

January 2010-March 2010

UNESCO Social and Human Sciences Sector magazine

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CLIMATE CHANGE

**Patricio Bernal
on the Copenhagen
Summit**

HUMAN RIGHTS

**Arab-African
migration:
talking frankly
in Cairo**

5TH WORLD URBAN FORUM

**Meeting in Rio
for cities with
a human face**

This issue of *SHSviews* is accompanied by a special issue presenting the strategy of UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences programme for 2010-2011 and looks back over the main results obtained during the past decade.

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CENTRAL POSTER /

The UNESCO Network in Social and Human Sciences

The special issue of *SHSviews* on social and human sciences at UNESCO can be downloaded at www.unesco.org/shs/views

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THE JACOB CONFERENCE

Bioethics Committees networked in Mexico

Jointly organizing for the first time together a conference on National Infrastructures for Bioethics, UNESCO and the European Commission facilitated the sharing of experiences to help boost North-South and South-South cooperation in this field.

Organized by UNESCO and the European Commission, a conference called “The JACOB Conference” gathered together in Mexico City (Mexico) from 26 to 28 November 2009, over 100 participants from national bioethics bodies and international and regional organizations working in this area, to ensure the sharing of knowledge and experiences on this issue. A perfectly legitimate ambition for UNESCO, which derives its mandate from the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, which states that “independent, multidisciplinary and pluralist ethics committees should be established, promoted and supported at the appropriate level” (Article 19).

Functioning of the committees

Indeed, the conference provided a unique opportunity for experts from newly-established committees to share their experiences of the challenges they face. The meeting also welcomed speakers from countries about to establish a national committee, and representatives of national committees already established.

Presentations and debates revealed a number of interesting issues that all bioethics committees should consider. Can a committee which is financially supported by a governmental body, such as a ministry, be truly independent and free from any undue influence exercised by the government? Should all voices be heard during the proceedings, even those challenging the principles of fundamental human rights underlying bioethics?

Diversity of opinion

Most participants recognized that it was essential that the argument made by the Committee be inspired by the diversity of opinion and this regardless of the funding source, the independence acquired by the daily activities of the committee, the quality of its work, and the personal integrity of its members.

The discussions showed that bioethics is increasingly present on the political agenda of governments around the world, creating an atmosphere conducive to increased awareness and positive interventions of National Bioethics Committees.

UNESCO was requested to continue, in collaboration with other key organizations working to promote global bioethics, assisting its Member States to build and support the development of national infrastructures for Bioethics and share information through networks of bioethics’ networks. ¶

For more information, please contact:
www.unesco.org/ethics/abc

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The number of countries involved in the activities developed by UNESCO as part of its Assisting Bioethics Committees project (ABC). (UNESCO, 2010)

BIOETHICS

The IBC will continue research on human cloning

Originally scheduled for May 2009, and postponed because of the outbreak of influenza A (H1N1), the 16th session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) brought together several hundred participants from 23 to 25 November 2009 in Mexico City (Mexico).

At the invitation of the Government of Mexico, the 16th Ordinary Session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) was held in Mexico City, Mexico from 23 to 25 November 2009 in cooperation with the Advisory Council for Sciences of the Presidency of Mexico, and brought together over 300 participants and experts from about 45 countries. It was attended by the UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO as well as the Mexican Ministers for Education, Health and Foreign Affairs.

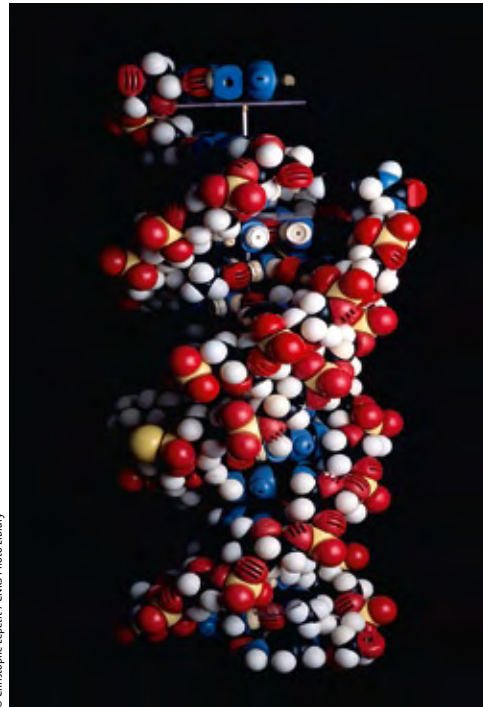
Three major topics were the focus of discussions: the principal of social responsibility and health, the issue of human cloning and international governance and the principle of respect for human vulnerability and personal integrity.

Human vulnerability

An additional session discussed the topic "Bioethics in Latin America and the Caribbean: Experiences and Perspectives". Other topics related to experiences and common regional concerns such as raising public awareness, legal measures, bioethics education and the challenges facing National Bioethics Committees in Latin America were discussed.

One of the major outcomes of this session was the finalization of the draft report of the IBC on social responsibility and health. This ethical principle, enshrined in UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005) was first promoted by the Latin American and the Caribbean region. The report was welcomed in general, although there were a few comments which were noted by the IBC.

The latter decided to continue its work on elaborating the principle of the Respect for Human Vulnerability and Personal Integrity in the form of a report. Further discussions took place on the main issues raised during preparation and finalization of the Report on Human Cloning and International



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Governance, thus paving the way for the follow-up work of the IBC on this issue in the next biennium 2010-2011. The submission of that report to the Director-General of UNESCO on 9 June 2009, and the discussion that followed during the 6th session of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC) in July 2009 showed the high significance of this report for the international community.

The 28 independent experts, members of the IBC, also proceeded to renew the governing body. On 25 November 2009, the International Bioethics Committee elected Donald Evans (New Zealand) as Chairperson of the Committee, while Emilio La Rosa (Peru), Mr Toivo Maimets (Estonia), Sheila McLean (United Kingdom) and Aissatou Touré (Senegal) were elected as Vice-Chairpersons of the IBC Bureau in addition to Fawaz Saleh (Syria) as Rapporteur.

Professor Donald Evans has a long experience in teaching, training and research at national and international levels. He is Director of the Bioethics Centre, Medical and Surgical Sciences, Dunedin School of Medicine in New Zealand. ¶

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Assisting Bioethics Committees: Priority to Africa in 2010

Two training sessions on working methods for National Bioethics Committees are scheduled for 2010 and will be open to the media to provide maximum visibility. Those training sessions will be held in Gabon in June, in Kenya in May, Togo and Cote d'Ivoire in September, and in Jamaica, Guinea and Madagascar during the second semester of the same year.

This second phase of the Assisting Bioethics Committee Assistance (ABC) programme will step up support for the ethics training dispensed by UNESCO, in accordance with its Basic Bioethics Course, which is based on the principles set out in the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights adopted by the Organization's Member States in 2005. ¶

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Towards a Bioethics Committee in Kenya

The National Council for Science and Technology in Kenya hosted the National Ethical Review Committee from 16 to 18 November 2009, in order to move towards the setting up of a National Bioethics Committee in Kenya which in 2008 hosted the 14th session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and where a UNESCO Chair in bioethics has already been created.

The workshop, which was the first to be held in Kenya as part of the Assisting Bioethics Committee programme (ABC), enabled the experts present to fulfil their objectives. The legal framework of cooperation between UNESCO and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology was thus defined and a training session in working methods for the future bioethics committee was scheduled for the first half of 2010 which will enable the committee to define its status and future activities. ¶

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2009 Avicenna Prize awarded to a Chinese specialist in bioethics

The 2009 Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science was awarded to Professor Renzong Qiu on 18 December 2009, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France), on the recommendation of the jury of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) to the Director-General of UNESCO. Professor Renzong Qiu, a philosophy teacher at the Academy of Social Sciences (People's Republic of China) has established himself as a major figure in the field of bioethics not only in the Chinese academic community but also worldwide, through his research and public advocacy.

Marcio Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, presiding over the prize-giving ceremony in the presence of Dr Ali Reza Mokhber, Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Dr Naderi Manesh, Iranian Vice-Minister of Science, Research and Technology in Education, underlined the need to “ensure that the fruits of scientific discovery and technological innovation are at the service of humanity”.

The \$10,000 Avicenna Prize, created by UNESCO at the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, also includes a one-week scientific visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and is awarded every two years. It is aimed at promoting ethical reflection on issues raised by advances in science and technology. ¶

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A question for...

“Was the Copenhagen Summit a turning point in the response of the United Nations to the challenges of climate change?”

Until end December 2009, Patricio Bernal was UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. He was responsible, in that capacity, for the coordination of UNESCO’s actions on climate change. After following the debates of the Conference on Climate Change held in Copenhagen (Denmark), he gave his thoughts to *SHSviews* on the outcomes.

“During the last 15 years the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change developed a comprehensive approach to mitigate the causes of the phenomenon, to search for alternative solutions, and came up with an overall plan to help societies to cope with the manifold impacts of climate change. Copenhagen failed to adopt mandatory targets of greenhouse gases emissions binding to the parties of the Convention. Only a political declaration, negotiated mostly between the USA and the large emerging economies was possible. The bottom-line is that to undertake the societal changes required to modify a civilization built on a carbon-based economy, to any alternative, giving rise to a lot of uncertainties in the process, huge political commitments assuming the strong economic implications were required. The world was not ready for that. Clearly, the political process is part of the problem. For many years, negotiations in UNFCCC remained for many years isolated from mainstream political circles in each nation. The common citizens received sporadic,



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Patricio Bernal: “Climate change has become an issue for society”



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contradictory information and remain skeptical of the relevance of an unknown phenomenon with remote or uncertain consequences for their everyday life. To that extent, Copenhagen was the turning point.

Climate change is no longer an environmental problem. It was finally recognized as a societal problem, and no aspect of social life lies outside.

It would be totally unacceptable, for example, to solve the climate problem while exacerbating poverty in large regions of the world.

Building on the basic and important political consensus that still underpins an inclusive universal process under the United Nations and UNFCCC, the next stage will require a more comprehensive and participatory approach.

In this context, the effort by UNESCO to enlarge the knowledge

base and to work towards a universal declaration of the ethical principles of climate change might provide an essential benchmark to refer the obligations and commitments to be adopted in the future. ¶

Interview by John Crowley

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Arab-African migration: talking frankly in Cairo

Devoted mainly to the question of migratory flows in Africa and the Arab States, the first meeting of the Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights was held in Cairo (Egypt) from 7 to 9 December 2009, inaugurating a very frank discussion on South-South migration.

ABDELHAMID EL JAMRI, Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers.

“This Forum and the Copenhagen Conference concern two different levels. Here, the discussions concern the regional level and it is the first major dialogue of this type. In Copenhagen, they concern another level, international this time. Having said that, the two questions are related and climate conditions are one of the first causes of migration.”



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At a time when the attention of most people was focused on Copenhagen where the United Nations Climate Change Conference was just beginning, another United Nations conference was starting in Cairo (Egypt) to deal with an issue that is also one of the major concerns of the international community, namely migration.

From 7 to 9 December 2009, the headquarters of the League of Arab States (LAS) was the scene of a frank and open discussion on the state of migration in and between Africa and the Arab countries, thanks to the first meeting of the Permanent Forum of Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights.

Migrants are enriching

On the eve of Human Rights Day, and 10 days before International Migrants

Day, more than 200 people participated in the event organized by UNESCO and the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights, with the backing of the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF), the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Egyptian Parliamentary Research Centre. During the conference, placed under the high patronage of the First Lady of Egypt, Suzanne Mubarak, representatives of regional and international organizations, NGOs and national human rights institutions, social sciences researchers and of parliamentarians from Africa and the Arab States, intended to define concrete courses of action so that public policies can be developed and introduced, corresponding to the reality of migratory flows and the need to respect human rights.

During the opening ceremony, Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, emphasized the importance of the

meeting, insisting on the particular responsibility of the Organization in reinforcing dialogue between different cultures. “It is therefore absolutely necessary to acquire the material resources required to receive and cater for others”, she said, adding “it is necessary to make pragmatic preparations for the migrants’ new life and to recognize diversity as an asset. For migrants are not a source of disturbance but of enrichment. (...) Migration effected under decent conditions is known to be beneficial both to the migrants and to society as a whole”.

After that, numerous personalities, such as Boutros Boutros-Ghali, President of the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights and President of the Forum, Ahmed Fathi Sorour, Speaker of the Egyptian People’s Assembly, Aisha Abdel Hadi, Egyptian Labour Minister, Federico Mayor, President of the Spanish foundation “Cultura de Paz” and Julia Dolly Joiner, Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union Commission (AU), reconfirmed their commitment to this type of dialogue.

Bacre Ndiaye, Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaties Division, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, emphasized that, with “214 million people living outside their country of origin, the number of international migrants is currently higher than it has been at any other time in history”. Abdou Diouf, Secretary-General of the OIF and Honorary Vice-President of the Forum, warned against “caricaturing immigration for political ends (that) fuel racism and xenophobia”, while Aminata Traoré, former minister of Mali and coordinator of the Forum for Another Mali, recalled that “the countries of departure and transit of immigrants must also question their migration policies”. Throughout the afternoon of 7 December, the participants stressed the role of national human rights institutions and that of parliaments, in particular, in promoting the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance adopted in 2007 at the eighth Summit of the African Union and which has only been ratified so far by three States.

On 8 December, the debates became more heated. Papers were presented by several African and Arab experts on often sensitive subjects such as the dialectics of international migration and human rights, the issue of displacement and



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JULIA DOLLY JOINER, Commissioner for Political Affairs, African Union Commission.

“I believe that the two questions are intimately related. The message that we must convey in Copenhagen not only concerns the question of climate change, but also its impact on our populations. We would like to emphasize that these two questions are intimately related. Being able to link them up would be a real opportunity.”

SHAHIDUL HAQUE, Regional representative for the Middle East, International Organization for Migration (IOM).

“These questions are interconnected and cannot be dissociated.”



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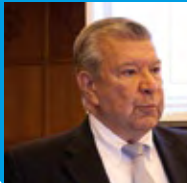
➡ refugees in Africa, impediments to the protection of migrant workers' rights in several African countries, private sector attitudes in the United Arab Emirates as compared to those of Indian entrepreneurs, and the respect of borders in the Mediterranean region.

Concrete examples

For the first time, the issue of South-South migration was addressed head-on, with numerous participants taking the opportunity to mention the geographical and historical ties that exist between African and Arab States and the fact that migration on a world level goes back to ancient times, while others deplored the conditions under which immigrants are accommodated in transit and destination countries, based on concrete examples.

JORGE A. BUSTAMANTE, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

"International migration, which concerns more than 200 million people across the world, is related to the environment in many ways. However, these are two complex issues which are difficult to link up in practice. So, everything depends on the objective, the reason why they are connected."



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"We must put very clearly the question of the fate reserved for migrants from sub-Saharan Africa in the North African countries", insisted Senegalese sociologist Babacar Sall, "It is a secret for no one that these migrants are not even called by their given names, but by the generic name of slaves". The President of Niger's National Commission on Human Rights also denounced the precarious situation of sub-Saharan migrants heading for Europe, in several African countries around the Mediterranean, while another speaker described the plight of hundreds of Egyptian workers in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya after failing to reach Italy by sea. Others still voiced concern about the lack of interest shown by a county of origin when its citizens encountered problems in host or transit countries.

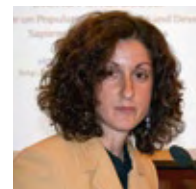
For UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, these exchanges corresponded perfectly to expectations of the Forum which aimed to provide "a venue where problems are posed and discussed with complete frankness. The main goal was to make a convincing step towards its viability and institutionalization in order to contribute in the long term to a process of dialogue and democracy between Africa and Arab States."

Observing with satisfaction that the dialogue was already under way, Pierre Sané was thus able to draw certain conclusions. "It is essential that the States ratify treaties, particularly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, just as it is necessary for the African Union and the League of Arab States to work together to harmonize their political frameworks, their orientations and action guidelines, since some 12 States members of the League are also members of the AU". For the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO, "national human rights institutions have a major role to play in their respective countries in monitoring the International Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers".

A "Cairo Declaration", read out by Boutros Boutros-Ghali during the closing ceremony, was adopted. ¶

Coraline Bardinat

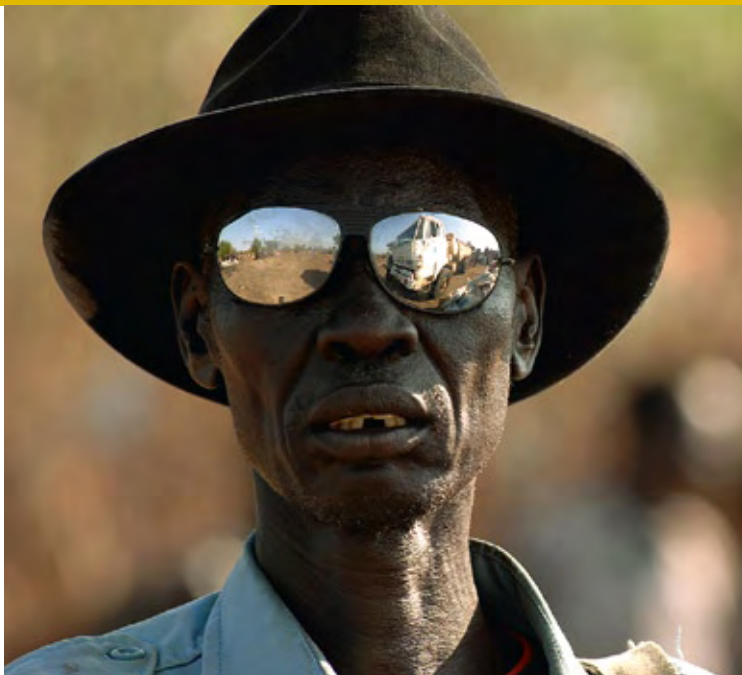
For further information and to view the video of the speech given by the Director-General during the opening ceremony, please consult: www.unesco.org/shs/democracy



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ELENA AMBROSETTI, researcher at the UNESCO Chair "Population, migrations and development" at the Sapienza University in Rome (Italy).

"There is naturally a link between climate change and migration which is being studied but not sufficiently, particularly with respect to major disasters and desertification. Migration is strongly linked to ecological factors and I hope that these questions will be raised in Copenhagen."



CULTURE OF PEACE

Somalia: the “Greater Horn Horizon” offers prospects for ending the crisis

Backed by UNESCO since it was set up in 2007, the Greater Horn Horizon Forum of intellectuals from the countries of East Africa held a series of meetings in Djibouti in November 2009 including a round table that marked “a genuine turning point” in the approach to the Somali conflict.

The Executive Committee of the Forum of Intellectuals for the Horn of Africa held its fourth General Assembly on Tuesday 10 November 2009 at the Djibouti Chamber of Commerce in the presence of Pierre Sané, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, several professors from the University of Djibouti and a large number of intellectuals from the region.

On this occasion, an action plan for the next six years was adopted, including in particular a series of seminars to define the framework of research conducted by the Forum on issues relating to regional integration, especially that aimed at addressing ethnic identity issues in

the Horn of Africa and youth matters.

Immediately prior to the General Assembly, the Forum held several meetings in Djibouti in collaboration with UNESCO. All confirmed the relevance of providing such an opportunity for reflection, research and dialogue. A round table held on 8 November on the prospects of ending the crisis in Somalia was unanimously seen as “a genuine turning point” in the approach to the Somali crisis.

Support for the Somali government

Moderated by the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences, the round table, which included the Djibouti Minister of Culture, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Somalia and several representatives of regional and international organizations, such as the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), confirmed a joint desire to promote peace and development in a country and an entire region in which civil war has been raging for nearly 20 years.

A consensus was reached concerning international support for the Somali Government, which is essential for financing the country’s security and development process. A research

agenda was also developed to study, in particular, changes in the Somali conflict, the future of the Somali State, religious fundamentalism, and the role of youth in regional integration, in order to present concrete recommendations to the Horn of Africa States.

At the end of the discussions, the members of the Forum confirmed their determination to continue their research and lead reflection on peace, development and regional stability, while initiating dialogue with other components of civil society, such as the business community – with which a meeting was held on 7 November – the universities, NGOs and media in the region.

The support of Japan, which enabled the Djibouti meetings to be held, was highly appreciated, alongside that of France, which has also supported the Forum since its creation in 2007. The Forum is also grateful for UNESCO’s backing particularly through the publication of studies conducted by intellectuals from the Horn of Africa. According to Pierre Sané, “UNESCO is aware that peace is built through the sharing of scientific knowledge and that researchers and intellectuals have a crucial role to play in achieving a better future for the Horn of Africa.” ¶

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A collection of books to eradicate poverty using a human rights based approach

Four volumes in the collection *Freedom from Poverty as a Human Right* were presented on 18 December 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France) at the invitation of the Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for the Social and Human Sciences.

This collection is the fruit of a research project formulated in 2002 aimed at helping to elucidate the key concepts raised by the problem of poverty eradication, in terms of moral responsibility and ethical necessity. The project, attached to UNESCO's philosophy programme because of its eminently conceptual approach, has been developed throughout the years by the extensive participation of experts, intellectuals and activists on an international level.

It is a groundbreaking collection in three respects: the originality of its intentions, that is, to provide a conceptual foundation for poverty as a violation of human rights; the original, unique contribution of eminent authors featured in its publications; and finally the approach and methodology adopted, that is, a collection which embraces the disciplines of the social and human sciences, namely philosophy, law, political science and economics while maintaining the invaluable permeability of its analyses and the immense wealth of its interdisciplinarity.

The primary aim of these publications is to address not only the academic world but also decision-makers, NGOs, civil society stakeholders and all those who are conscious of the importance of giving meaning and content to the key terms that shape the fight against poverty through the respect for human rights. ¶

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ADVOCACY

Poverty and human rights: decision-making tools



© Curt Carnemark/World Bank

The launch of four publications and a meeting of experts held in December 2009 in Paris (France) highlight the specific contribution of UNESCO to the international community's commitment to the human rights-based approach to poverty eradication.

Four publications from the "Freedom from Poverty as a Human Right" collection were presented at UNESCO Headquarters on Friday 18 December 2009 at the invitation of the Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences while a week earlier, a meeting of experts reviewed a large-scale project run by UNESCO to fight against poverty as a violation of human rights.

The meeting, which marked Human Rights Day, was held on 10 and 11 December at the European Union Institute for Security Studies in Paris (France). Experts of world renown participated in four sessions: one devoted to case studies regarding Côte

d'Ivoire and Senegal and the other three to a discussion of the results of work conducted by UNESCO on a "decision-making tool" for public decision-makers. The tool consists of four parts: the minimum standards below which human rights are no longer respected, budgeting and negotiation of public aid based on human rights and the development of indicators to measure the impact of poverty-eradication policies on human rights.

Launching the project in 2003

The experts wanted to define the minimum standards in greater detail, which would require more research, and have them included as a "sub-activity" of the United Nations Working Group on the Right to Development. They also invited UNESCO to explore the case study presented in order to develop a budgeting tool and work on incorporating it into all national budgets. They spoke out in favour of the creation of "observatories against poverty and exclusion" to draw attention to the violation of the rights of the most vulnerable.

The project launched in 2003 to provide support for national poverty eradication strategies in a human rights-based approach to poverty eradication covered seven of the eight countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), namely Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. In these countries, the project helped to support the development, implementation and evaluation of national poverty eradication strategies by conducting research on policy-making, national consultations and dialogue with civil societies, which led to the development of a "decision-making tool for national poverty eradication strategies".

Training sessions including review of Poverty Eradication Strategy Documents using a human-rights based approach were also run by UNESCO staff at the invitation of Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.

The experts who attended the meeting were quick to acknowledge the innovative aspect of this decision-making tool. Totally new on an international level, the tool enables UNESCO to provide guidelines to applying the human rights-based approach to poverty eradication and will be an invaluable aid to political decision-makers concerned with meeting their obligations to the most vulnerable sectors of their population. ¶

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PROMOTION OF TOLERANCE

Two humanists share the 2009 Madanjeet Singh Prize

The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for 2008 was awarded to Belgian sociologist and theologian François Houtart and Pakistani philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi during a ceremony held at UNESCO Headquarters for International Day for Tolerance.

At a ceremony held on Monday 16 November 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France), well-known sociologist and theologian, François Houtart (Belgium), and Abdul Sattar Edhi (Pakistan), philanthropist and ardent defender of the most needy, shared the 2009 UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, while the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool (United Kingdom) and the Saint Petersburg Government Programme on Tolerance (Russian Federation) were distinguished with honourable mentions.

When they received their prizes from Marcio Barbosa, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, in the presence of Madanjeet Singh, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and founder of the Prize, François Houtart and Abdul Sattar Edhi were given lengthy standing ovations for their contributions to social justice and the promotion of human dignity, human

rights, non-violence, peace, tolerance and solidarity among peoples.

When paying tribute to the prizewinners, Marcio Barbosa spoke of the importance of tolerance, “particularly in this globalized, multicultural, multi-lingual world”, emphasizing that “it is what conditions productive dialogue and makes it possible for everyone to live together harmoniously”.

In his response, François Houtart insisted on the fact that “the issue of peace and tolerance cannot be raised without placing them in context”. He denounced the financial crisis which has plunged countless people into poverty and called for “another production logic which is far more concerned with the preservation of nature and the fair distribution of wealth”.

In a speech read by the Pakistani representative, Abdul Sattar Edhi exhorted men and women to “each light a candle to fight against darkness” and declared his belief in the fact that “humanism will triumph regardless of the obstacles”.

Video message by Irina Bokova

Previously in a video message, the new Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, had addressed the international community for the first time since taking office, insisting on “the special significance” of celebrating the International Day for Tolerance in 2009, “on the eve of the International Year of the Rapprochement of Cultures”. Urging each of us to “share the responsibility for building a better global order through mutual understanding and respect”, she confirmed her determination to “promote these values which are the foundations of democracy and peace”.

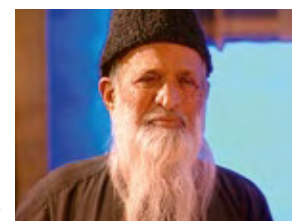
Created in 1995 to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, the US \$100,000 UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize is awarded every two years on the recommendation of an international jury to individuals or institutions for outstanding contributions to the promotion of tolerance and non-violence. ¶

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François Houtart (Belgium)

A priest and trained sociologist, founder of the Tri-Continental Centre (CETRI) and the journal *Alternatives Sud*, François Houtart was born in 1925 in Brussels (Belgium). A well-known figure in the anti-globalization movement, he is one of the founders of “Autre Davos” and the Porto Alegre World Social Forum. A member of the Sponsoring Committee of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, which started work in March 2009, he served as President of the Committee for Human Rights in Burundi (1986-1992). Author of numerous publications, François Houtart has given lectures in over 100 universities around the world. ¶



Abdul Sattar Edhi (Pakistan)

Known for his stance against extremism, his commitment to human rights and his humanitarian action, Abdul Sattar Edhi was born in 1928 in Bantva (Pakistan). At the age of 29, he set up the Edhi Foundation, a non-profit social welfare organization which provides assistance to the most needy through its network of maternity homes, psychiatric hospitals, homes for persons with disabilities, blood banks and orphanages. The Foundation works in several countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, etc.) to bring relief to refugees and other victims of strife and natural disasters. ¶





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FUNDRAISING

Gala for the Education of Children in Need

In spite of the economic crisis, the annual charity dinner in support of the UNESCO programme for the Education of Children in Need brought together over a thousand participants, including several international stars, in November 2009 in Düsseldorf (Germany).

On 14 November 2009, the annual charity gala of the *Foundation for UNESCO for the Education of Children in Need* was held at the Maritim Hotel in Düsseldorf, during which the 2009 “Children in Need” Prize was awarded to the Austrian actor Karlheinz Böhm for the outstanding work carried out by the “Menschen für Menschen” foundation in Ethiopia, as well as to the American designer, Tommy Hilfiger, in tribute to all the initiatives supported by his foundation, the “Tommy Hilfiger Corporate Foundation”.

Despite the critical economic situation since the 2008 financial crisis, over 1400 people attended the gala dinner, including several key figures from the German business community, the media, sport and the international art scene.

Several international stars made the trip to support UNESCO’s work for the children of the world’s poorest, including Oscar winners Jane

Fonda and Forest Whitaker, the composer Denise Rich, the actor Bud Spencer, and singers Jermaine Jackson and Ronan Keating. In their speeches, together with Stephen Dorff, who will be starring in the next Sophia Coppola film, Jane Fonda and Forest Whitaker stressed the importance of girls’ education and the teaching of human values such as mutual respect and solidarity.

Launched in 1992 at the initiative of Ute-Henriette Ohoven, Goodwill Ambassador to UNESCO, this charity gala has become an international fundraising event for the UNESCO programme “Education of Children in Need”, entirely financed by private donations.

At the heart of this programme, implemented by UNESCO’s Social and Human Sciences Sector, is the support for field projects for vulnerable children – especially street children, working children, sick and handicapped children, or those affected by wars and natural disasters – to contribute to their social integration and offer them the prospect of a better future through education.

Since the establishment of the Programme in 1992, over US\$34 million have been collected, financing more than 340 projects in over 90 countries. ¶

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The right to education: handing the floor to young people

“Why is education a right?”

On 10 December 2009, this question was at the centre of the discussions organized by the French Council of Associations for the Rights of the Child (COFRADE) and the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels, at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France).

It is not surprising in itself that the United Nations agency specializing in education should host this type of debate, except that most of the specialists who attended the meeting, with the backing of UNESCO’s Social and Human Sciences Sector, were aged 13 to 17.

On Human Rights Day, dozens of teenagers from secondary schools and cultural centres in several French cities were invited to take the floor. Not at all overwhelmed at having to express themselves in the room in which UNESCO’s General Conference is held every two years, the young participants spoke of how “important it is to want to learn in order to be receptive”.

While recognizing the importance of education, they stressed the fact that it is not simply a question of learning lessons in school.

They consider that their encounters with other cultural areas are also important learning experiences, as reported by a group of students who had participated in a project to provide equipment to a Senegalese school, and explained that it had made them aware of their own situation as “privileged” teenagers.

Throughout the debates, which began with the projection of a short film, “Human Rights in Europe”, produced by students at the André Malraux de Paron secondary school in France, the teenagers present spoke of their fear about living in an increasingly troubled world which is struggling to guarantee them employment and a future, after Vladimir Volodine, Chief of UNESCO’s Human Rights and Gender Equality Section had recalled that “education is a key right to obtaining economic independence, true social integration and access to cultural life”. ¶

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CELEBRATION

World Philosophy Day 2009: several thousand participants in 35 countries

The celebration of World Philosophy Day in November 2009 was punctuated with different events held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France) and in more than 35 countries across the globe. After Italy in 2008, and prior to Iran in 2010, the Russian Federation hosted the “flagship” event for the World Philosophy Day celebrations.

The fifth World Philosophy Day was commemorated with an international celebration held in Moscow and Saint Petersburg (Russian Federation) from 16 to 19 November on the theme “Philosophy in the Dialogue of Cultures”.

As a prelude to the celebration of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures in 2010, for which UNESCO will play a leading role within the United Nations system, philosophers from every region of the world studied the needs, issues and difficulties that arise from the different dynamics of interaction, dialogue and even competition between the different movements of philosophical thought today.

Round tables were thus conducted on such topics as “The dialogue of rationality”, “Cultural self-consciousness in the era of globalization” and “The problems facing Russian schools and the potential of philosophy for children”.

On the third Thursday of November every year since the launch of this World Day by UNESCO in 2002 and particularly since its institutionalization in 2005 as “World Philosophy Day”, numerous UNESCO networks have been actively involved, stepping up initiatives aimed at the academic world and general public in order to promote philosophy and stimulate reflection in more than 35 countries and at UNESCO Headquarters. ¶

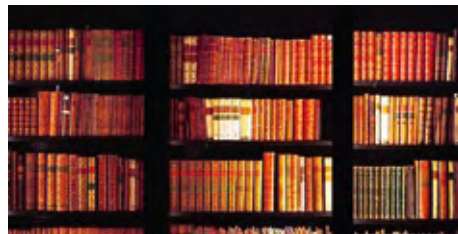
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RUSSIAN FEDERATION/16 TO 19 NOVEMBER 2009



The round tables on philosophy and the dialogue of cultures held in the Russian Federation from 16 to 19 November 2009 met with resounding success, particularly those held in Saint Petersburg (photo).

PARIS/12 NOVEMBER 2009



“Islamophobia in the World of Scholarship?” was the subject of a debate held on 12 November 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters to celebrate the launch of *Les Grecs, les Arabes et nous: Enquête sur l’islamophobie savante* (“The Greeks, the Arabs and Us: an Inquiry into Islamophobia in the World of Scholarship”) (Fayard).

PARIS/18 TO 19 NOVEMBER 09



The ninth symposium on the new philosophical practices, organized by Philolab, the Créteil Teachers Training Institution (France) and the journal *Sciences Humaines* and held on 18 and 19 November at UNESCO, focused on teaching philosophizing to children.

PARIS/10 NOVEMBER 2009



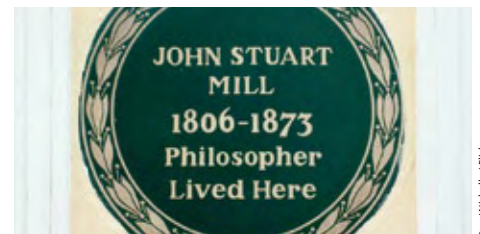
The Indian, Chinese, Tibetan, Jewish, Arab, Persian and Egyptian civilizations were given pride of place on 10 November 2009 at the launch at UNESCO of a publication edited by Roger Pol-Droit entitled *Les Philosophies d’ailleurs*.

PARIS/18 TO 20 NOVEMBER 2009



A symposium dedicated to the work of French ethnologist Pierre Clastres, a specialist in the study of conceptions of power in so-called “primitive” societies, was organized by the Collège international de philosophie and held from 18 to 20 November 2009 at UNESCO.

PARIS/19 NOVEMBER 2009



A symposium on the philosophical thought of John Stuart Mill organized by the Collège de France to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his publication *On Liberty*, attracted hundreds of people on 19 November 2009 at UNESCO.

First Assembly of the International Network of Women Philosophers

Launched in March 2007, the International Network of Women Philosophers sponsored by UNESCO held its first assembly on 14 and 15 December 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France), providing an opportunity for women philosophers to assert their ambition to become women of influence.

“While all the professions organize women’s networks”, the idea of creating an international network of women philosophers nevertheless raises the “question of its *raison d’être* and its validity”.

This position, expressed by Moufida Goucha, Chief of the UNESCO Human Security, Democracy and Philosophy Section, at the first Assembly of the International Network of Women Philosophers, held on 14 and 15 December at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France), is based on the observation that there is a notable lack of women on the international scene, where round tables and other discussion are predominantly and hopelessly male.

Coming out of the shadows to bask in the sun is then the challenge taken up by some 150 women from 35 countries across the planet, representing, in the words of Barbara Cassin, “a single culture, a world civilization”.

Masculine resistance

Is a woman philosopher one who describes herself as such or one who is so described by others? Can a man philosophize like a woman and vice versa? When examining these questions, which gave rise to a rich and somewhat iconoclastic discussion, numerous participants denounced the “obstacle” of “male resistance” encountered during the course of their professional and intellectual development, the type of condescension that relegates them to the background.

Men philosophers invited to the discussions were able to contribute their opinions. While Professor François Jullien said that he “didn’t have a point of view”, his counterpart Charles



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Malamoud asked “if women occupy the same place as men, will there be a women’s discourse”?

Backed up by studies conducted by women philosophers in American universities on “letters of recommendation”, Professor Souleymane Bachir Diagne endorsed the idea that “men transfer “micro-inequalities” in their brains, those “little nothings” which, because they cannot be measured, need to be brought to the fore”. He thus remarked that “letters of recommendation – peer judgements on which recruitment is largely based in the United States – are shorter for women because they spend less time describing their academic achievements”.

“Fluidifying identities and ideas is primarily a question of strategy”, noted Barbara Cassin, founding member of the network, calling on her colleagues to become not “women of power” but “women of influence”, seizing the opportunity offered to establish an “opposable identity”.

Many of the participants called for greater solidarity within the framework of exchanges

in the form of an online database for network members, the publication of an electronic newsletter and a “Who’s Who” of women philosophers, in addition to reinforcing their presence in the field of philosophy.

Encouraging this approach, Pierre Sané, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences paid tribute to the fact that “this first assembly offers a concrete opportunity to illustrate the priority given by UNESCO to gender equality, by accentuating the importance of reflection produced and carried by women philosophers”. The women are very aware of this and an overwhelming majority elected to explore subjects relating to war, climate change and ethics.

Women of influence? Whatever the case, women philosophers have decided to speak out on the issues that matter in today’s world. ¶

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Relaunch of the African Coalition against Racism

The Coalition of African Cities against Racism, launched in Nairobi (Kenya) in 2006, is soon to be extended. At the initiative of UNESCO, municipalities wishing to join the network in its fight against discrimination met in Windhoek (Namibia) on 5 and 6 October 2009 to draft the internal statutes and define the operational guidelines that will allow the coalition to function correctly in the future. The statutes will be adopted at the Coalition's next General Conference. ¶

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Latin America fuels the debate

"More equality and diversity" was the theme of the third General Assembly of the Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities against Racism, held from 24 to 26 September 2009 in Montevideo (Uruguay). Based on the constructive exchanges that took place on subjects that were all related to some extent to citizenship in a world of migrants, recommendations were drafted and presented to the International Coalition of Cities against Racism that met the following month in Nuremberg (Germany). ¶

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The European Coalition changes course

The European Coalition of Cities against Racism, which met in Toulouse (France) on 19 and 20 November 2009 for its third general conference, has renewed its steering committee. The cities of Aubervilliers, Barcelona, Bologna, Botkyrka, Chair, Ghent, Graz, Karlsruhe, Lausanne, Liège, Malmö, Nantes, Potsdam, Saint Petersburg, Toulouse and Villeurbanne were elected to it for two years. Botkyrka and Toulouse will be Vice-President alongside Nuremberg, which will keep the Presidency. ¶

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COALITION OF CITIES AGAINST RACISM

Advocacy in Indonesia for more inclusive societies



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During a conference held in Bandung at the end of 2009, the International Coalition of Cities against Racism urged the international community as a whole to encourage the emergence of more inclusive societies.

The international conference, held in Bandung (Indonesia) from 28 to 30 October 2009, within the framework of the International Coalition of Cities against Racism, could easily have taken the same motto as the 61st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Embrace diversity. End discrimination."

Government representatives, academics and town planners from different regions of the world examined the response of various municipalities to the world economic crisis, particularly survival strategies for the most destitute populations who are usually the most discriminated against.

Traditionally, discrimination comes from fear of the unknown which tends to create an even greater imbalance, especially during uncertain periods such as the present, characterized in particular by the fact that many people are facing loss of employment and loss of their homes and means of subsistence.

In such a context which is conducive to the emergence and increase of the rejection of others, it is easy to blacklist the most vulnerable populations and especially the poorest among them. This is the case of rural communities which go to the city in the hope of finding work and live together there in conditions that are often a lot worse than in their villages. The resulting shifts in population, migration and immigration models put increasing pressure on urban areas.

In addition to this, a new type of discrimination has emerged in relation to persons with disabilities, young people, and people living with AIDS and HIV, remarked upon by the local government representatives, academics and town planners in Bandung.

In the face of this alarming situation, local governments have to find practical solutions, which make it even more urgent to develop strategies for building more inclusive societies.

Although the notion of "communities working together" was definitely one of the focal points of the conference, the participants emphasized the difficulty in making this cooperation effective in their cities.

At a time when the planet's leaders are concentrating on the collapse of the economy and the insecurity caused by climate change, the participants stressed that the fight against racism and discrimination concerns millions of people throughout the world and that minorities living in urban areas are more vulnerable than ever before.

The Bandung conference confirmed the essential contribution made by the municipalities in the International Coalition of Cities against Racism to the daily fight against discrimination. To bring this initiative to the attention of the public and develop its efforts accordingly, a book containing a large collection of case studies will be published in 2010.

The world coalition, officially set up on 30 June 2008 at the Third World Forum of Human Rights, held in Nantes (France), includes the regional networks created since 2004 across the globe at the initiative of UNESCO, as well as municipalities that are not members but would still like to share their experience in order to improve their policies to fight discrimination and promote diversity, mutual respect and dialogue. ¶

Nfaly "Vieux" Savané with Janine di Giovanni

For further information, please consult:
www.unesco.org/shs/citiesagainstracism



© Scott Wallace/World Bank

WORLD URBAN FORUM 5

Meeting in Rio for cities with a human face

After Nairobi (Kenya, 2002), Barcelona (Spain, 2004), Vancouver (Canada, 2006) and Nanjing (China, 2008), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) will host the World Urban Forum 5 in March 2010, providing UNESCO with a new opportunity to promote the right to the city.

Held every two years under the auspices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the fifth World Urban Forum will be held from 22 to 26 March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) on the theme “The Right to the City – Bridging the Urban Divide”.

Hundreds of participants from throughout the world, including town planners, academics, representatives of governments, local governments, UNESCO and numerous NGOs, will reflect on optimum ways of ensuring the sustainable development of cities, based on various themes: more in-depth exploration of the right to the city; bridging the urban divide; encouraging equal access to shelter; diversity and cultural identity in the city; governance and participation and, inclusive sustainable urbanization. In addition to dialogue, training and networking sessions will be held and open to partner organizations.

Invited to participate in this 5th session, Pierre Sané, UNESCO’s Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, will no doubt remind the participants that the

event provides a unique occasion to promote urban development based on human rights. Although more than one half of humanity lives in cities today, this increasing, irreversible, global trend carries many challenges: poverty, climate change, access to basic infrastructure such as shelter, drinking water, sanitary installations, a welcoming environment, etc.

Implementing the right to the city

In a context in which the consequences of the 2008 financial crisis are being severely felt, these issues are more relevant than ever before, as is of the right to the city which entitles all inhabitants to access the opportunities afforded by the urban environment and its development. For UNESCO and UN-Habitat, the problem is less a question of creating a convention than of encouraging the creation of an environment that will guarantee everyone – both the State and citizens of every age and condition – effective enjoyment of fundamental rights such as access to decent housing, education, health and security.

Although a number of countries have already made progress in terms of legislation, the question remains as to whether the resulting legislation has really led to greater participation in decision-making, greater equality, and fairer, more inclusive urban development. ¶

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36%

The percentage of the population in developing countries living in shanty towns in 2005.

(United Nations, 2009)

SHANGHAI-2010

An international exhibition on “Better City, Better Life”

For the first time in the history of world exhibitions, the theme of the one that will open in Shanghai (China), in May 2010 will be urban development. Several United Nations agencies, including UNESCO, will be present.

The World Expo 2010 will open in Shanghai (China), on 1 May 2010 for a duration of 6 months, and will be the first exposition on the problems of the city. The theme will be “Better City, Better Life”. 70 million visitors are expected.

With the objective to help achieve better living conditions and the development of more sustainable environments in urban areas, a wide range of initiatives will be offered centered on 5 main sub-themes: the merging of different cultures in the city; the prosperity of the urban economy; the techno-scientific innovation in the city; reshaping urban communities; and the interaction between city and countryside.

A United Nations pavilion

The Expo will host a United Nations pavilion, dedicated to encouraging dialogue between the UN and the people it serves. UN agencies working in related fields will attend and will, through various activities, address such topics as the interaction between the city and the environment, social development, culture, and the creative economy. Those working specifically in the field of urban issues will present an exhibition, in turn, for one day each week. As the “lead” agency of the United Nations system for culture, UNESCO will focus, for its part, on the importance of the year 2010 as “UN International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures” and benefit from the visibility provided by the Expo to promote several of its programmes in favour of urban conviviality.

Spread over more than thirty sites, each proposing daily activities, the Expo will organize every day a hundred activities on its own site. Three spaces for different types of dialogue will be held in addition. The Summit Forum will bring together heads of state, mayors of major cities, international celebrities and decision-

makers in the fields of business, academia, culture and mainstream media. Forums on technical topics are scheduled once a month, and will bring together experts from various disciplines. UNESCO will be organizing a Forum on 12 and 13 June 2010 on “Cultural Heritage and Urban Regeneration” to be held in Suzhou (Jiangsu Province) and Shanghai the findings will be integrated into a “Shanghai Declaration” to be adopted at the closing of the Expo.

This Declaration will reflect the ambitions and expectations of all those who act to create conditions for greater harmony between the socio-economic development and the cultural life in cities, by trying to prevent increasing degradation of the global environment. ¶

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“Africities” welcomes the most Programme

At the invitation of the Secretary-General of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), the Latin American and Caribbean Network for City Professionals (a MOST Programme network) participated in the fifth Africities session held in Marrakesh (Morocco) from 16 to 20 December 2009 on the theme “African Regional and Local Governments’ Response to the Global Crisis: promoting sustainable local development and employment”. During the event, which welcomed locally-elected officials, political decision-makers, professionals, technicians, researchers and members of civil society to reflect together on local development and urban policies as one of the keys to confronting contemporary crises in Africa, the main aim of the representatives of the MOST Programme was to open alternative paths of cooperation and partnership between Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Their message was rendered possible by a multilateral partnership developed by UNESCO’s Management of Social Transformations programme (MOST), the UNESCO Office in Rabat, the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Chair “Ciudades Intermedias – Urbanización y Desarrollo” of the University of Lleida (Spain) and the International Union of Architects (UIA). Together they organized a special session, held on 18 December 2009 under the auspices of UNESCO. Three topics were discussed: Heritage and territories: the importance of partnership; Training city professionals, optimizing support to local governments; Intermediate cities and sustainable tourism – Urbanization and Development in Africa (economic development and employment tool in African local governments).

One of the outcomes was the strengthening of professional and technical partnerships with political decision-makers at the local level, within the framework of the Yaoundé Initiative initiated by the World Heritage Centre in 2003. ¶

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Argentina at the head of the most Programme

The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) of UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST) was renewed on 17 October 2009 during the extraordinary session of the IGC held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France), at the same time as the 35th session of the Organization's General Conference.

A President, six Vice-Presidents (one from each region) and a new Rapporteur were elected for the period 2009-2011.

Alicia Kirchner, Minister of Social Development of Argentina, will be President of the new Bureau, succeeding Zola S. Skweyiya, former Minister of Social Development, South Africa, who held office from 2005 to 2009.

Philippines will perform the duties of Rapporteur, while the six Vice-Presidents are the following countries:

- Vice-President for Africa: Côte d'Ivoire;
- Vice-President for Latin American and the Caribbean: Ecuador;
- Vice-President for Asia and the Pacific: Malaysia;
- Vice-President for the Arab States: Lebanon;
- Vice-President for Europe and North America: Finland;
- Vice-President for Eastern Europe: Albania.

The members of the new Bureau will meet for the first time on 19 and 20 April 2010 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on the occasion of a joint meeting with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of the MOST Programme.

The task of the IGC MOST Bureau is to evaluate projects developed within the framework of the programme in collaboration with the SAC. The latter, composed of six independent experts (one for each region of the world) appointed for three years, provides scientific expertise on the quality and relevance of most projects, and functions as a standing advisory body. During the meeting in April 2010, the main goal will be to study the programme's work plans and projects to be developed in 2010 and 2011. ¶

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SPORT

Increase in Funds to Fight against Doping

The 2nd conference of States Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport, held from 26 to 28 October 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters (Paris), decided to increase the amount of aid proved to States to fight against this scourge.

The 2nd Conference of States Parties to the International Convention against Doping in Sport was held from 26 to 28 October 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (France) in the presence, in particular, of representatives of more than 90 countries, major international sports organizations and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Following the discussions, which focused on the Fund for the Elimination of Doping in Sport, it was decided to increase substantially the funds allocated to governments to help implement effective programmes to fight against doping. Operational since 2008, this fund, which had, in October 2009, a budget of US\$2.2 million, has already helped to fund 11 projects in Africa (Cameroon, Cap Vert, Mali, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tunisia), in Latin America and the Caribbean (Barbados, Jamaica and Uruguay) and in Europe (Albania and Romania).

Hence, each national project will be granted up to US\$20,000, and this sum can reach US\$50,000 for each sub-regional, inter-regional and regional project. However, each should fall within the framework

of the three priority areas in place until the next meeting of States Parties to the Convention in 2011: education projects focusing on youth and sports organizations; support for the efforts of States Parties to achieve compliance with the Convention, in terms of legislation, regulation, policies and practices; and programmes to support and develop the capacities of low-income States Parties.

The conference held in October 2009 also reviewed an electronic tracking system for the implementation of the Convention adopted in October 2005 by the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO. Constituting a "first" for a convention of the United Nations system, established by UNESCO, this system will provide harmonized monitoring of programmes to fight against doping in sport developed by all stakeholders, governments and sports' organizations. In the same spirit of harmonization, the 250 conference participants agreed to establish a procedure for the adoption of the list of substances and methods prohibited in sport, ensuring that governments, like the sports' movements, have the same list from 1 January 2010.

A World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report on the implementation of the World Anti-Doping Code states that governments that fail to ratify the UNESCO Convention before 1 January 2010 or who choose not to comply with it may result in ineligibility to bid to host sporting events. ¶

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MOST

Social development: a regional framework for East Africa

From 2 to 7 October 2009, no fewer than 19 ministers participated in the second Forum of Ministers for Social Development of East Africa, held in Bujumbura (Burundi), organized by the East African Community (EAC) and supported by UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme.

The second Forum of Ministers for Social Development of East Africa, held in Bujumbura (Burundi) and organized by the East African Community (EAC) supported by UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations Programme (MOST), took place from 2 to 7 October 2009 in Bujumbura (Burundi).

The aim was to review the state of implementation of the recommendations formulated at the first Forum, held in 2008 in Kigali (Rwanda), during which four main priority fields for action were identified: health and social services; education, science and technology, culture and sports; gender, children, youth, social protection and community development, and the environment and natural resources. The development of a regional framework to stimulate social development in East Africa, like that adopted by the African Union in 2008, was also on the agenda.

Multidisciplinary experts

During the four sessions, dedicated respectively to experts, official representatives, the coordination committee and ministers, the reports prepared by groups of multidisciplinary experts on the situation of the five countries concerned in the fields identified as priorities, were discussed. This examination encouraged the participants to establish a strategic planning project to serve as a basis not only for the definition of a regional framework to strengthen gender equality and the development of youth and children, but also to ensure better social protection and encourage community development as a whole.

In a final report adopted at the end of the discussions, clear objectives were set. Each of the five countries in the EAC is thus to increase the budget of social development programmes and harmonize its institutional structures and political frameworks by 2012. On a national level, these multisectoral committees,



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consisting of representatives of institutional structures, civil society and the private sector, will be set up to plan and draw up social development programmes. On a regional level, the creation of management and evaluation mechanisms is envisaged as is the creation of a regional fund for disaster management and food security. Another goal is to maintain the forum as a think tank in order to provide technical support for social planning, research and development.

19 ministers

Calling on each country to adopt the measures necessary to reduce the impact of the crisis on social development by immediately increasing the resources allocated to implementing the recommendations adopted at their first meeting, the members of the Forum of Ministers for Social Development of East Africa will meet again in Kenya in November 2010 where a final version of the strategic planning project on gender, youth, children, social protection and community development will be presented.

More than 100 people, including the first Vice-President of Burundi, and 19 government ministers from Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, together with numerous experts and representatives of EAC, UNESCO, UNICEF and the organization TGZ, participated in the meeting. ¶

For further information on the programme, please contact:
Yvonne Matuturu, y.matuturu@unesco.org, tel.: + 257 21 53 82/84

Social development: Third South-Asian Forum of Ministers

The UNESCO Office in New Delhi and the Bangladesh Ministry of Social Welfare are jointly organizing a regional ministerial conference on social development to be held in May 2010 in Dhaka (Bangladesh). After those held in Pakistan in 2006 and India in 2008, this is the third conference to be organized within the framework of the South-Asian Forum of Ministers of Social Development, created in 2006. Like other forums of this type which have been organized throughout the world at the initiative of the UNESCO for the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) Programme, the South-Asian Forum offers an invaluable platform for the exchange of information on the implementation of social policies in the region, by facilitating meetings and dialogue between social science researchers, political decision-makers and civil society activists. ¶

For further information, please contact:
Marina Faetanini, m.faetanini@unesco.org, tel.: +91 11 26713000

Youth at the heart of the First Forum of Ministers of the Caribbean

The first Forum of Ministers of Social Development of the Caribbean was held from 24 to 26 January 2010 in Kingston (Jamaica) with the goal of contributing to the formulation of public policies aimed at reducing the consequences of the world crisis on youth in the Caribbean. Organized by the Jamaican Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture, in cooperation with the UNESCO Office in Kingston, the meeting will be attended by ministers from the Caribbean countries, social science researchers, representatives of NGOs and youth organizations, and the CARICOM and CEPALC secretariat. Six years after the first space for regional dialogue of this type was created, in Latin America, the Caribbean forum is the seventh to be established on the initiative of MOST. ¶

For further information, please contact:
Pedro Monreal-Gonzalez, pm.monreal-gonzalez@unesco.org, tel.: +1 876 9297087

Teaching Philosophy: a UNESCO collection to understand regional challenges



Five books published by UNESCO in 2009 contribute to the debate on reinforcing the teaching of philosophy throughout the world, by drawing up a list of the challenges posed in the French-speaking and English-speaking countries of Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arab region and Asia and the Pacific.

At the end of 2009, UNESCO published a collection of works concerning the teaching of philosophy in each of the regions that had hosted a high-level meeting devoted to the subject, namely Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in June 2009); the Arab region (Tunis, Tunisia, in May 2009); Asia and the Pacific (Manila, Philippines, in May 2009); French-speaking Africa (Bamako, Mali, in September 2009) and English-speaking Africa (Port-Louis, Mauritius, in September 2009). During these different meetings, the countries in each of the regions concerned had been invited to draw up as exhaustive a list as possible of crucial questions relating to the teaching of philosophy on a national scale, and to paving the way for effectively furthering its development. Although the specific features of each region are highlighted in each of the works, they all approach the question of teaching philosophy to children based on the assumption that they need to find answers to their

existential questions if their schooling is to be truly beneficial. All the books also address the specific issue of teaching philosophy at secondary level, underlining the fact that it corresponds to a period in life – adolescence – during which one’s relationship with the world, with others and with oneself triggers a delicate structuring process with its own particular questionings, pain and suffering. Consequently, all the books call for an interdisciplinary approach, constantly questioning the links between philosophical thought and local cultural expressions, particularly in Africa, the Arab States, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. When addressing the teaching of philosophy at the higher level, they all emphasize the interaction between higher and secondary education, lending particular importance to the question of the professionalization and the on-going education of teachers. After the success of *Philosophy: A School of Freedom* which, for the first time in 2007 presented an inventory of philosophy teaching throughout the world, UNESCO proposes taking the question a step further with this collection, by involving a maximum number of States concerned by and committed to the long-term support of philosophy in both their formal and informal education systems. By encouraging further debate on the matter and putting into perspective

a certain number of data, tried and tested practices and essential questions raised by the teaching of philosophy, these publications are aimed at facilitating the drawing up of national action plans through greater regional cooperation. ¶

To download the above publications free of charge in the different languages available, please consult the “Publications” section of the website of the Social and Human Sciences sector:
www.unesco.org/shs/publications

L’enseignement de la philosophie en Afrique. Pays francophones
66 pp., UNESCO, 2009 SHS/PH/2009/PI/AFR (in French only)

Teaching philosophy in Latin America and the Caribbean
70 pp., UNESCO, 2009 SHS/PH/2009/PI/LAC (available in English, French and Spanish)

Teaching philosophy in Africa. English-speaking countries
58 pp., UNESCO, 2009 SHS/PH/2009/PI/AFR (in English only)

Teaching philosophy in Asia and the Pacific
82 pp., UNESCO, 2009 SHS/PH/2009/PI/APA (in English only)

Teaching philosophy in the Arab region
58 pp., UNESCO, 2009 SHS/PH/2009/PI/ARB (available in Arabic, English and French)



“Knowledge” and “legitimacy” on the front page of the ISSJ

Issue No. 195 of the *International Social Science Journal (ISSJ)* devotes two dossiers to “knowledge” and its evolution in the context of globalization.

The first focuses on the subject from the triple viewpoint of traditional knowledge, the relation between global knowledge and development, and tacit knowledge. It distinguishes knowledge, which is essentially embedded, from mere information, whose vocation is to circulate, and encourages reflection on whether the information society is in contradiction with the knowledge society.

The second dossier offers an ethical perspective based on the particular case of the Pacific and its indigenous knowledge systems, which are neither comparable to “western” science nor incompatible with it. The issue is rather to create “negotiated spaces” where different forms of knowledge can meet and be exchanged.

Issue No. 196 of the *ISSJ* clarifies one of the central concepts of political science, namely legitimacy. Through a critical reflection on the typology of German sociologist Max Weber (1864-1920), who distinguished “traditional”, “charismatic” and “rational legal” authority, the authors emphasize the need to renew reflection on the stability factors of political regimes and States. By putting the accent on delegitimation processes, they underline the wide diversity and often elusive character of those processes. They believe that if loss of legitimacy often enables an already legitimized downfall to be recounted, it is this narrative dimension of legitimacy which explains the strength of this notion in the most diverse political debates. ¶

For further information, please contact:
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Website: www.unesco.org/shs/issj

Preview of *Invictus* at UNESCO Headquarters



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On 11 January 2010, UNESCO hosted, in Paris (France), the French preview of the film *Invictus*, organized in collaboration with Havas Sports & Entertainment and Warner Bros. Produced and directed by Clint Eastwood, the film recounts how Nelson Mandela, as President of South Africa, used the World Rugby Cup held in his country in 1995 as a means of reconciling South Africans at the end of apartheid.

Through *Invictus*, the message of UNESCO's programme on sport for peace and development which seeks to promote the beneficial effects of sports programmes and the power of sport in terms of reconciliation is brought to the screen.

In a message read out by former French judoka, David Douillet, during the ceremony that preceded screening of his film, Clint Eastwood said that "UNESCO Headquarters (...) is an ideal place to show this film (...) due to the links which sport can establish between communities, races, nations and political systems". However, he went on to voice concern: "Alas, is sport not more often manipulated by commercialism nowadays? As is the same case with cinema, starting with Hollywood." ¶

For further information, please consult: www.unesco.org/shs/sport

Towards worldwide monitoring of youth initiatives

Held from 19 to 21 January 2010 in Bari (Italy), three months after the sixth UNESCO Youth Forum, the first World Youth Meeting for a Sustainable Future should provide the opportunity to launch a joint mechanism to monitor world youth initiatives, in conjunction with the different partners present. Run by the Italian Government and the Puglia region as part of the "Ni, mondokaj civitanoj" initiative ("We, global local citizens"), the meeting, to be attended by UNESCO representatives, should reiterate the importance of the contribution of 15 to 24 year olds to efforts designed to take up the challenge of sustainable development. Some 1,000 participants are expected, including 500 youth delegates from 90 countries, to address five topics: education; civic engagement/citizenship; environment/climate change; human safety and development; labour, entrepreneurship and the economy. ¶

For further information, please consult: www.nimociv.org/web

The World Youth Conference in Mexico City

Organized by the Mexican government, in collaboration with various partners, including UNESCO, the World Youth Conference will be held in Mexico City (Mexico) in August 2010, and will provide the opportunity to initiate a broad reflection on the role of youth in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, ten years after their adoption. As a stakeholder in the general mechanism for analysis and monitoring of initiatives related to youth, the Youth, Sport and Physical Education Section of UNESCO will evaluate the implementation of the results of the Organization's 6th Youth Forum, which was held in October 2009 in Paris as part of the 35th General Conference of UNESCO, and in which the organizers of the Conference of Mexico participated. ¶

For more information: www.youth2010.org

CALENDAR

JANUARY

19-21 January

1st World Youth Meeting for a sustainable future. Bari, Italy. (g.el-khoury@unesco.org)

21-22 January

Joint meeting of the Bureau of COMEST and the Working Group on Environmental Ethics. Paris, France. (j.crowley@unesco.org)

24-26 January

Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Social Development from the Caribbean. Kingston, Jamaica. (pm.monreal-gonzalez@unesco.org)

27-29 January

6th Meeting of the World Council of the UNESCO José Martí Project. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. (c.von-furstenberg@unesco.org)

FEBRUARY

22-24 February

3rd meeting of the Steering Committee of the West Africa Institute (wAI). Paris, France. (ar.lamin@unesco.org)

MARCH

Regional Consultation on the Ethics of Climate Change. Dakar, Senegal. (c.dikenou@unesco.org)

1-5 March

Training on Working Methods of the Assisting Bioethics Committees programme. Kingston, Jamaica. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

6-9 March

Asian Congress on Philosophy. New Delhi, India. (m.faetanini@unesco.org)

10-18 March

Event within the framework of the partnership with the documentary film festival on Human Rights: "One World". Prague, Czech Republic. (i.zoubenko-laplante@unesco.org)

11-12 March

Meeting for research on social policies and social protection in South Asia. New Delhi, India. (m.faetanini@unesco.org)

15-16 March

Regional consultation of the Ethics of Climate Change. Rabat, Morocco. (rabat@unesco.org)

18-28 March

Events within the framework of the partnership with the documentary film festival on Human Rights: "One World". Several cities in Europe. (i.zoubenko-laplante@unesco.org)

21 March

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Paris, France. (a.melo@unesco.org)

22-26 March

5th UN-HABITAT Urban Forum. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (b.colin@unesco.org)

22-27 March

Training on Working Methods of the Assisting Bioethics Committees programme. Conakry, Guinea. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

29-30 March

Workshop on the Ethics of Climate Change. New Delhi, India. (m.faetanini@unesco.org)



**DOSSIER NO. 28
(APRIL-JUNE 2010):**

**SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES
WITHIN THE MOROCCAN
COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**