

April – June 2009

UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector magazine

24

SPECIAL SECTION

1st World Social Sciences Forum in Bergen

INTERVIEW

Pr. N'galadjo Bamba: “Development is a change in attitudes”

DOSSIER

Focus on the Netherlands



Pandemics and Bioethics

The outbreak of a new virus has led the World Health Organization to raise its pandemic alert to phase 5 on the scale of 6. Since the Mexican Ministry of Health began to notice in late March the symptoms of this entirely new hybrid strain of influenza virus, the international community has demonstrated its amazing resolve to cooperate in order to prevent the spread of the virus and mitigate its impact on people. As a matter of precaution, Mexican authorities have called off public events, and closed all non-essential services including schools and universities.

Due to these developments and in close consultation with the Mexican authorities, we have postponed to a later date two major international events which were to be held in Mexico City in May – the 16th Ordinary Session of International Bioethics Committee and the joint European Commission-UNESCO Conference “Joint action for capacity building in bioethics”. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been working for a number of years on the range of challenging ethical issues raised by a potential influenza pandemic, to provide Member States with practical guidance on how to incorporate ethical and related human rights and legal considerations into their plans and preparation for, and response to, pandemic influenza. For instance, the WHO Guidelines for investigation of human cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) were published in January 2007.

This current health situation clearly shows that no nation is immune to the growing global threat posed by an isolated outbreak of infectious disease in a single part of the world. As people, goods and food travel the world in unprecedented numbers and at historic speeds, so too do the myriad of disease-causing microorganisms. Because national borders offer trivial impediment to such threats, one nation’s problem soon becomes a problem shared by all nations. The emergence of epidemics/pandemics therefore emphasizes the importance of thinking globally about health, particularly from an ethical point of view.

The Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted by the UNESCO’s General Conference in 2005, whilst affirming widely accepted bioethical principles such as respect for individual autonomy and consent, also broadens the bioethics perspective emphasizing the need of a communitarian and global approach to urgent issues for many countries. ¶



Pierre Sané
Assistant Director-General
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and Human Sciences

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COOPERATION

Towards an international network of National Bioethics Committees

Postponed due to the health situation in Mexico, a conference which should have taken place in Mexico City from 7-9 May 2009 would have led to the creation of a global network of National Bioethics Committees. Such a network would have facilitated the mutual strengthening of current structures and enhanced North-South and South-South cooperation.

If the situation were not so tragic, it would be a painful irony of fate. The terrible epidemic of swine flu appeared in Mexico at a time when Mexico City was preparing to be the setting of a historic milestone for international cooperation in bioethics.

It was in this city that the dynamic Latin-American network “Redbioética” was created in May 2003. The city should therefore have been capable of linking together the National Bioethics Committees around the world, through a conference organized by UNESCO and the European Commission that was to have been held during the 16th Session of the International Bioethics Committee (see next page).

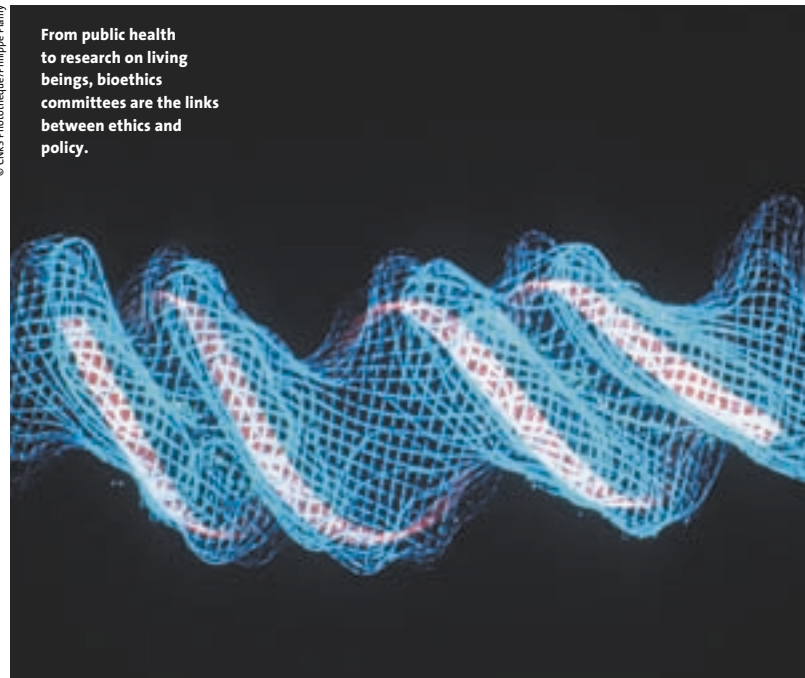
Just like the meeting of the IBC, the conference – called the “Jacob Conference” – has been postponed. It was initially intended to bring together, in the Mexican capital, experts and members of National Bioethics Committees from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States and Europe from 7-9 May 2009, with the objective of strengthening national infrastructures in the field of bioethics by promoting the development of independent, multi-disciplinary and pluralist ethics committees.

A common vision

Three themes were on the agenda: emerging issues in bioethics; engagement in an ethics discourse; and the establishment of an international network. This latter theme should have been a major event. The creation of such a network would have added a new dimension to efforts undertaken by UNESCO Member States in the areas of bioethics and human rights.

By establishing a collaborative framework between National Bioethics Committees at a global scale, this network could have strengthened the capacities of all concerned and significantly increased North-South and South-South cooperation. To do this, a common vision for mutual enrichment should have first been identified. This was to be one of the objectives of the conference in Mexico City, which would have given participants not only the opportunity to share their knowledge and experience in the management of these Committees, but also to share their views on how they could have effectively participated in decision-making, contributed to the establishment of priorities and advised on policy.

National Bioethics Committees are expected to play an important role in the development of a bioethics discourse and have an impact on laws, regulations and practices..



From public health to research on living beings, bioethics committees are the links between ethics and policy.

Bioethics touches on a number of pertinent issues from public health and medical care to research on living beings, social and environmental adaptation, or even conservation of natural resources. None of these issues can be effectively addressed from a purely academic perspective. These

issues have direct policy implications, particularly in areas relating to poverty, inequality and social exclusion.

As a linkage between ethics and politics, National Bioethics Committees are expected to play an important role in the development of a bioethics discourse and have an impact on laws, regulations and practices at the local level.

The conference in Mexico City should have provided participants with an invaluable opportunity to discuss their needs, the challenges they face and the experiences they have gained. Using specific examples, participants would have been invited to discuss issues common to different regions of the world and the institutional mechanisms established at the national level to respond to these

issues. For the first time, participants planned to adopt a Declaration to establish an international network which would give them even more strength and visibility. UNESCO hopes that the meeting can take place in Mexico City in the coming months. ¶

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MEXICO

Report of the 16th session of the International Bioethics Committee

Although the 16th session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), which was to be held in Mexico City from 4-6 May 2009, had to be postponed, it is hoped another meeting will take place in the coming months in Mexico where Latin American countries have been mobilizing themselves for the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights.

Five months before UNESCO's General Conference, the 16th Ordinary Session of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC), should have convened from 4-6 May 2009 in Mexico City (Mexico). It should have served as the perfect opportunity for the 36 independent experts in attendance to finalize a number of reports prepared in the recent months.

A total of three reports were to be discussed. Of the two main reports, one relates to human cloning and international governance, while the other relates to the principle of social responsibility and health. A third report, currently at the drafting stage, relates to the principle of respect for human vulnerability and personal integrity.

"Redbioética"

Organized in cooperation with the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Presidency of Mexico, this session of the IBC would have been a unique opportunity for participants to share the Latin American and Caribbean experience in the field of bioethics.

Following the opening of proceedings by Josefina Vázquez Mota, Minister of Education of Mexico, Pierre Sané, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, and Adolfo Martínez Palomo, outgoing President of the IBC, the activities planned for 4 May were to be almost entirely devoted to the Latin American perspective.

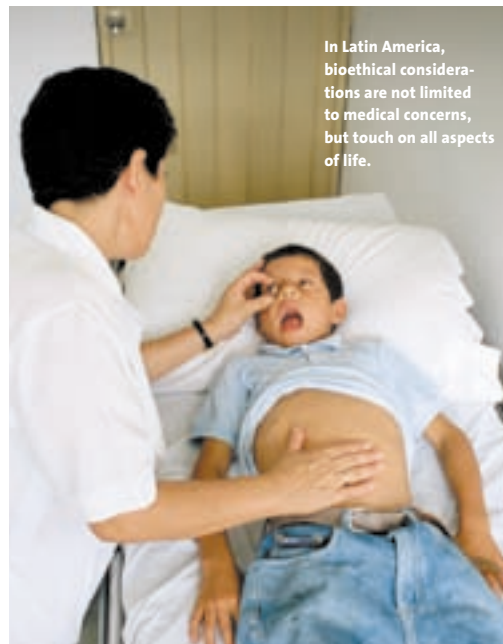
Whether it be the establishment of the regional cooperation network "Redbioética" in 2003, the challenges faced by National Bioethics Committees from Latin America and the Caribbean, education in bioethics, or the presentation of legislative measures taken by various countries such as Brazil that support the declarations of UNESCO – the lead UN-agency for ethics-related concerns – nothing that has been

achieved in recent years in raising regional awareness on bioethical issues should be concealed. The research world, the general public and governments should all be made aware and kept well-informed of bioethical issues.

This meeting should also have provided an opportunity to examine the draft report of the IBC – and in particular, the manner in which UNESCO has promoted and disseminated the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted in 2005. One can recall the favourable reception with which all Latin American actors greeted this initiative.

If there is a particular region of the world that was heavily involved in the drafting of the text and the advancement of its objectives, it is most definitely Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2004, a consultative process was initiated, involving all relevant stakeholders, and gave rise to the drafting of the "Buenos Aires Letter", where Latin American and Caribbean States expressed their concerns that the bioethics debate should not be an abstract exercise limited to the medical sphere, and that as it concerns all aspects of human life, it should respect cultural diversity while guaranteeing the equal sharing of scientific and technological progress. ¶

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www.unesco.org/shs/fr/bioethics



In Latin America, bioethical considerations are not limited to medical concerns, but touch on all aspects of life.

"NanoCap" comes to Brussels

At the request of several Members of the European Parliament, including Philippe Busquin, Member of COMEST, the European research project "NanoCap" met on 2 April 2009 at the European Parliament in Brussels (Belgium) to discuss work and life with nanotechnologies.

The "NanoCap" project seeks to promote the participation of trade unions and civil society organizations in public debates relating to social management of new technologies. The health and environmental impacts of nanoparticles and nanofibers have recently emerged as common concerns. Their use is becoming commonplace, yet little is known of their toxicity. Most importantly, workers and consumers directly involved in their usage have not been adequately consulted in the development and implementation of regulations. It is therefore not only a social, but also an ethical problem, and overlaps with the ongoing work of COMEST on "nanoethics". ¶

For more information, please consult:
www.nanocap.eu

Workshop on environmental ethics in Lomé

A regional workshop on the teaching of environmental ethics, initiated within the framework of UNESCO's Ethics Education Programme, was held in Lomé (Togo) from 26-29 March 2009. As a result of this workshop, several recommendations were made, one of which sought the advancement of environmental ethics education at secondary, technical and professional levels.

Participants also recommended the promotion of research on indigenous knowledge for environmental protection, the establishment of a database of best ethical practices for environmental conservation and sought UNESCO's assistance in fostering cooperation between international, regional and national organizations in the field of environmental ethics. ¶

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Development of nanotechnologies: A key debate in the Arab States



How to ensure universal access to advanced technologies?

© COMEST/Photoblog/Étienne Chahin

An important meeting on nanotechnologies and development in the Arab States, to take place from 18-19 May 2009, in Doha (Qatar), will provide an opportunity for participants to consider the modalities of implementation of the ethical guidelines and policies which COMEST addressed to UNESCO Member States in 2007.

During the meeting in Doha from 18-19 May 2009, UNESCO will continue its reflection that it began on nanotechnologies in an effort to study and formulate ethical principles and guide their development.

The phenomenal advancements in nanotechnologies raise key questions for the scientific community and public opinion: what are the issues at stake related to health and the envi-

ronment? What are the risks of military and biomedical applications? How can universal access to new discoveries and state-of-the-art technologies be ensured?

The forty participants, from different regions of the world, will be invited to provide answers and to exchange views on the conditions of implementation of the recommendations on ethics and strategies in the Arab region. These were developed and addressed in 2007 to UNESCO Member States by the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST).

A great potential

At the crossroads of several scientific disciplines – such as electronics, mechanics, chemistry, optics, and biology – which manipulate objects the size of a nanometer (one billionth of a meter), there is potential for nanotechnologies to affect all facets of human activity: information and communication technologies, materials, energy, water, space, medicine etc.

The immense potential of nanotechnologies also underscores the need to establish safeguards to prevent abuse. As an example, one can imagine the risks associated with an unregulated competition to design, produce and even deploy new weapons of mass destruction that are smaller, more sophisticated, and deadlier. Similarly, products have already been marketed (such as paints and coatings) which contain nanoparticles, the toxicity of which has not been subject to thorough research.

Furthermore, nanotechnologies are a major challenge to scientific policy. Nanotechnologies have essentially evolved in a field where the traditional distinction between science and technology is difficult to maintain, due to scientists and engineers having to work together, breaking down the boundaries between disciplines and allowing approaches and technologies to converge. The study of nanotechnologies therefore requires a holistic approach based on a true interdisciplinary dialogue.

Aware of all these issues, UNESCO has taken various initiatives to develop a global overview of ethical dimensions of nanotechnologies and to examine the implications of these initiatives on its Member States, as well as the measures that can be taken.

One expected outcome at the close of the Doha meeting is that the Arab region, which has experienced first-hand the rapid development of this new technology, will take heed of all these issues – in particular, the ethical dimension – and will therefore be capable of implementing the recommendations formulated by COMEST, which essentially consist of three maxims: establishment of an ethical framework, raising public awareness and promoting debate on nanotechnology, and the need for ethics education. ¶

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The recommendations of COMEST relating to nanotechnologies may be downloaded from the following address:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001521/152146e.pdf>

CALL FOR ENTRIES



Avicenna Prize 2009

UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences calls for nominations for the Avicenna Prize 2009. The deadline for submission is 5 June 2009 at the latest. The prize, which is US\$10,000 and includes a week-long scientific visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, seeks to promote ethical reflection on issues raised by the rapid advancements in science and technology. Both the governments of UNESCO Member States and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited to UNESCO can nominate an individual or group of individuals for the prize.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

In Monaco, experts at the Arctic's bedside



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From 3-6 March 2009, the Principality of Monaco hosted an important meeting on the future of the Arctic region in light of the threats posed by climate change. Some 40 specialists, NGOs and representatives of indigenous populations from the polar region focused their attention on the local population and their institutions.

At the request of Professor Jean Malaurie, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Arctic issues, an international meeting devoted to the consequences of global warming in the Arctic region took place in Monaco, in March 2009.

This meeting convened some 40 specialists from the Arctic States (Canada, Denmark-Greenland, United States, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Sweden), Europe, South Africa, Japan and New Zealand. Together, they highlighted the disturbing state of affairs: with melting ice and ice caps retreating further and further from coasts, hundreds of thousands of people living in the affected region are witnessing a decline in their living space.

This situation, which could encourage shipping and industrial development, threatens local populations. Not only must affected peoples adapt their lifestyles to meet environmental change, specialists stressed the need for the interests of Arctic peoples, their institutions and their values, to be taken into account.

According to the experts, local populations have shown an immense creativity and seek to advance the self-determination, prosperity and aspirations of their communities and regions.

The ethical imperative, which demands the inclusion of indigenous peoples, was one of the guiding principles of the meeting.

Recommendations

In conclusion, a number of recommendations were made. Among those which focus on social and human dimensions of climate change, one recommendation suggested establishing a working/advisory group to “develop strategy on the challenges of climate change for circumpolar indigenous peoples, including safeguarding intangible heritage and building synergies between indigenous and scientific knowledge”.

Other objectives range from promoting employment opportunities through the conservation of traditional forms of activities for circumpolar indigenous peoples to improving the access researchers have to exclusive economic zones in the Arctic.

Appreciative of the meeting’s outcome, H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco celebrated the fact that “people’s minds have opened up to a new solidarity with those distant lands”. At the opening of the meeting, the Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, expressed his belief that “the global climate will be subject to significant change”, labeling climate change as “the defining issue of our era”.

Like the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), who was also present at the meeting, Mr Matsuura highlighted how “the development of appropriate adaptation strategies” has now emerged as “a central preoccupation of all actors, including the United Nations system”. ¶

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Climate change: UNESCO's Plan of Action

A Plan of Action to implement UNESCO's Strategy for Action on Climate Change for the end of 2009 and 2010-2011 was submitted for consideration by the Executive Board during its 181st session in April 2009.

After having examined the proposal, the Board requested that the Director-General reinforce the Plan's content, especially with regard to the social and ethical impact of climate change, and present this refined version in a report on the implementation of UNESCO's Strategy for Action on Climate Change during the next session.

This Plan of Action was prepared by a UNESCO Intersectoral Platform based on inputs from all units in charge of UNESCO's main programmes at and away from Headquarters. The idea was to develop a multidisciplinary approach to guide UNESCO's climate change adaptation work at the country level. The objective of the Plan is the incremental implementation of the refined UNESCO Strategy in this area, approved by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 180th session. Its overall aim is to help Member States not only build and maintain a database on climate change, but also adopt measures for adapting to the impacts of global warming, contribute to the mitigation of its causes and enhance sustainable development.

Like UNESCO's strategy, the Plan is structured around three main strategic objectives: building and maintaining a climate change knowledge base (scientific analysis, assessment, monitoring and early warning); promoting adaptation to climate change and the mitigation of this phenomenon, notably through enhanced education and public awareness; and making UNESCO a climate-neutral organization. ¶

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WEST AFRICA

Regional integration: a future research institute in Cape Verde

The International Research Institute on Regional Integration and Social Transformations in West Africa, based in Praia (Cape Verde), could be accorded a “Category 2 Centre” status from UNESCO.

By the end of 2009, the International Research Institute on Regional Integration and Social Transformations in West Africa should have opened its doors in Praia, Cape Verde. This project, unanimously approved by the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on 18 January 2008 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), remains on track.

Under the guidance of the Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from the Governments of Cape Verde, Senegal and Côte d’Ivoire, UNESCO, ECOWAS, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), ECOBANK and the International Development Research Centre, a list of possible fields of study has already been established. Additionally, a strategy for establishing a fund of US\$ 50 million has been created to ensure the viability of the Institute as well as its independence and autonomy.

Improving mutual understanding

At a meeting of the Steering Committee, which was held at the beginning of March 2009 in Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire), a new milestone was reached: the legal framework, making the development of such a project possible, was defined. Through the impending process, a draft regulation of the future Institute should be submitted for adoption by the Council of Ministers of WAEMU, before being considered in May by the Council of Ministers and ECOWAS.

For its part, the Executive Board of UNESCO has adopted a recommendation calling on all Member States to grant a “Category 2 Centre” status to the future Institute. Under the auspices of UNESCO, the so-called West Africa Institute could benefit not only from the Organization’s expertise, but could also be offered greater visibility to ensure its activities are promoted and extra-budgetary resources are raised.

Greater Horn of Africa: A question of identity

The Greater Horn Horizon Forum, the creation of which was sponsored by UNESCO, is organizing a workshop on the theme “Identity, Citizenship and Integration”, from 9 to 13 November 2009, in Djibouti.

The workshop will gather experts and researchers from the entire region. Collectively, participants will undertake a critical analysis of the dominant issues related to the theme of the workshop, to explore new approaches and definitions of these concepts and to define a vision of citizen identity that could create the conditions for genuine cooperation between all the countries in the region. ¶

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Calls to establish the Institute were expressed at various seminars organized between 2005 and 2008 in the 15 ECOWAS countries, under the aegis of UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme.

Even today, the need to consolidate multiple networks and conduct research on regional integration remains, in order to improve mutual understanding between the countries of the sub-region and enhance cooperation.

Beyond the need to pool knowledge, the Institute will allow policy-makers in West Africa to carry out strategic choices favouring economic growth, human rights protection and human security through factual data and analysis produced by eminent specialists.

Fundamentally, the Institute will contribute to the acceleration of the social, economic and cultural development of the people in the sub-region which it serves. With an estimated population of 260 million, the ECOWAS region remains one of the world’s poorest, with 10 of its 22 Member States ranked at the bottom of the UN’s Human Development Index in 2007. ¶

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Professor Lambert N'galadjo Bamba: “Development is a change in attitudes”

In order to follow the path to development, Africa must put into place a strategy for the creation and retention of wealth and use the global financial crisis to formulate and initiate its own model of development. These are the beliefs of Professor Lambert N'galadjo Bamba, Commissioner for the Macroeconomic Policy Department for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), who was interviewed to mark the meeting of the Steering Committee of the future West Africa Institute, which took place in March 2009, in Abidjan.

Why has ECOWAS strongly supported the project for the creation of a West Africa Institute, whose objective is to bring the results of social science research to political and economic decision-makers?

We decided to support the proposed creation of the West Africa Institute (WAI) to fill a void that exists at our regional level. ECOWAS, with its small staff and directorate of research and statistics, can only play a role of manager of that research.

However, we increasingly feel the need to make informed decisions based on research. In our view, it goes without saying that the establishment of the WAI will help us meet this need, especially as it will deal with scientific research on regional integration issues as well as the training of experts on various aspects of integration. All of this should make ECOWAS one of the main beneficiaries of the work undertaken by the WAI. Being in tune with this project, we did everything to approve its mandate and establishment in Praia at the ECOWAS Heads of State Summit which took place on 18 January 2008, in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

INTERVIEW



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“For us it is a question of a strategy for the creation of wealth, and above all, for the retention of that wealth. This is what others have done. The current crisis is helping us to understand this issue.”

What significance do you attach to the fact that the WAI is based in Cape Verde?

The decision to base the WAI in Cape Verde pleased us enormously. Cape Verde is an island state, and ECOWAS has sometimes given the impression that it does not attribute equal weight to these countries' interests as it does to those of the continental countries. This decision, along with the decision by the Conference of Heads of State to establish the Institute for Renewable Energy in Cape Verde, goes some way to mitigating the sense of isolation felt by Cape Verde.

The project for the WAI was developed following a series of seminars organized by UNESCO in the 15 West African countries, during which Member States criticized the development opportunities offered by ECOWAS. What lessons did you draw from these debates?

I note that the citizens of this region are keen to move quickly towards integration. However, in order to move forward, one must often take a step back. Our region has been Balkanized. Steps were taken, notably with the establishment of Nation-States. ➔



Professor Lambert N'galadjo Bamba:

From Côte d'Ivoire, Professor Lambert N'galadjo Bamba will be 50 years old at the end of this year. With a PhD in economics, he was a researcher at the Ivorian Centre for Social and Economic Research, and lecturer at the University of Cocody. The author of several scholarly papers, he has extensive experience in the Ivorian administration where he served as technical advisor in several ministerial offices. He has conducted a number of studies on behalf of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, various UN agencies and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank. Based in Abuja (Nigeria), Professor Bamba is currently Commissioner of the Macroeconomic Policy Department for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

⇒ An act alone is not enough to erase borders. Integration can only be a process.

In reality, if you take the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) or ECOWAS, these are areas of economic cooperation that have been created. Economic concerns are those that have dominated our region. However, from a cultural perspective, one gets the impression that the people are ahead of policy. This leads to criticism of ECOWAS, but we must not underestimate the efforts made by ECOWAS and policy-makers in the region. I think that, in three decades, great strides have been taken and much has progressed.

In what ways has the creation of ECOWAS advanced the interests of the region's population?

It has done so first in terms of conflict management. From my point of view, we are the only region that applies the right to intervene. Whether a conflict takes place in Côte d'Ivoire or the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, ECOWAS intervened immediately. When I observe all that goes on in the world, I do not see this practice being applied elsewhere.

ECOWAS is also a place where, since its inception, citizens can move freely with only their identity card, without the need for passports or visas.

In terms of support for development, we can also note the electrical interconnection between Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Burkina Faso as a major achievement.

Is it not illusory to think of development at a sub-regional level? Why not think of development at a continental level?

I do not believe in one Africa, but in many Africas. We may live on the same continent, but we have neither the same culture, nor the same characteristics. I often wonder if I am closer to a European than to a North African or even an African from the centre. I ask myself these questions as an individual. We must proceed gradually, and the sub-regional approach seems much more in tune with our current realities.

What initiatives will ECOWAS take to address the negative impact of the global financial crisis?

Firstly, any full understanding of the current crisis requires us to examine the assumptions we have made, the development models we have adopted until now, and the development goals we have sought.

This crisis is finally an opportunity to question our vision of economic development. It has shown us that the major influencers of economic development models, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), have not always been right. That is why ECOWAS has scheduled a series of forums with our intellectuals for this year in order to establish our own development model.

The fact is that we have so far been engaged in a strategy of wealth creation at the global level, but without being able to retain a substantial share of this wealth. It is up to us to have a strategy for the creation of wealth, but especially for its retention. This is what others have done. The current crisis is helping us to understand the issue.

How do you define this strategy?

It is a truly African strategy for the creation and retention of wealth. We want our region to be the first in Africa to develop and put such a strategy in place. That is the reason why we invited intellectuals from all scientific disciplines to theorize and implement this strategy. We have already organized a Forum of ECOWAS businessmen, which took place from 11-14 February 2008, in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

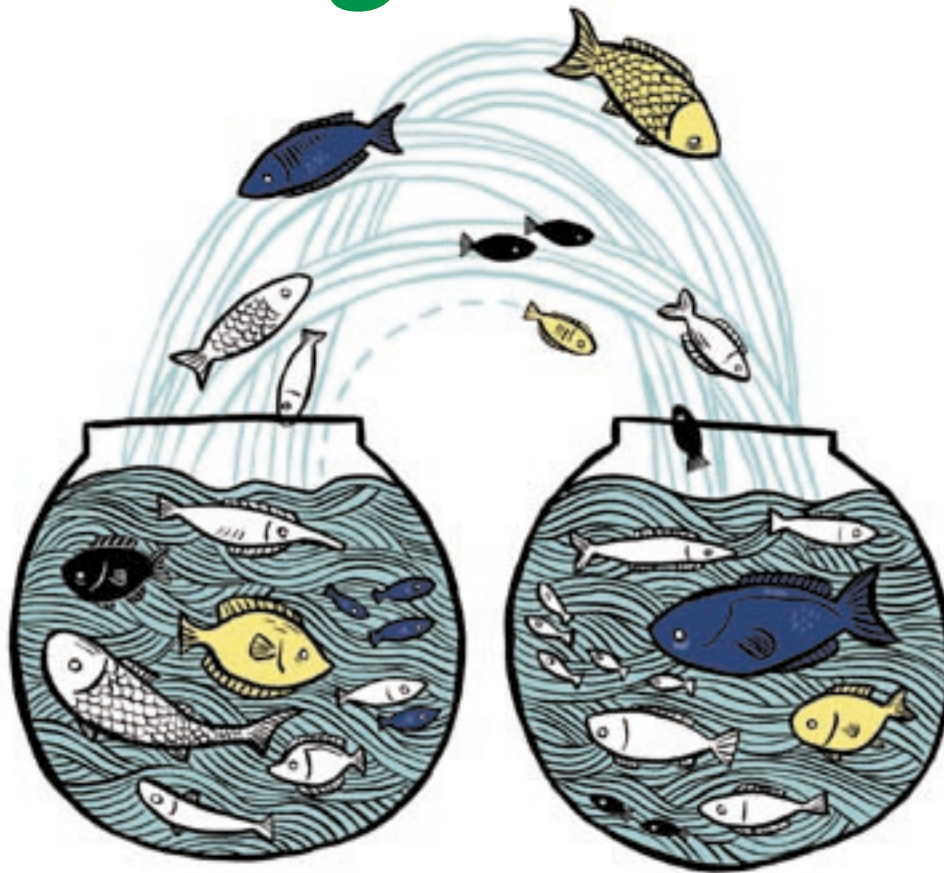
We discussed this strategy with them, and they even decided to try and implement it in the context of food production. But, in our view, development requires a change in attitude above all. That is why we need all our intellectuals to adapt this idea of wealth retention for us. For example, take 1kg of cocoa and watch its transformation into chocolate as it arrives on the consumer's table for dessert: although all the wealth generated is as a result of work carried out in my country, the wealth which remains in my region represents only 10%. The question for today is therefore how to enhance Africa's participation in the creation of global wealth.

Interview by Nfaly « Vieux » Savané

“If you take WAEMU or ECOWAS, these are areas of economic cooperation that have been created [...] However, from a cultural perspective, one gets the impression that the people are ahead of policy.”

1st WORLD SOCIAL SCIENCE FORUM

In Bergen: One Planet —



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30 SESSIONS

Among the themes for the 30 parallel sessions to be held:

Land Use Conflicts; Competition between Food, Bio-energy and Ecosystem Services; Environmental Hazards and Social Catastrophes; Social Structure and Development; Development from Below; Urban Research: Emerging Perspectives and Theories; Social Forces and Public Health; Collapses: Societies in the Shadow of Pandemics; Universalism vs. Multiculturalism; Race and Citizenship: Form and Substance; Speaking the Truth to Power; Social Scientists in the Corridors of Power; The Comparative Politics of International Rankings; The Science of Science and Innovation Policies; Frontiers of Complexity Science and Social Science; The Possibilities and Pitfalls of Publishing Social Science Research in the Age of the Internet; Data for International Social Science Research: What we have and what we need; The Unfinished Agenda – The Legacy of Stein Rokkan for Social Science Research; Governance and Development; Commercialization of Social Sciences; Possible Futures; University Rankings: Rankings for What?; Religion, Democracy and the Future. ¶

From 10-12 May 2009, the first World Social Science Forum, bringing together more than 800 participants, will take place in Bergen (Norway). The theme of the Forum is “One Planet – Worlds Apart”, and it will provide a unique opportunity to assess the relevance of social sciences in the context of the global financial crisis.

In early May 2009, Norway’s second largest city will be transformed for a brief period into the world capital of social sciences.

As this newsletter was going to press, nearly one thousand researchers, policy-makers, and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations, from all continents, had advised of their intention to participate. The first World Social Science Forum will take place from 10-12 May 2009 in Bergen (Norway). It is organized by the International

Social Science Council (issc) with the support of over 30 partners, including UNESCO.

Two Nobel Prize recipients are expected to attend: the Indian economist, Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate in Economics 1998; and the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 2007.

A highly-anticipated meeting

Under the thematic umbrella of “One Planet – Worlds Apart”, this highly-anticipated Forum will provide a unique opportunity to consider the relevance of social sciences, whose very purposes are to explore our societies, in these times of crises.

Dr Gudmund Hernes, President of the issc, remarked, “the main objective of the Forum is to demonstrate the global presence, impact and authority of social sciences”. Dr Hernes will open proceedings alongside the Norwegian Minister of Higher Education and Research, the Rector of the University of Bergen, and UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences.

To adequately address the current global state of affairs, the Forum will offer six plenary sessions ➔

Worlds Apart?

➔ and no less than 30 parallel sessions, providing young researchers with an interdisciplinary environment to share their perspectives.

Avoiding onerous speeches, the plenary sessions will be hosted by expert panels and will encourage an animated dialogue on questions such as “Knowing better – and doing worse? What social science can provide for policy-makers”, “One social science – or many?” and “Can science save us?” The parallel sessions will address issues including reconstruction of post-conflict societies, urbanization, gender, migration, scientific integrity as well as the role of research and social policy in the fight against poverty.

The first World Social Science Forum will thus represent a significant step in bridging the gap between the worlds of research and policy. This is a priority of UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, the most senior programme specialists and members of the Scientific Advisory Board of whom will be present at Bergen.

10/05/09 – 17:00

Migration, the missing link of globalization

UNESCO’s International Migration and Multicultural Policies Section is organizing a session on “Migration: the missing link of globalization” in Bergen (Norway), on 10 May 2009.

In between interventions by various speakers from the United States, India, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, participants will be invited to take part in debates on the fundamental issues linked to the growing mobility of our world, especially the migration of qualified workers and the problem of the brain drain, social welfare and the specific health needs of migrants, as well as the States’ concerns when it comes to controlling migration trends and reinforcing security. ¶

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Of the three sessions organized by UNESCO at the Forum, the one chaired by the MOST Programme should be particularly useful in strengthening links between these worlds and rethinking social development policies.

Co-organized by the Human Sciences Research Council (HRSC) of South Africa, this particular session will be opened by Zola S. Skweyiya, President of the most Intergovernmental Council and the Minister of Social Development of South Africa, who will share the solutions his country has developed to contain the social impact of the financial crisis.

A MOST session

Other participants invited to share their perspectives include: Hala Bsaisu Lattouf, Minister of Social Development of Jordan; Debrework Zewdie, Director of the Global HIV/AIDS Programme of the World Bank; Manuel Riesco, Vice-President of Chile’s National Centre for Alternative Development Studies; Olive Shisana, President of South Africa’s Human Science Research Council; and a representative of the Norwegian Government.

Together they will discuss the importance of bilateral and international cooperation and the need to keep human rights perspectives at the vanguard of any action taken in the context of the global financial crisis. They will discuss the responsibilities of policy-makers, researchers and the private sector in furthering social development, and will focus on the issue of protecting the most vulnerable in our society, notably women. Similarly, they will assess the future of the welfare state and discuss the possibilities for a new global “New Deal”.

At a time when social sciences must respond to an unprecedented demand for deciphering the evolution of the world, participants will consider the famous “Yes we can?” catchphrase as proceedings in Bergen come to a close, in the presence of the Executive Secretary of the Latin American Council of Social Sciences. ¶

Coraline Bardinat

For more information, please consult:
Forum website: www.rokkan.uib.no/wssf
ISSC website: www.unesco.org/ngo/issc
MOST Programme website: www.unesco.org/shs/en/most

SPEAKERS

Other than those already listed in the opening article, speakers at the Forum will include:

Lourdes Arizpe, Imperial College London, former President of the International Council of Social Sciences and former Director of UNAIDS;
Roberta Balstad, Columbia University;
Jon Elster, Columbia University and the College of France; **Barbara Göbel**, Ibero-American Institute of Germany, former Executive Director of International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change; **Adam Mohamed Habib**, University of Johannesburg;
Arvid Hallén, Research Council of Norway; **Zahira Kamal**, Palestinian Women’s Research and Documentation Centre, former Minister for Women’s Affairs of the Palestinian National Authority; **Sir David A. King**, Oxford University, former Scientific Adviser to the Government of Tony Blair 2000-2007; **Luk van Langenhove**, Centre for Comparative Regional Integration Studies of the United Nations University, Vice-President of the International Council of Social Sciences; **Yan Ming**, Institute of Sociology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; **Helga Nowotny**, European Research Council; **Berit Olsson**, Scientific Advisory Committee for the UNESCO Forum on Higher Education; **Emir Sader**, Latin American Council of Social Sciences; **Saskia Sassen**, Columbia University and London School of Economics; **Rainer Silbereisen**, International Union of Psychological Science; **Michel Wieviorka**, International Sociological Association, French School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences. ¶

POINT OF VIEW

Why is UNESCO making the research-policy nexus a priority?

“In practice, the trend of “Evidence-based policy” has become the dominant approach to the study and practice of the research-policy nexus by development agencies, especially those located in a few Northern countries. The most Programme intends to go further than this dominant trend and thus tries to favour the universality of ideas and critical thinking and contribute to the formulation of other methods and approaches.”

In this contribution, Germán Solinís, Programme Specialist within UNESCO’s Division of Social Sciences, Research and Policy, takes stock of the most Programme today.

Social policy is always based on learning and knowledge. That is a fact. Another fact is that the links between the two spheres – that of politics and that of social science knowledge – have been one of the main determinations of UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations (most) Programme.

Its causes are numerous and varied. To begin with, there is of course UNESCO’s responsibility to serve as an intellectual watchdog and help rationalize complex processes. Such a responsibility is linked to its role as a think tank. Then there is the current state of the world, which is far from satisfactory, and also the global financial crisis that we must understand in order to intervene in the course of social transformations.

Numerous partnerships

In this respect, the objective of UNESCO’s most Programme is at the same time global and precise since it aims at maximizing the impact of political action – the only sphere that belongs to everyone and is universal. Our direct and potential partners are the decision-makers of the United Nations Member States, their advisors, along with millions of researchers, business executives, and NGO activists throughout the world. But, don’t get me wrong: the field of science-policy relationships is a huge sum of complex processes that we should be cautious not to perceive as a utilitarian mechanism.

In order to clarify our path in the field, we have been working for over a year to make it more precise through theoretical and methodological analysis. It must be said that the study and practice of reinforcing the research-social policy nexus are not new. On the one hand, analysts of scientific method and critical epistemology have added these to their field of work since the 1970s. On the other hand, important bilateral cooperation agencies and other multilateral organizations have been providing their public with studies and tools in this field for over twenty years.

What can UNESCO’s specificity be? What original niche of action corresponding to its mandate can it find in order to answer the needs of its many partners?

De facto, the most Programme aims at softening the fundamental tension between knowledge and politics in two ways. First, by working as a catalyst it fosters meetings between different actors. Secondly, through its intellectual work it points research towards practice.

To do this, it is supported by two main sources that are both different and complementary. On the one hand, the internal experience of UNESCO’s Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS), and on the other, the knowledge produced over the past years by the numerous specialists in the field who do not belong to the Organization.

The impact of social knowledge in the formulation of policies is guaranteed by most’s intellectual consolidation, which is ensured by the dual nature of the Programme’s actions. It is aware of concrete practices, measures taken, programmes implemented and synergies developing in society. However, it also pays particular attention to the underlying theoretical bases to these practices.

The most Programme is also committed to methodology and application. It aims to bring together a critical mass of theoretical and practical knowledge contributing to the direction and maintaining of transmission fluxes between researchers and policy-makers. Therefore, it instigates a strong interconnection between research and decision, both at the national and international level.

Finally, knowledge is collected by most with a view to reinforcing the capacities of the Member States concerning the development of research institutions and networks linked to politics answering national priorities.

4 objectives

In practice, the trend of “Evidence-based policy” has become the dominant approach to the study and practice of the research-policy nexus by development agencies, especially those located in a few Northern countries. The most Programme intends to go further than this dominant trend and thus tries to favour the universality of ideas and critical thinking and contribute to the formulation of other methods and approaches. This task will be further developed during the next two programme cycles of UNESCO’s new Medium-Term Strategy. ➔

40 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

As of early April 2009, the 800 participants who have advised of their intention to attend the Forum represent over 40 countries:

Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Palestine, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. ¶

11/05/09 – 14:00

Integrity of scientific research

As part of the concurrent sessions of the Forum, a seminar devoted to the integrity of scientific research will be held on 11 May 2009, in Bergen (Norway). Using the works of COMEST as its basis, UNESCO will use this opportunity to promote its normative framework for research ethics: the Recommendation adopted by the UNESCO's General Conference in 1974 on the Status of Scientific Researchers; the Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge and the Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference on Science, held in 1999 in Budapest (Hungary); and other relevant sources from national and regional levels, such the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union which Article 13 guarantees Freedom of the Arts and Sciences.

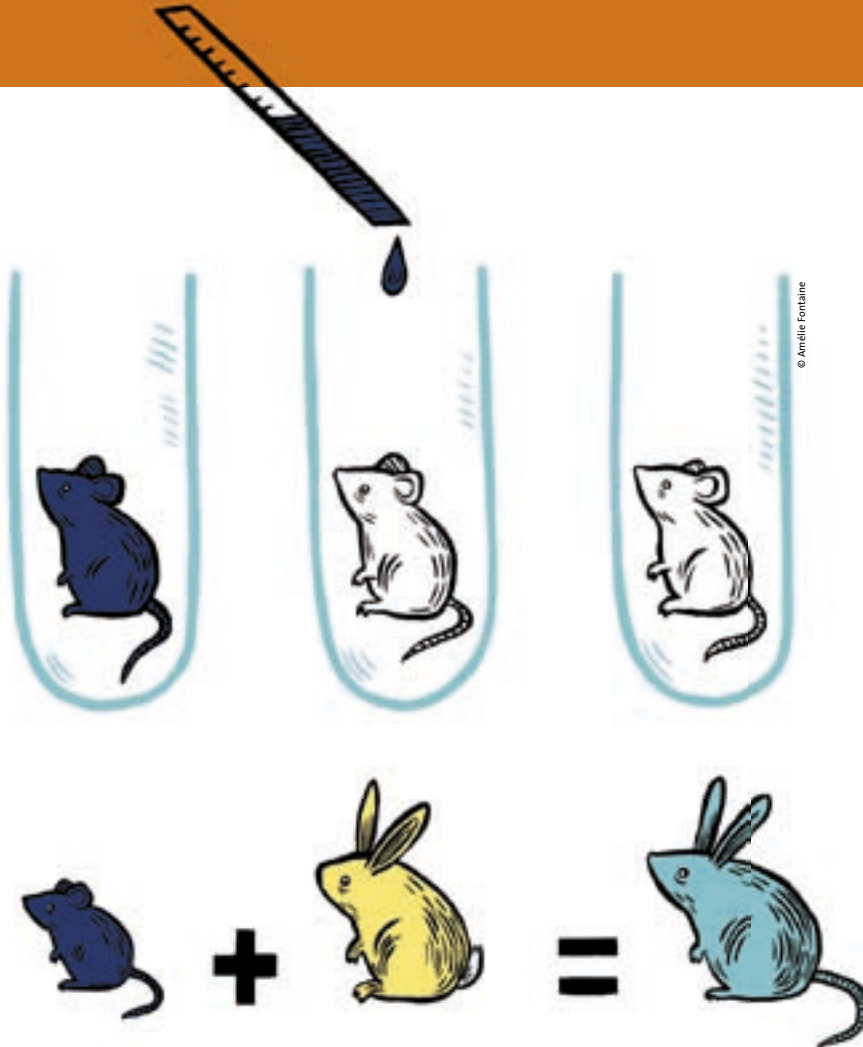
Because it relates to the meaning of human dignity, the prodigious development of science and technology has an ethical dimension all the more complex as it is dependent on the diversity of cultural approaches. Scientific evaluation and research funding can also affect the integrity of research. It is thus important to promote the development of codes of ethics which respect cultural identities and work in harmony with national and regional organizations, professional agencies and develop scientific and technical knowledge. ¶

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➔ Our work will be guided by four core objectives:

1. Make the research-policy nexus explicit enough to reinforce its efficiency and our expertise in this field;
2. Select a specific methodology to ensure that social science research is efficiently taken into account for the policy formulation process;
3. Give value to, promote and disseminate our knowledge and understanding of our partners;
4. Define what lies at the heart of the research-policy nexus and will characterize MOST's contribution in this field.

The main papers presented at the 1st International Forum on the Social Science-Policy Nexus, organized in Argentina and Uruguay in 2006, have already been identified and analyzed.



These results will be disseminated shortly through publications that show how the research-policy nexus was developed, used and followed by the participants. They will also consider what conceptual and interpretative frameworks were implemented and how the problematics of the nexus were explored in each of the Forum's five topics.

The second main project underway, based on the Aristotelian division of knowledge into "learning", "experience" and "art" (or "useful learning"), consists in assessing the current state of the research-policy nexus through a panorama of the different links. This is done according to the way they were developed by some international agencies* and via an annotated bibliography on the main authors and contemporary trends.

The MOST Programme's new Scientific Advisory Committee is planning to meet for the first time on 9 May, in parallel with the Bergen Forum. It will be an opportunity to work on the progress in this field with the UNESCO Secretariat. ¶

Germán Solinis, Policy and Cooperation
in Social Sciences Section, Division of Social Sciences,
Research and Policy, UNESCO.

* Evidence-based policy research – Critical review
of some international programmes on relationships between
social science research and policy-making,
MOST Policy Paper n°18, by Carlos S. Milani.

Debate on Social Development at the 9th Session of the IGC of MOST

The next session of the Intergovernmental Council of UNESCO's MOST Programme will take place at the Organization's headquarters in Paris (France), from 22-24 July 2009. This should serve as an opportunity in taking key steps to bridging the gaps between the worlds of research and social policy. Using national and international responses to the global financial crisis, two round tables organized on 23 July will encourage a direct dialogue between Ministers for Social Development from all regions of the world, scientists, and representatives from both NGOs and the private sector. ¶

For more information, please consult:
www.unesco.org/shs/most/igc

INTERVIEW

Heide Hackmann: “The current crisis raises critical questions for social sciences”

35 PARTNERS

Almost forty partners took part in the preparation of the 1st World Social Science Forum:

the American Science Foundation; the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; the City of Bergen; COMEST; the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty; the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa; the Earth System Science Partnership; the Economic and Social Research Council; the Equality, Social Organization and Performance project; the European Cooperation in Science and Technology; the European Science Foundation; the Freedom of Expression Foundation; the German Research Foundation “Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft”; the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa; the International Association of Universities; the International Council for Science; the International Union of Psychological Science; the Latin American Social Science Council; the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research; New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Co-operation in Europe; the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training; the Norwegian Institute of Public Health; the Norwegian Ministries of Education and Research and of Foreign Affairs; the Norwegian Research Council; the Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration; the South African National Research Foundation; Sparebanken Vest; Statkraft; UNESCO; the Universities of Bergen, Maastricht and Johannesburg as well as WHO. ¶



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Heide Hackmann has been Secretary-General of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) – the organizer of the Bergen Forum – since 2006. In the interview she gave to *SHSviews* before flying out to Norway, she described the stakes of this unprecedented meeting that aims at creating an international platform for social science.

What are you hoping to achieve through this First World Social Science Forum?

This event represents a decisive step for the ISSC. Among other things, it will allow us to measure more precisely what the Council is capable of doing at a time when we are committed to a deep renewal process. This Forum is our first priority but also the first activity that we are developing in the framework of the new agreement signed in April 2008 with UNESCO, with whom we work in close collaboration. Through this Forum, we aim to create a true international platform for social sciences, in order to encourage the creation of similar forums and stimulate social science research everywhere. As a result, it will help us extend the ISSC network even further.

How did you prepare this international meeting?

One of the key roles of the ISSC is facilitating, mobilizing and coordinating different disciplines, fields and cultures. Therefore, we strongly encourage interaction among our members, at both regional and international levels. We thus

tried to ensure that they were all involved in the preparation of this meeting and connected with other partners in an inclusive, consultative and participative approach.

The first feedback we received concerning our initiative to organize the Bergen Forum confirms a yearning for exchange among social science actors today. As of early April, over 800 people from many different countries had already registered. We see this as an encouraging response that shows we have reached a large community of researchers, experts, decision-makers and financial backers.

According to you, what role can social and human sciences play in managing the current financial crisis?

I would start by saying that this question should be put on the agenda for social science next to the other topics this discipline focuses on. We cannot ignore all the other aspects of social and human sciences because of the crisis. Climate change, for example, is linked to various social issues. Therefore, we must make sure that our agenda for social science is relevant and integrated.

Several sessions at the Bergen Forum will of course deal with the current crisis, but they will also try to go further and to think ahead. We must question our capacity to predict and anticipate such social events and policies. This crisis raises critical questions for the field of social science. It forces us to truly reflect upon how we can make social science more relevant today, which could help identify underlying factors.

As scientists, this First World Social Science Forum will also enable us to measure how important the themes UNESCO focuses on are, especially when it comes to its commitment to strengthening links between social science researchers and policy-makers. During this event, emphasis will be placed on the way our expertise can contribute to the creation of public policies that are better adapted to the population's needs. ¶

Interview by Coraline Bardinat

A new World Social Science Report

All those who did not have the opportunity to come to the Bergen Forum will be able to find the content of the debates in the next edition of the World Social Science Report, the publication of which will undoubtedly be quite an event.

Ten years after the 1st edition published by UNESCO, this new World Report will not only review the issues debated in Norway, but will, above all, provide a picture of the current state of social science on the five continents.

This Report, entitled "Knowledge Divides", will thus provide original data on the situation of some fifty countries and will analyze the discrepancies that are characteristic of social science research, whether it be geographic inequalities or those linked to research and publication capacities, to different fields, or to the place of science in various societies.

It will explore the main social science trends in the modern world and the way they deal with current challenges, will try to find perspectives for evolution and will express recommendations for research actions, which should also interest policy-makers.

Distinguished social science experts from all regions of the world as well as several regional organizations such as the Latin American Council of Social Sciences (CLACSO), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and the Association of Asian Social Science Research Councils (AASSREC) are already involved in the preparation of this Report, the production of which was revived by the International Social Science Council (ISSC) at the end of 2008.

The ISSC will publish this 2nd World Social Science Report in early 2010 with the financial support of UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector. ¶

For more information, please see:
<http://www.unesco.org/ngo/issc>



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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

“Social integration”, a priority for the United Nations

The United Nations Commission for Social Development, which met in New York (USA) from 4-13 February 2009 to examine the current world crises and their impact on social development and social integration, has decided to make “social integration” its priority for 2009 and 2010.

During this 47th session, the Member States of the United Nations and the large number of participants invited showed through various examples how the efforts and projects implemented in many countries with a view to reaching the Copenhagen commitments and the Millennium Development Goals have already been seriously impeded by these crises.

Among the most notable impacts, they insisted in particular on the possible disastrous consequences of an increase in gender discrimination. Women's access to microcredits seems to be increasingly harder today, which jeopardizes their incomes that are very often essential to the survival of entire families.

For those who took part in the United Nations Commission for Social Development, this situation threatens not only to endanger gender equality but also to jeopardize their efforts to promote education for all, even though it has been established that the inclusion of all population groups reinforces a society's development potential, contrary

to the unemployment and poverty of whole groups of people which pushes all societies into a spiraling descent.

Furthermore, the participants noted that socio-economic variations, such as rapid urbanization, the increase of international migration, population ageing and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, all create problems for social integration. UNESCO drew attention to the importance of the Regional Forums of Ministers of Social Development, established in every region of the world that encourage social integration in affected countries by bringing together the results of social science research and policy-making spheres.

Several recommendations were made during the meeting, including: the urgency of taking immediate measures to reinforce social protection for the poorest people; the need to ensure that gender perspectives are integrated in all political responses; the need to develop evidence and research-based policies; the need to reshape the financial architecture of the Bretton Woods institutions; and the need to implement a new social contract based on solidarity, ethics and social justice. ¶

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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

UNESCO manages a project for youth with 21 organizations



© Y.Hadar / World Bank

To promote synergy between research, formulation and implementation of policies for youth in Latin America and the Caribbean is the intention of the platform that UNESCO's Section for Youth seeks to establish with the support of the Youth Programme of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The Section for Youth, Sport and Physical Education of UNESCO has been coordinating, since January 2008, a major initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean, aimed at identifying best current policy practices and programmes that have had a real impact on youth development. It is to be disseminated widely for consideration by all governments and civil society organizations in the region.

By 26 May 2009, a large number of policies and projects that have been of benefit to Latin American and Caribbean youth in the fields of education, employment, poverty reduction, sexual health and reproduction, the prevention of juvenile delinquency, voluntary participation, or their participation in decisions affecting them, should have been identified using a website.

In addition to the Ministry of Education and the Mexican Institute for Youth, twenty-one organizations, including seven UN agencies and five inter-

governmental organizations, are already partners in this project which is based on two core elements: first, the proposals made by young people themselves at many regional meetings, including one organized by UNESCO on policies and youth networks in October 2008 in Punta Cana (Dominican Republic); and secondly, strategies implemented by many international institutions, governments and civil society organizations, which encourage on-going programmes directed at 15-24 year-olds to promote their participation in their respective communities and to create links between research and policy-making.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, there is no doubt that in recent years youth has become increasingly important from a political and economic point of view. Thus, 2008 was declared the Year of Ibero-American Youth by the 17th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government and the main theme of the 18th Summit and the 38th General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) held last year was also youth.

This growing concern makes sense, given that 15-24 year olds account for more than 30% of the population in the region and are perceived as a "demographic dividend", making up the working population in years to come and thus contributing to economic development. ¶

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Project website (English and Spanish):
<http://youthpractices.ucol.mx>

UNESCO at the Vanguardia Latina Forum

Twenty-five young people from 13 Latin American countries will form the UNESCO delegation at the 4th Vanguardia Latina Forum, to be organized in Los Angeles (USA) on the theme "Perspectives for Youth". Selected from proposals submitted by the UNESCO National Commissions and youth councils of their respective countries, these young people voiced their opinions on migration, environment and the media. Having been invited to exchange ideas on the current situation and their expectations of national, regional or global plans, they took this opportunity to formulate proposals and develop action strategies. Bringing together hundreds of students, researchers and policy-makers with the aim of strengthening Latin American networks, this Forum, which takes place annually, welcomed the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2009. ¶

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Ireland: UNESCO Chair on Youth and Civic Engagement

A UNESCO Chair on Children, Youth and Civic Engagement was launched on 4 March 2009 in Galway (Ireland), by the President of the Republic of Ireland and the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Education.

Under the direction of Professor Pat Dolan and with the cooperation of the University of Ireland, this new UNESCO Chair aims at promoting links between policy formulation, research, and the practices of youth civic engagement. By highlighting the importance of multidisciplinary dialogue in the development of effective frameworks for action enhancing the contribution of youth in society, the Chair will be based on four themes: research, education, advocacy, and the development and qualitative assessment of programmes. These activities will be undertaken in cooperation with universities in Bulgaria, Lithuania and Zambia. ¶

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GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

Advocating for social justice and human rights in London

Under the patronage of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Cherie Blair and with the support of the Government of the United Kingdom and the South African Human Rights Commission, an “Emergency Congress” was called in London. The Congress was convened by an NGO, “Rights and Humanity”, in an effort to discuss the impact of the financial crisis and thus contribute to the establishment of a new world order.

From 23-25 February 2009, London (United Kingdom) hosted an “Emergency Congress” in an effort to develop recommendations ahead of the G20 Summit, to be held one month later in the English capital.

At the end of the Congress, a Declaration was adopted by the 200 participants from governments, the United Nations, international financial institutions, civil society and the media. This Declaration invites the G20 Summit to develop a new economic vision, more conscious of social justice, human rights, environmental protection and financial stability.

A Declaration for G20 leaders

Recognizing the multidimensional reality of the current crisis (climate change, poverty, global economics), participants called for a holistic approach to proposed solutions. In the Declaration addressed to G20 leaders, they emphasized the need to increase social justice awareness in all areas, and to take necessary steps to eradicate poverty. There were calls for increased aid to developing countries, and for the implementation of programmes for human development and the environment.

As opening speaker, Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences, stressed that “the global financial crisis presents an opportunity that must be taken to trace the contours of a new economic order placing social and human rights at its core”.

Pierre Sané welcomed the World Bank’s proposal suggesting 0.7% of stimulus packages be devoted to establishing a social security fund for developing countries. He also expressed his hope that developing countries set to benefit from this proposal would fulfill various preconditions, including ratifying of the key human rights instruments and demonstrating a commitment to be bound by the rules of good governance. Such measures can, according to him, help avoid future economic crises, which often lead to violence and inter-state war and which jeopardize the development of local populations.

“Capital flowing from developing countries to developed countries far outnumbered those financial transfers in the opposite direction.”

Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences

According to the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, “it is more important than ever to focus on human rights and to draw attention to social security, job protection, access to health care, not to mention the most vulnerable members of our communities: women, the elderly, children and the poor.”

Disparities

Using the four-year period of 2002-2006 as an example, Pierre Sané also drew the Congress’s attention to the disparities revealed during an in-depth study of financial flows between developed and developing countries. The study showed that capital flowing from developing countries to developed countries (US\$ 1,205 billion, 619 billion of which consisted of illicit outflows) far outnumbered financial transfers in the opposite direction.

In light of these figures, Pierre Sané called for measures to curb the illicit outflows from developing countries, declaring such considerable amounts to be capable of enhancing the well-being of the general public. He also stated that “debt relief is still an unfinished business requiring more sustainable solutions”. Participants at the Congress in London have tried to contribute to this call. ¶

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Demonstration during the G20 summit



© Evan Schneider/UN Photo

GENDER EQUALITY

The financial crisis and gender issues: a study carried out on five continents

The implementation of an extensive research project on the relationship between the financial crisis and gender issues was announced to mark the occasion of the second meeting of the Global Network of Women's Studies and Gender Research, held in Bangkok (Thailand) from 9-13 February 2009.

Following a meeting held in Bangkok (Thailand) in February 2009, the UNESCO Global Network of Women's Studies and Gender Research announced the implementation of a research project on the links between the current financial crisis and gender relations.

Led by the UNESCO Chair in Gender Research at Lancaster University (United Kingdom), the project not only explores the way in which the global crises (food, environmental and economic) affect the status of women, but also seeks to determine to what extent this multidimen-

sional crisis originates in gender issues, focusing in particular on global financial structures.

Besides the fact that it should provide new insights for understanding the global crisis, the project will also help strengthen the dialogue between researchers and policy-makers, the latter being involved in this extensive investigation since the onset of research activities.

5 regional reports

As a result, five regional reports exploring the realities in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States, as well as in Europe and North America, are to be published. At the same time, a discussion paper focusing on the development of public policies, and containing specific recommendations, will also be published.

The meeting of the UNESCO Global Network of Women's Studies and Gender Research, where this project was presented, brought together researchers from all over the world. Those attending took advantage of the opportunity to network, build contacts and partnerships, and, more importantly, share research results with leading experts in gender studies.

At the end of the meeting, the Network resolved to continue its work in promoting, among its research priorities, the impact of globalization on human rights, as well as on the socio-economic, political and cultural rights of women. As a result, several studies focusing on issues related to access and enjoyment of human rights by women and their rights to development will also be conducted.

Composed of researchers from universities in Africa, Asia, South America and Europe, the Global Network of Women's Studies and Gender Research was formally established in 2007, with the support of UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences.

Coordinated by Miriam College in Manila (Philippines), the Network aims to enhance collaboration between research centres working on gender relations around the world, in an effort to strengthen their capacities and stimulate the development and sharing of studies on women's rights and gender equality.¶

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Poverty and human rights: creation of a UNESCO Chair at the University of Bologna

The creation of a new UNESCO Chair on poverty and Human Rights at the Centre of Historical and Political Studies on Africa and the Middle East of the University of Bologna (Italy) was announced during a conference on “Understanding Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa: Alternative Theories and Practices”, organized on 13 March 2009 by the Centre.

This Chair will focus on the above-mentioned issue and will work with the universities of Bergamo (Italy) and Abomey-Calavi (Benin), where two UNESCO Chairs have already been established, one on the ethics of international cooperation and human rights and the other on human rights and democracy.

Together, these three UNESCO Chairs will constitute a platform for integrated research to develop the idea that “protection against

poverty is a human right” and to ensure that this concept is implemented in national strategies for poverty reduction.

During enriching, highly conceptual debates, the 250 participants in the conference notably explored the ambiguities and prejudices in the definition of the notion of “poor people” as well as the political consequences of the persistence of poverty. They also questioned the relevance of approaching poverty from the angle of human rights. UNESCO was invited to take part in this meeting and took the opportunity to present its “human rights-based approach to poverty” as an alternative that highlights the values of justice, equity and equal dignity for all human beings.¶

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Small Grants for research in Sub-Saharan Africa

Three research projects focusing on poverty reduction in Sub-Saharan Africa are due to be implemented in April 2009 as part of a small grants programme launched by UNESCO's Sector for Social and Human Sciences in 2008.

A multidisciplinary team made up of researchers from Benin and Togo will work on “Further analysis of the minimum norms based on human rights and the process of budgeting and negotiating Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) in Benin and Togo”.

Another team will focus on “The human rights' dimension in poverty reduction policies in Côte d'Ivoire”, in association with the country's PRSP Cell.

Finally, in Senegal, a third team will study the impact of the global financial crisis on disadvantaged groups as part of their research project, entitled “The extreme poverty of beggars in Senegal, or a violation of their human rights”.

These research projects were selected from a call for project proposals now extended until 31 May 2009, which strongly urges researchers from Portuguese-speaking countries to apply. This programme was set up with the support of Portugal and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and aims at encouraging the Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa as well as Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Senegal and Togo in the drafting, revision, re-reading or amending of their PRSPs through the normative human rights framework.

The PRSPs were established in 1999 by the IMF and the World Bank. These documents describe the macro-economic, structural and social policies and programmes that a country should put into place over the span of a few years to promote growth and reduce poverty.¶

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To apply, please see:
www.unesco.org/shs/antipoverty/call_smallgrants

Argentina to host an International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights

On 13 February 2009, under the auspices of UNESCO, an agreement establishing the first International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights as a “Category 2 Centre” was signed in Buenos Aires (Argentina), where the Escuela de Mecánica de la Armada (ESMA) is situated. ESMA, the largest clandestine detention centre during the last military dictatorship in Argentina (1976-1983), became the “Museum of Remembrance” in 2004 and is located within an area of 17 hectares (50 acres) in the heart of Buenos Aires. Since that time, it has been a genuine cultural centre dedicated to the memory of the 30,000 victims of the military dictatorship: it regularly arranges expositions and hosts archives and the headquarters of human rights organizations.

As of February 2010, it will also host the activities of the new International Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights which will actively promote democratic systems, the consolidation of human rights (civil, social, economic and cultural rights) and the protection of the values of life, social justice and human dignity from its base in Buenos Aires. On an international level, the Centre will promote human rights research as well as knowledge exchange among governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The ceremony that led to the creation of this Centre marked the closure of the celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. It took place in the presence of Mrs. Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina, and Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, and was attended by many representatives of the Argentinean government, the media, as well as human rights activists, especially groups of survivors and associations regrouping mothers, grandmothers and sons of the victims.¶

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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION
OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Racism: what challenges for UNESCO?

A month before the 2nd United Nations Conference on Racism, to be held in Geneva (Switzerland), where the Durban Plan of Action is to be examined, a conference entitled “UNESCO Against Racism: Lessons from the Past, Current Challenges and Perspectives” was convened, bringing together one hundred participants at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France).

To mark the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, UNESCO convened a conference on 20 March 2009, which addressed the theme “UNESCO against Racism: Lessons from the Past, Current Challenges and Future Perspectives”. This conference was opened by Marcio Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO.

On the eve of the heavily anticipated Durban II Conference, the objective of the conference in Paris was to analyze the evolution of racism and the emergence of new forms of discrimination. This was carried out in three sessions: the first focused on UNESCO’s history and achievements in its fight against racism; the second was devoted to the perception of the “other” through culture, education, science and the media; and the third centered on ways in which multicultural and multiethnic societies can prosper.

The vital role of cities

The conference was attended by renowned international experts, representatives of governmental and non-governmental organization and local elected officials, from all over of the world. It reviewed the work of UNESCO over the past 60 years, recalling the importance of the Organization’s mandate and the fact that it remains the only United Nations agency to condemn racism and racial prejudice in its constitution.

Reflecting on the origins of racism and contemporary forms of discrimination, participants exchanged experiences and analyses on the right to difference, as well as on the concepts of diversity and tolerance.

Representatives from the cities of Nantes (France) and Montevideo (Uruguay), members of the International Coalition of Cities against Racism, came to share their respective initiatives.

A representative from the “Cultura del Sur” Institute, a Spanish organization which serves seven cities surrounding Madrid, introduced the network of cities “No Ghetto”. All participants agreed on the critical role that cities – as a collective space without peer – can play in the fight against racism, highlighting the need for cities to cooperate amongst themselves.

Is there a risk that the global crisis will constrict the view of national identity and thus undermine the efforts of the international community in its fight against racism?

KAREL VASAK, former Director of the Division of Human Rights of UNESCO

“Undoubtedly, yes. We recognize this is a real test. This crisis exacerbates divisions between peoples and competition, be it between businesses or elsewhere. Efforts must continue, but the means in which they may begin are absent. Recognition of the right to difference together with measures of pacifism which can reduce this division between peoples. This is difficult because all are not convinced and it will elicit fear. But recognizing a human right calls for the regulation of the use of this right in the name of morality or respect for others.”

Is there a risk that the global crisis will constrict the view of national identity and thus undermine the efforts of the international community in its fight against racism?

DOUDOU DIÈNE, former Special Rapporteur of the United Nations on Contemporary Forms of Racism and Racial Discrimination

“There is a real danger that the global crisis might undermine the efforts of the international community in its fight against racism. Since 11 September 2001, the world has remained divided, posing challenges to those fighting against racism and discrimination. We must recognize the tools that were developed in the fight against racism. UNESCO must take this opportunity to strengthen the relevance of these tools that have been established.”

At the close of proceedings, Pierre Sané, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences, recalled that the International Coalition of Cities Against Racism, bringing together 500 municipalities from around the world, was created by UNESCO following its assessment that “if the issues are in the cities, so too are the solutions”. According to Mr Sané, the expansive nature of this network enhances “exchanges (that) enable us to be better armed and more capable to advocate concrete plans of action, allowing each State to continue its fight against racism”.

Several eminent personalities took part in the conference, including Karel Vasak, former Director of the Division of Human Rights of UNESCO, Pulat Taçar, former Ambassador of Turkey to UNESCO, Doudou Diène, former Special Rapporteur of the United Nations on Contemporary Forms of Racism and Racial Discrimination, Olabiya Babalola Joseph Yaï, President of the Executive Board of UNESCO, and George N. Anastassopoulos, President of the General Conference of UNESCO.¶

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Website for the Fight against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia Section of UNESCO:
www.unesco.org/shs/againstdiscrimination

Cities against racism: extending ECCAR to Eastern Europe

Is there a risk that the global crisis will constrict the view of national identity and thus undermine the efforts of the international community in its fight against racism?

RICARDO EHRlich, Mayor of Montevideo (Uruguay), Coalition of Latin-American Cities against Racism

"I can't speak of the crisis and its effects on Uruguay as it will have less than expected growth, but growth nonetheless. However, we must significantly improve efforts at the government level to avoid simultaneous divisions between societies.

One can see the impact and consequences of the crisis in cities. Obligations of local governments are important. One must be observant and strengthen measures for reconciliation and social cohesion in societies. A city with a strong sense of cohesion and integration is capable of confronting various types of crises."

ERRATUM

Hans Hesselmann is President of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism, and represents the City of Nuremberg (Germany) within the coalition. The mayor of the city is Dr. Ulrich Maly, and not Mr. Hesselmann, as was incorrectly stated on page 7 No 23 of *SHSviews* in the article on the project «Youth Voices against Racism». The editorial team apologizes to all concerned.

The Steering Committee of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR) is set to meet in Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation) from 14-16 May 2009 to prepare the third General Conference of the Coalition and to reflect on the extension of this regional network to Eastern Europe.

The preparation for the third General Conference of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR) – which will take place in Toulouse (France) from 19-20 November 2009 on the topic of "Cities Against Racism. New Challenges-New Partners: Let's Draw Our Future" – should be at the heart of the meeting of the network's Steering Committee to take place in Saint Petersburg from 14-16 May 2009.

To be held in the second largest city of the Russian Federation, which joined the Coalition in April 2007, this meeting will prepare the annual ECCAR meeting by measuring its development on different levels – notably the indicators for evaluating municipal policies aimed at fighting racism and discrimination – while trying to mobilize Eastern European cities.

Indeed, the Coalition, which is made up of 88 cities in 18 European countries, lacks presence in Eastern Europe where only the towns of Balti (Republic of Moldova), Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and Grozny (Republic of Chechnya) are part of its network. However, this trend seems to be changing, as can be seen with the growing number of Russian cities and cities in neighbouring countries such as the Ukraine, showing a strong interest in the Coalition.

Several city councils and partners from this part of Europe were thus invited to take part in the meeting of the Steering Committee, among which the Russian and Moldavian Commissions for UNESCO, have expressed their wish to become more involved in the project. The meeting in Saint Petersburg should provide them with a unique opportunity to do so by giving them the possibility to attend the preparation of the Coalition's next General Conference.



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This meeting, like previous ones, will allow participants to exchange ideas on the different actions taken by the member cities to implement the "Ten-point Action Plan", a type of common platform for action. In 2009, it will also elicit debates on reinforcing vigilance against racism, improving citizen participation and information, protecting victims of acts of racism or of discrimination linked to employment or housing, as well as the impact the financial crisis has had on the extreme right. The cities of Eastern Europe are also interested in all of these issues, as the members of the Steering Committee of ECCAR will not fail to point out when they examine the agenda of the General Conference.

Furthermore, they will also have to study the measures that need to be taken in order to encourage more youth involvement in the Coalition's activities, by emphasizing the will to act and the creativity of young people, in accordance with the recommendations made by youths from the member cities of the Coalition to the European Parliament (see *SHSviews* n°23). ¶

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Social and Human Sciences within National Commissions for UNESCO

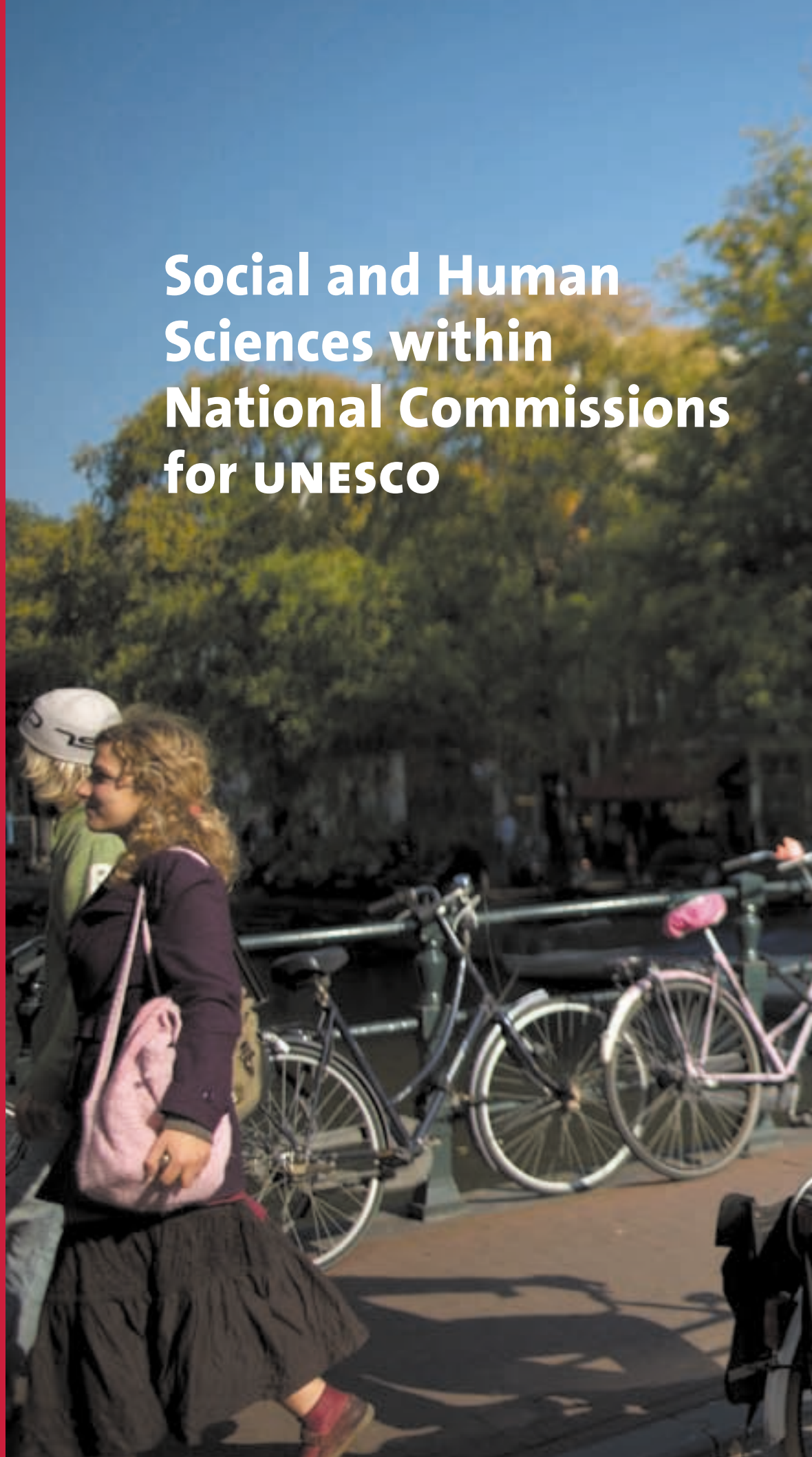


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Focus on the Netherlands



The Netherlands builds bridges between the sciences

After the Philippines, Canada, Malawi, Cuba and Lebanon, *SHSviews* continues its international tour of National Commissions for UNESCO by visiting the Netherlands, where natural sciences and social and human sciences are treated equally by a Committee whose aim is to contribute to sustainable human development.

According to an old saying, *Deus mare, Batavus litora fecit* ("God made the sea, the Dutchman the land").

Fittingly, it is by the sea that one is tempted to approach the Netherlands. Not because this country is currently home to one of Europe's most dynamic ports, nor because it was one of the world's most important maritime powers in the 17th century. Rather, it is as a result of traveling to the meeting with the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO that one realizes how water management remains a challenge in this country, and how, at a time of global warming, social and human sciences can help to understand this challenge.

If the Netherlands is renowned for Rembrandt, tulips, windmills and the canals of Amsterdam, it must also be famous for being one of the countries with the lowest average altitudes: more than a quarter of the country's surface area lies below sea level.

Covering an area of only 41.526 km, and with a population of approximately 16 million, the Netherlands is also one of the most densely populated countries, even though its European territory is but a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which also includes the Caribbean islands of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba.

A multifaceted country with a mixed cultural identity, the Netherlands is recognized as a State particularly respectful of individual liberties. This is evident in the Dutch constitution, which rejects all forms of discrimination.

An autonomous Commission

A large number of European and international institutions, such as the International Criminal Tribunal and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, have chosen to make the Netherlands their base.

Tolerance, the culture of peace and environmental ethics... Clearly, UNESCO's programmes have long been adhered to in the Netherlands.

Five months after its accession to UNESCO, in May 1947, the Netherlands set up a National Commission to implement the Organization's programmes. Its mission was to advise the Government on all questions relevant to UNESCO's mandate, from education to culture, science and communication.

As it is also responsible for disseminating information on UNESCO, the Commission liaises between the networks of the Organization and the educational, scientific and political worlds, as well as those related to NGOs and the Dutch media.

Although it is funded directly from the budget of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, the Commission operates autonomously, fostering

cooperation on all sides. Being its own decision-maker, the Commission works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, as well as the National Youth Council.

It is one of those National Commissions which works closely with their Permanent Delegation to UNESCO, actively contributing to the preparation of recommendations submitted by the Netherlands to all decision-making bodies of the Organization.

Rather than operating in a hierarchical manner, the Commission maintains a close relationship with several other National Commissions, including the relatively young Netherlands Antilles Commission, established in 1995, as well as those of the BENELUX countries, notably the Flemish National Commission and the Luxembourg National Commission with whom it consults regularly on UNESCO programmes, having developed several joint activities.

Contributing to human development

In May 2008, these actors came together to hold the 15th annual meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO from Europe and North America. At this meeting, participants developed new working methods for transition from the traditional transmission of reports to a genuine exchange of ideas, and took advantage of the expertise and collective intelligence of the National Commissions assembled to strengthen their ability to act effectively in the pursuit of common goals.

With 11 permanent members, the daily operations of the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO are the result of three sectoral Committees that feed off each other. One is responsible for education, another culture, communication and information, while a third deals with natural and social and human sciences. Cooperation between the three sectoral Committees is strong, and it is not uncommon for projects initiated by one to be ultimately developed by another.

Composed of 10 experts from various disciplines including medical ethics, hydrology, sustainable development, human rights and geosciences, the Committee of Sciences has one sole objective: to contribute to sustainable human development, a fundamental precondition to the peaceful coexistence of peoples. Whether they are considered "hard" or "soft" sciences, all sciences are on an equal footing, and viewed as equally pertinent to addressing the various facets under UNESCO's mandate.

A project, detailed later in this paper, provides a pertinent example, one which has helped to explore the socio-cultural values of water. In the Netherlands, where dykes and dams have long been constructed to mitigate the threats water poses to the territory, the multidisciplinary approach developed by the Committee of Sciences of the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO led to a greater use of the social and human sciences prism to address the issues of water. The result? An undeniable contribution to reconciliation between the Dutch people and a natural element that has contributed to building their cultural identity. ¶

Coraline Bardinat



What benefits have you drawn from your participation in a project with the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO?

BARBARA M. OOMEN, Department of Social Sciences at the Roosevelt Academy of the University of Utrecht.

“The Commission has helped us to conduct research on the place accorded to human rights in the curricula. In the Netherlands, there is great diversity in school programmes, as there is no formal state curriculum. This research, carried out on examinations, textbooks and teaching practices, has allowed us to better understand the place of human rights, particularly in history and civic education programmes. Based on its results, we organized a meeting of experts, which provoked an animated debate on public policy. A request was then presented to the Dutch Parliament to reinforce human rights education.”

10.1%

This is the percentage of the population living in the Netherlands in 2005 of foreign nationality. (IOM)

Acting tirelessly to protect and promote human rights

Even though the country is renowned for its tolerance and respect for individual freedoms, the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO acts tirelessly to promote human rights, organizing meetings and collective action, and bringing together the contributions of experts in various projects.

In partnership with a group of Dutch universities and with the financial backing of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Province of Zeeland, the Commission organized, in September 2007, a conference bringing together lawyers, scientists, policy-makers, NGO representatives, and students. The purpose of this conference was to identify obstacles and opportunities to strengthen socio-economic and cultural rights in the Netherlands, drawing lessons from the South.

Speaking before the Dutch Minister of Justice, Albie Sachs, Justice on the Constitutional Court of South Africa, and Judge Muralidhar, of the Supreme Court of New Delhi, came to share their experiences. The conference was a great success, with its findings being reflected in the strategy on human rights by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, workshops on international law and socio-economic and cultural rights were convened for the benefit of the Chief Justices of various Dutch courts.

More recently, as part of UNESCO’s commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Science Committee and the Education Committee within the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO organized a meeting of experts with a Dutch NGO regrouping

organizations specializing in human rights. This meeting was dedicated to human rights education, and took place on 2 December 2008 in The Hague. It provided a forum to compare the different views of scholars and jurists, representatives from the Dutch Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and Education, as well as NGO activists from the Anne Frank Foundation and Amnesty International.

Following this meeting, which highlighted the importance of integrating human rights education in civic education in the Netherlands, policy-makers were invited by the Minister of Education to organize a second conference with the final objective of defining a joint strategy for 2009, a year declared by the United Nations as the “International Year of Human Rights Education”. ¶

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Enabling youth to make themselves heard

How can UNESCO carry out its core mission of building peace in the minds of men, without giving youth, whose influence will be felt in the years to come, an opportunity to participate in discussions of issues that are of concern to them?

For many years now, the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO has made youth one of its priority issues, trying to involve as many young people as possible in its activities. The Netherlands can also proudly claim to have been the first UNESCO Member State to send a youth delegate to the Organization's General Conference in 1972. Two years after the 16th General Conference of UNESCO, a resolution calling on each Member State to have a youth representative was adopted.

Since then, the youth delegate of the Netherlands, who participates every two years in UNESCO's Youth Forum, organized

immediately prior to UNESCO's General Conference, is also an advisory member of the Netherlands Commission.

Delegates are selected by the Dutch National Youth Council, *Jeugdraad*, which brings together all Dutch youth organizations for people aged under 30. The youth delegate regularly participates in the meetings of the various Committees of the Netherlands Commission, and offers advice and opinions on existing projects as well as on new activities.

Recently elected for an 18-month term, Masooma Yousufzai has participated in several meetings, including the most recent meeting of the Science Committee, in February 2009. Eager to contribute to enhancing the visibility of the Organization's activities, Ms Yousufzai is actively engaged in the work of the Netherlands Commission. She has already participated in several projects and

has organized a "Meeting of Religions", which allowed young people from different faiths to share their experiences in order to strengthen tolerance and mutual understanding.

In October, Ms Yousufzai will attend her first UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris. ¶

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16.5%

This is the percentage of the Dutch population aged under 15 in 2015, according to a UNDP forecast compared to 18.4% in 2005.

3 questions for ... Josee van Eijndhoven

President of the Science Committee of the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO since 2006, Josee van Eijndhoven teaches sustainable management at Erasmus University in Rotterdam, where she chaired the Executive Board from 2001 to 2006. A chemist by training, she has also directed the Dutch Rathenau Institute for Technology Assessment for ten years.

How does the work you are carrying out in the social and human sciences fit in with the other programmes of the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO?

The Commission conducts parts of its activities through three Committees: Education, Culture and Communication and Science, which includes social and natural sciences. Themes developed by one can be processed by others. This was the case of a research project initiated by the Science Committee on the role of human rights in the Netherlands, which revealed that knowledge of these rights was limited. The Science Committee encouraged research and organized a conference to discuss this

issue and demonstrate the relevance of international treaties on human rights for the Dutch legal system. The discussion then moved to the place of human rights in the Dutch education system. Logically, the project developed on this topic by the Commission is now managed by the Education Committee.

What, in your opinion, are the main challenges in the Netherlands in the field of science?

One of the main challenges is undoubtedly to fight the unequal attention paid to contemporary issues: for example, too much emphasis is placed on aspects related to ➤

Promoting ethics and bioethics: a priority for the Netherlands

The ethics of science and bioethics are a priority for the Netherlands Commission, and it is convinced that UNESCO plays a key role in these domains, through its normative action and international exchange.

Indeed, the Commission does not develop specific projects. Rather, it provides a constant input to the global activities of the Organization, both in developing and implementing UNESCO's programmes.

Sharing with the general public

The Commission's objective is to enhance knowledge of the instruments developed by the Organization. It has made the promotion of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted in 2005, a priority. As such, it strives not only to share content with the general public and all the scientific and political communities in the Netherlands, but also to stimulate thinking on how best to implement its broad principles.

As Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) of UNESCO since

2005, the Commission fosters debate on all issues of concern to the IGBC, as the result of its close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports of the Netherlands. Whether it be cloning, the principle of social responsibility and health, strengthening the link between this intergovernmental structure and the independent experts of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), its recommendations are always developed in agreement with the Ministry. It systematically sends a representative to IGBC meetings.

Providing expertise

It also actively participates in UNESCO activities in the field by providing UNESCO with the expertise of its members. By way of example, Hans van Delden, Professor of Medical Ethics at the University of Utrecht, and member of its Science Committee, recently participated in the project Assisting Bioethics Committees (ABC).

This project was developed by the Division of the Ethics of Science and Technology of UNESCO to assist Member States in clarifying

the role and mission of each Committee, developing clear working methods and allowing the exchange of experience. In 2007, the Dutch expert participated in the first workshop held in Ghana on the technical aspects of how to establish a Bioethics Committee in that country. In January 2009, he returned to Ghana to participate in a second workshop, this time on practical aspects relating to methods of works and role and functions of these instruments. Soon, he is expected to return to Africa to share his expertise at a third meeting, held within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNESCO and Ghana to support the firm establishment of this committee. ¶

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➔ natural sciences and engineering and not on those related to social sciences. This should be rebalanced. A second challenge is to try to learn how other countries handle a problem, and vice versa.

When we work on a theme, as was the case, for example, of human rights in the Dutch context, we try to ensure that the results of this work are available to the entire UNESCO community. It was also our approach when our Committee translated into English a book on sustainability and culture, or, more recently, a publication on the Dutch history of water commissioned by a Dutch Ministry into English.

How do you collaborate with your partners?

By cooperating with other organizations, we seek to broaden the impact of our activities. In general, this cooperation consists of jointly organizing one or more meetings resulting in a publication, so that partners can use the results of these activities in their future projects. In most cases, we cooperate with Dutch partners, such as advisory committees, universities or ministries, like the Advisory Council for Research on Spatial Planning, Nature and the Environment, (RMNO), the Roosevelt Academy, the University of Utrecht, and the Ministries of Transport, Health and Education. ¶

Interview by Coraline Bardinat



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“By cooperating with other organizations, we seek to broaden the impact of our activities.”

The socio-cultural value of water: a model project

If there is a model project for demonstrating the usefulness of approaching a topic through the prism of social and human sciences, then it is the one developed by the Netherlands Commission on the socio-cultural value of water.

Traditionally considered as an enemy of which one should be wary, water is now perceived in the Netherlands as an element to be managed and to which more importance should be given.

To reach this point, we have to begin by understanding the complex relationship that binds the Dutch to it by moving away from a technical approach to water management, enriching sciences other than engineering and addressing the social dimension.

This is what the Science Committee of the Netherlands Commission has been trying to

do: enhance the relationship between the population and water, an element which has helped shape its cultural identity. By making social and human sciences work towards this understanding, it developed a multidisciplinary project exploring the links between sustainable development and culture.

Among other activities, a round-table of experts convened in July 2007, with the participation of the Dutch Advisory Council for Research on Spatial Planning, Nature and the Environment (RMNO) and the Council for the Development of Higher Education (DHO), led to the establishment of monitoring at the national level to strengthen the study of the relationship between culture and sustainable development.

In April 2008, another meeting brought together specialists from different scientific

disciplines to contribute to the project “Watercanon”, developed by the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management of the Netherlands. This project seeks to raise awareness of the Dutch youth on how water has influenced the history of their country through 25 images. ¶

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Project website (English and Dutch):
www.watercanon.nl



FOR FURTHER READING



Culture and Sustainable Development

This publication brings together the reflections of a round-table meeting, organized in July 2007 on the potential relationship between culture and sustainable development, and identifies and prioritizes ways to improve knowledge through higher education and innovation. ¶

Prof. Dr. J. B. Opschoor
13 pp., Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, 2008



The troubled triangle

In 2006, the Centre for Resource Studies for Development (CERES) at Utrecht University organized, in cooperation with the Netherlands Commission for UNESCO, a conference during which the interconnectedness between inequality, pluralism and the environment were investigated. This publication presents the conceptual reflections elaborated on the basis of empirical and ethnographic research. ¶

Wil. G. Pansters
222 pp., Rozenberg Publishers, 2008
ISBN 9789036101103



Globalization and its New Divides

This publication is the result of two workshops convened during a conference on the information society that took place in 2003 at the University of Tilburg. ¶

Paul van Seters, Bas de Gaay Fortman and Arie de Ruijter
232 pp., Dutch University Press, 2003
ISBN 9036193516



Justiciability of Economic and Social Rights; experiences from domestic systems

This book, available only in English, presents the works of experts who participated in a seminar on the evolution of the justiciability of social and economic rights, organized by the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Peace at the University of Maastricht. ¶

Fons Coomans
452 pp., Intersentia, 2006
ISBN 9789050955827

TOOL

Vademecum for a new approach

Following the consultation of National Commissions for UNESCO from Europe and North America, conducted in 2008, a practical guide for all National Commissions was developed to help them organize their meetings, including their consultations with the Director-General of UNESCO, and all statutory conferences of the Organization. This tool also exists in book form and on CD-ROM. It is also available in both English and French on the following website:

www.newapproach-unesco-meetings.org



Marcello Balbo

President of the UNESCO Chair in Social and Spatial Inclusion of International Migrants: Urban Policies and Practice at the Università IUAV di Venezia (Italy), Marcello Balbo is a Professor of urban planning, urban development and urban reconstruction. He is the author of *International Migrants and the City* (UN-Habitat, 2005).

Immigration policies or migration policies?

By Marcello Balbo

Representing 190 million people, 13 million of which are refugees, international migrants comprise nearly 3% of the world's population. For the most part, these people wish to settle in large cities.

The decision to live in a large city is the result of several factors. It is in large cities that new migrants find better prospects in terms of income and support networks. Furthermore, large cities are generally the point of entry for migrants to the host country and serve as information centres for existing opportunities.

The desirability of living in large cities for migrants also has benefits for the city itself, as migration is a source of significant economic growth. For the host country, migrants are more receptive to accepting jobs abandoned by the national population, and, for the country of origin, remittances provide a valuable source of income. However, these factors do not facilitate the inclusion process.

Inclusion is a reality that is not easily defined, because its limits are determined both socially and historically. Inclusion is also dependent on the different migration strategies that are implemented: temporary, permanent, circular, individual or family reunification. Large cities, in light of their multiculturalism and multi-value systems, call for different types of inclusion.

Above all, inclusion means being able to provide migrants with opportunities similar to those available to residents. From this definition, what is crucial is the system of "connections" with the networks that shape the city and urban society: public administration (urban services), the job market (citizenship), communities and the family. Where these connections do not exist, or are crowded or overlapping, they are supplanted by networks of autonomy,

fragmentation, social and geographical isolation, all of which can lead to social conflict.

This means that space has a major role in urban inclusion. In this sense, we can see that high-rent housing, or that which excludes foreigners, is one of the greatest barriers to the inclusion of migrants. This manifests itself in the creation of communities of migrants from the same region who gather in specific areas, resulting in greater social and spatial fragmentation of the urban environment. Thus undermines the very idea of the city as a place of encounters and exchanges.

It is migrants themselves who establish these enclaves in order to better manage the lack of required services. Where migration policies are weak or inexistent, the networks of support and mutual assistance are the only response to migrants' needs, especially during the settling-in period. However, these networks can also cause isolation, which hinders integration into the wider urban community. Networks of mutual assistance should be supported, but done so in a way that avoids the establishment of enclaves in urban areas.

Inclusion implies that each individual and community should have equal rights to the city, and that cultures and traditions should be expressed and respected. It is a decidedly cosmopolitan vision that recognizes the positive contribution brought by diversity.¶

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS



Forum on Migration

With this article by Professor Balbo, *SHSviews* is launching a discussion forum on the inclusion of migrants in cities, contributing to the work of the International Migration and Multicultural Policies Section of UNESCO. Feedback, suggestions or comments should be sent to the following address: migrants&cities@unesco.org

Is the right to free movement a human right?



Since its publication in English in 2007, the UNESCO book *Migration Without Borders. Essays on the Free Movement of People* has received great interest and acclaim from researchers and politicians, as evidenced by its recent nomination by the Association of Borderland Studies (ABS) for their 2009 Book Award. Having been translated into French, Spanish and Russian, and with a Chinese version forthcoming, the publication is now available to a much wider readership.

What would happen if border controls were abolished and people could move freely around the world? This publication, edited by two UNESCO programme specialists on international migration, focuses on various aspects of this particular scenario of significant interest to a growing number of researchers, NGOs and politicians. Bringing together the various approaches of specialists from five continents, the publication has exposed the contradiction of having a right “to leave” a country, laid down in Article 13 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, yet not having a right “to enter” a country as a result of State sovereignty. In light of this contradiction, the co-editors of this publication asked: can one reasonably consider a world where people are free to move, cross borders and settle where they please in an era where migration flows are strictly controlled? What would happen if border controls were abolished altogether? Shouldn't everyone enjoy the same right to mobility? What would the face of “a

world without borders” be? Is such a scenario even possible? To each of these questions, the co-editors, whose expertise in this field is recognized worldwide, responded in a positive, constructive manner. But this does not prevent them from considering all facets of the debate, from convergences to contradictions. Far from adopting an idealistic approach, they conduct a careful analysis of economic and ethical issues raised by the phenomenon of migration. Furthermore, they carefully examine the social and societal consequences that free movement of individuals has around the world. Currently available in four languages and soon to be translated into Chinese, *Migrations Without Borders. Essays on the Free Movement of People* is used as a reference tool and wholly enriches the debate through its innovative ideas on migration issues. It has been nominated by the Association of Borderland Studies for their 2009 Book Award. ¶

Migration Without Borders. Essays on the Free Movement of People
 Edited by Antoine Pécoud and Paul de Guchteneire
 304 pp., UNESCO Publishing, 2007,
 ISBN 978-92-3-204024-4
 29 € (Also available in French, Spanish and Russian)

To order this publication, please contact:
UNESCO Publishing
publishing.promotion@unesco.org,
 fax: +33 1 45 68 57 39,
<http://publishing.unesco.org>

The Russian translation is available for download, free of charge, from the following address:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0015/001557/155779R.pdf>

The ISSJ revisits the concept of the Nation-State

At a time of globalization and structural change to states, the *International Social Science Journal (ISSJ)* has chosen to question the concepts of nation-building and of the Nation-State.

The Journal delivers the results of researchers who bring into perspective the changes underway, particularly the links and interactions between civic and civil society. ¶

Dilemmas in Nation-building
 ISSJ No. 192
 p. 148-319, UNESCO/Wiley-Blackwell, 2008
 ISSN 0020-8701
 \$ 22,50 (available soon in French)

For more information, please contact:
John Crowley, j.crowley@unesco.org,
 Tel.: +33 1 45 68 38 28



Human Rights in Brazil

Drawing on the work of *Direitos humanos*, published in 2008 and publicized in *SHSviews* n°23, this new work by Marco Mondaini is composed of 33 essays on the evolution and the inclusion of human rights in Brazil. The publication discusses the struggle for civil and political rights during the military dictatorship and the eventual triumph of democracy in the country. It compiles essays from major contemporary thinkers, including Caio Prado Júnior, Florestan Fernandes, Leonardo Boff, Betinho, Ulysses Guimarães and Tancredo Neves. ¶

Direitos humanos no Brasil
 Marco Mondaini
 143 pp., UNESCO Brasília / Editora Contexto, 2009
 978-85-7244-422-4
 (in Portuguese only)

To order this book, please contact:
grupoeditorial@unesco.org.br

IJMS interested in the return of migrants to their countries of origin

The *International Journal of Multicultural Societies (IJMS)* has devoted its latest issue to the reintegration of return migrants to their countries of origin. Return to the country of origin is a process that needs preparation, yet this is not always possible due to reasons linked to the circumstances under which the return is taking place.

Through examples from Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, Asia and Latin America, the IJMS analyses the different models for reintegration and seeks to identify the reasons behind the successes or failures of returns. These are key variables to be taken into account in the development of migration policies. ¶

IJMS Vol.10, No.2
 UNESCO, 2008
 ISSN 1817-4574
 To read this issue:
www.unesco.org/shs/ijms

Opening schools to prevent violence

Published in the *Abrindo Espaços* series, this book is a compilation of the first results obtained from a project launched by the UNESCO office in Brasília in 2000. The book advocates opening schools on weekends and highlights the fundamental role of state schools in the prevention of violence and in building a culture of peace. ¶

Mais educação, menos violência
 Marcos Rolim
 101 pp., UNESCO Brasília / Fundação Vale (Brazil), 2008
 978-85-7652-075-7
 (in Portuguese only)

To download this book in pdf format:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0017/001785/178542por.pdf>

To receive a printed version:
grupoeditorial@unesco.org.br





Learning about bioethics while having fun!

The result of a fruitful collaboration between the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics at the University of Haifa, the Israeli Commission for UNESCO and the Ethics Education Programme of UNESCO, this book advocates bioethics education through games and entertainment. However, its playful nature does not detract from the serious messages contained in the book, written by the Programme Specialist for Social and Human Sciences Sector at the UNESCO office in Bangkok and based on experiments conducted at the UNESCO Asia-Pacific School of Ethics. ¶

Moral Games for Teaching Bioethics
Darryl R. J. Macer
122 pp., UNESCO Chair in Bioethics, Haifa, 2008
ISBN 965-7077-40-0
(uniquement en anglais)

To download this guide:
http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=multilingual_material

Should nanotechnologies be a cause of apprehension?

Faced with growing expectations and irrational fears *vis-à-vis* nanotechnologies, UNESCO proposes to review this issue through the deliberations of 14 expert advisors to the World Commission on Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST). The review will consider the contribution of technological advances in nanotechnology, examine the debates surrounding its definition and explore related ethical and policy issues. ¶

Nanotechnologies, Ethics and Politics.
Edited by Henk ten Have
264 pp., Publishing UNESCO, 2008
ISBN 978-92-3-204051-0
22 € (also available in French)

To order this book, please contact:
UNESCO Publishing
publishing.promotion@unesco.org,
fax: +33 1 45 68 57 39,
<http://publishing.unesco.org>

An introduction to environmental ethics

This introductory guide to environmental ethics for students has been developed as part of a project on environmental ethics and bioethics education in Belarus by the International Sakharov Environmental University in Minsk (Belarus), with the financial support of UNESCO. The guide focuses on environmental ethics from various perspectives – historical, theoretical, practical and political – and uses a series of exercises and case studies to highlight the challenges and current controversies related to the environment. ¶

Basics of environmental ethics – educational manual for university students
Eds. T.V. Mishatkina & S.P. Kundas
291 pp., UNESCO Moscow / ISEU, 2008
978-985-6823-70-4
(in Russian only)

To download this guide
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0017/001792/179205r.pdf>

More ethics = more development

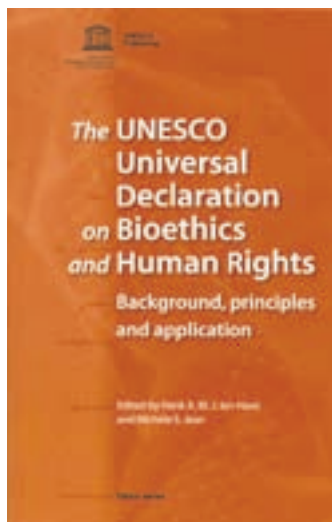
This book, published in Spanish in 2004, was authored by a consultant in public policy for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It analyzes the impact of ethical values and social capital on development and brings to light the great Latin American ethical challenges using concrete examples of where ethics have changed reality. ¶

Mais ética, mais desenvolvimento
Bernardo Kliksberg
310 pp., UNESCO / CNI-SESI, 2008
ISBN 85-7652-046-x
11 € (in Portuguese)

To order this book, please contact:
grupoeditorial@unesco.org.br



Background, principles and application of the Declaration



Recently published in English and with a French version soon to follow, a book published by UNESCO conducts an article-by-article analysis of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights.

In the pursuit of UNESCO's goal to promote the understanding of the principles contained in the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, this book provides a new impetus to the dissemination of the Declaration, which serves as a safeguard against improper use of scientific advancement.

Having just been published in English, with a French version soon to follow, this book offers views and commentary on each of the 28 articles that comprise the Declaration, adopted in 2005 by UNESCO Member States.

As members of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), government experts, delegates, or even just participants in meetings, the editors of the book directly contributed to its development by asking contributors to respond to three questions on each article: Why was it included? What does it mean in the context of the Declaration? How can it be applied?

Their contributions shed light on the historical background of the text and its evolution throughout the drafting process. They also provide a reflection on its relevance to previous Declarations and bioethics literature, and its potential interpretation and application in complex and challenging bioethics debates.

Viewed together, the contributions highlight the internal coherence of the articles and the balance, analysis, thought processes and negotiations that led to the final text of the Declaration. The adoption of the final text marked a pivotal moment in the history of bioethics. For the first time, some 190 countries committed themselves and the international community to respect and apply fundamental ethical principles in the fields of medicine, life sciences and associated technologies.

Today, the Declaration provides a coherent framework of principles and procedures, assisting States in the implementation of policies, legislation and codes of ethics. It addresses issues including respect for human dignity and autonomy, human rights, informed consent, and introduces a provision on "social responsibility and health". ¶

The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights – Background, principles and application
Edited by Henk ten Have and Michèle S. Jean
370 pp., UNESCO Publishing, 2009
ISBN 978-92-3-104088-7
26 €.

To order this book, please contact:
UNESCO Publishing
publishing.promotion@unesco.org,
fax: +33 1 45 68 57 39,
<http://publishing.unesco.org>



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A handbook for city professionals in India

An Indian adaptation of the generic handbook for city professionals, *Historic Districts for All: A Social and Human Approach to Sustainable Development*, will be presented at the 2009 Habitat Summit, which will take place from 23-30 September 2009 in New Delhi (India). The presentation will be supported by the UNESCO Chair on Social Sustainability of Historical Districts at Yonsei University in Seoul (Republic of Korea), and UN-HABITAT.

Thanks to the initiative of the UNESCO office in New Delhi (India), a peer-review meeting of thirty experts – from urban planners and architects to sociologists and local authorities – was held on 18 February 2009 at the Institute of Social Sciences of New Delhi to assess the first version of the publication.

The handbook seeks to strengthen the capacity of local urban actors in the revitalization of historic districts, and promotes a holistic approach in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and social justice. It also reflects India's complex urban scenario, the structure of local government, as well as the urban reform currently carried out by the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in an effort to meet the challenges of the expected increase in urban population.

Currently representing 28% of India's one billion-plus population, the percentage of India's urban population should reach 41.4% in 2030 according to forecasts. ¶

For more information, please contact:
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 Tel.: +91 11 26 71 3000

CALENDAR

MAY

- 5 May**
Prevention Embassy Travelling Bus. Brussels, Belgium.
(g.elkhoury@unesco.org)
- 10-12 May**
World Social Science Forum. Bergen, Norway. (c.golden@unesco.org)
- 11-12 May**
High-level meeting on philosophy teaching in the Arab region. Tunis, Tunisia. (m.goucha@unesco.org)
- 12-17 May**
Meeting of experts in ethics. Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)
- 13 May**
International experts' meeting on the right to cultural life. Geneva, Switzerland.
(i.zoubenko-laplante@unesco.org)
- 14-15 May**
Meeting of the Steering Committee of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism. Saint-Petersburg, Russian Federation. (k.guse@unesco.org)
- 17-20 May**
International Conference on Bioethics Committees in Hospitals. Zefa, Israël. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)
- 18-20 May**
Meeting on nanotechnologies in the Arab States. Doha, Qatar.
(j.crowley@unesco.org)
- 25-26 May**
High-level Conference on Teaching of Philosophy in Asia and the Pacific. Manila, Philippines.
(m.goucha@unesco.org)
- 26-29 May**
Meeting on the consequences of climate change in Africa. Niamey, Niger. (j.crowley@unesco.org)
- 27-29 May**
Asia-Arab States Inter-regional Philosophical Dialogues. Bangkok, Thailand.
(m.goucha@unesco.org)
- 29-31 May**
Meeting of ethics experts. Chişinău, Republic of Moldova.
(h.tenhave@unesco.org)

JUNE

- 1-5 June**
34th Annual Caribbean Studies Association (CSA) Conference. Kingston, Jamaica.
(pm.monreal-gonzalez@unesco.org)
- 2-5 June**
2nd Forum of Ministers of Women's Affairs for East Africa and research-policy dialogue. Mombasa, Kenya.
(c.tekaya@unesco.org)
- 8-10 June**
Training session on ABC working methods. Libreville, Gabon.
(h.tenhave@unesco.org)
- 8-9 June**
Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport (CIGEPS). Paris, France.
(g.elkhoury@unesco.org)
- 8-9 June**
High level Conference on Teaching of Philosophy in Latin America and the Caribbean. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
(m.goucha@unesco.org)
- 15-16 June**
Workshop on "Ethics Information Centres and Mass Media: Fostering Public Debate". Vilnius, Lithuania.
(a.ampar@unesco.org)
- 16-18 June**
Ordinary Session of the COMEST. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
(j.crowley@unesco.org)
- 17-19 June**
International Conference "Bioethics, Human Rights and New Technologies: legal and ethical aspects of reproductive health and family planning". Baku, Azerbaijan.
(a.ampar@unesco.org)
- 18-21 June**
"United World Games 2009-One World-A Thousand Friends". Klagenfurt, Austria
- 22-23 June**
High-level meeting on teaching philosophy in Africa. Port Louis, Mauritius. (m.goucha@unesco.org)
- 23 June**
Event within the framework of the partnership "Dance for Life". Paris, France. (m.scarone@unesco.org)

30 June-2 July
Regional seminar on poverty. Brasilia, Brazil. (c.tekaya@unesco.org)

JULY

- 7-8 July**
International experts' meeting on "The Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation". Perugia, Italy.
(i.zoubenko-laplante@unesco.org)
- 9-10 July**
Meeting of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (CIGB). Paris, France. (s.colombo@unesco.org)
- 13-19 July**
World Youth Festival. Stuttgart, Germany. (g.elkhoury@unesco.org)
- 16-17 July**
International experts' meeting on "The Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress and its Applications (REBSP)". Venice, Italy.
(i.zoubenko-laplante@unesco.org)
- 20-22 July**
Conference of experts on the establishment of National Bioethics Committees. Gaborone, Botswana.
(h.tenhave@unesco.org)
- 22-24 July**
9th session of the MOST Intergovernmental Council (IGC). Paris, France.
(c.von-furstenberg@unesco.org)

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!



Stay up-to-date with news on publications and activities of UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector by subscribing to *SHS e-News*, the monthly electronic newsletter, and to *SHSviews*, the quarterly magazine. All details at: www.unesco.org/shs