNESCO between the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)” to be organized in 2005 in St. Petersburg.

Items on the agenda included discussions on access to the state information resources, intellectual property rights in cyberspace, legal aspects of ICT in education and information preservation.

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## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Youth, Communication and HIV/AIDS Prevention

Public schools in Argentina are participating in a series of 20 workshops on HIV/AIDS and communication as part of the project “Youth, Communication and HIV/AIDS Prevention,” directed by the NGO “Other Voices: Communication for Democracy”, located in Buenos Aires.

The project forms part of the larger Young Media Space programme that, in addition to developing workshops in schools, will be using its Website and the Internet to give the project a regional impact. Casa de la Juventud in Sucre, Bolivia; OCIC-SIGNIS in La Paz, Bolivia; Agencia de Notícias dos Direitos da Infancia in Brasilia, Brazil; and Huancayo in Peru are potential partners in extending the regional reach of the project. Each of these NGOs has its own extensive communication networks in Latin America.

The training materials used for the workshops will be housed on the project’s Website ([www.lasotrasvoces.com.ar](http://www.lasotrasvoces.com.ar)), and will be available to any school and NGO in Spanish-speaking regions with an interest in HIV/AIDS issues. It is planned to translate the materials into Portuguese in the near future.

The President of Other Voices: Communication for Democracy believes that ICT promote access to comprehensive and reliable youth-friendly information to achieve behavioural changes. It can encourage a spirit of analysis on the part of the youth involved in using ICT more actively in the fight against HIV/AIDS and turn these recommendations into concrete preventive actions.

As part of the Young Media Space programme, students have broadcast their own community prevention productions and analyzed existing media prevention campaigns on HIV/AIDS issues. “Youth, Communication and HIV/AIDS Prevention” will build on the success of these prior experiences in the development of the training materials and workshops.

Students who participate in the workshops will produce materials on HIV/AIDS that will be distributed through local media channels, schools and NGOs.

After the workshops have been completed and analyzed, a handbook including the best practices and lessons learned will be produced and disseminated regionally through public schools and NGO networks.

The project is being financed through UNESCO's Regional Communication and

Information Office for Latin America in Quito and the Caribbean and in the framework of the activities of the INFOYOUTH Programme.

*For more information please contact Mr Isidro Fernandez-Aballí, Adviser for Communication and Information in Latin America and the Caribbean region, UNESCO Office Quito, Juan Leon Mera 130 y Patria, Edificio CFN 6to piso, Quito, Ecuador. Tel.: (593-2) 252 90 85; 256 23 27. Fax: (593-2) 250 44 35. Email: quito@unesco.org or E-mail: i.fernandez-aballi@unesco.org*

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Requests from Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, and the Asia and Pacific Region should be sent directly to our documents resource centres whose addresses are indicated below. Document requests

from Africa, Arab States, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean should continue to be sent to: Information Society Division, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732, Paris Cedex 15, France.

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All documents may be consulted at the premises of each of the institutions mentioned above. Copies may be obtained on a cost recovery basis at prices set out by the distributing institutions. UNESCO is in the process of digitizing its documents and a full text selection of these can be consulted at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/ulis/index.html>

Below is a list of new publications:

- HOSEIN, Gus. *The Bordering and Restraining of Global Data Flows*. Paris: UNESCO, 2004. 47 pp. CI.2004/WS/6 (English and French). A WSIS publication.
- DUTTON, William H. *Social Transformation in an Information Society : Rethinking Access*

*to You and the World*. Paris: UNESCO, 2004. 140 pp. A WSIS publication.

- *ICT for Capacity Building: Critical Success Factors*. A Brochure prepared for the World Summit on the Information Conference, 11-13 May 2005. UNESCO, Paris.

### CD-ROMS

- *Information Management Resource Kit*. This model offers a series of interactive lessons covering the workflows, processes, technologies and skills involved in the creation, management and distribution of digital libraries. Co-published by FAO and UNESCO, 2005.

The Newsletter provides information on the activities of the Information Society Division and other related issues. Published twice a year in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, the Newsletter is distributed free of charge by the Division.

*Editor: Ms Elizabeth Longworth; Assistant Editor: Ms Joie Springer;  
Editorial Assistant: Ms Grace Mensah*

Readers are invited to send their comments, suggestions or relevant information to: UNISIST Newsletter, Information Society Division, UNESCO, 1, rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France. Tel: (33-1) 45.68.44.9 7. Fax: (33-1) 45.68.55.83. E-mail: [j.springer@unesco.org](mailto:j.springer@unesco.org) Requests for copies of the Newsletter may be directly sent to: [ci.documents@unesco.org](mailto:ci.documents@unesco.org)

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