



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

The Assistant Director-General for External Relations and Public Information

To Secretaries-General
of National Commissions for UNESCO

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04 JUN 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

The period ahead signs the beginning of a series of events and activities of direct interest to you. As you know, we will notably have the opportunity to meet on the occasion of regional consultations on the 37 C/4 and 37 C/5 documents and to discuss major issues of UNESCO's future.

In June, we are preparing, more specifically the regional consultations for the Africa region (Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, from 6 to 8 June) and for the Asia-Pacific region (Thanh Hoa, Viet Nam, from 15 to 18 June).

In addition, I note that the International Conference on "Euro-Arab Dialogue: Contribution to a New Humanism" was successfully organized on 31 May and 1 June 2012 in Vienna (Austria), in cooperation with the Al Jaber Foundation and the Austrian Commission for UNESCO. The Director-General opened this Conference, which gathered more than 50 National Commissions from both Arab and Europe regions, as well as high level experts and youth associations. Participants exchanged views and experiences on "Learning to live together in school and beyond", "The role of the media in building mutual understanding", "Promoting intercultural exchanges" and "Cooperation with civil society and youth". A Declaration was adopted at the end of the Conference to guide our future action in this respect.

International Youth Day

As every year since 2000, the International Youth Day will be celebrated on 12 August 2012. We encourage all National Commissions for UNESCO to coordinate national activities, with the close and active involvement of youth in their country.

National Commissions are invited to consult the following website containing all relevant information related to the celebration of this Day, notably examples of creative activities: <http://social.un.org/index/Youth/InternationalYouthDay.aspx>. For more information please send an email to youth@unesco.org.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition

Since its establishment in 1998, the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, organized on August 23rd, afford International organizations, Governments, local authorities and civil society the opportunity to remember this tragedy and to pay tribute to the struggle led by slaves to recover their dignity and freedom.

Every year, many activities are undertaken in different countries to give grounds for a common reflection on the historical causes and consequences of this tragedy. They also intend to highlight the extraordinary intercultural dialogue among peoples and cultures it generated in Europe, the Americas, the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean.

World Teachers' Day (WTD)

On this year's World Teachers' Day (WTD), organised on 5 October 2012, UNESCO will once again pay tribute to teachers worldwide. The theme for this year is "Taking a Stand for Teachers". An official ceremony, to be inaugurated by the Director-General, together with the signatories of the Joint World Teachers' Day message i.e. ILO, UNDP UNICEF and Education International, will take place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

We call on National Commissions to pay tribute to teachers in line with the theme selected for this year, and to inform us of how they celebrate or plan to celebrate WTD in order for us to communicate this at the web.

For further information and details, please contact Lucio Sia (l.sia@unesco.org) and/or Geraldine de St. Pern (g.de-st-pern@unesco.org) and visit the World Teachers' Day website: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/education-building-blocks/teacher-education/world-teachers-day/>.

For suggestions on how to organize your WTD, please contact Marina Forzani (ma.forzani@unesco.org).

Future UNESCO publications

- *Lumbini, the Birthplace of Lord Buddha: Eight Perspectives of the Sacred Garden* will be published in English by the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu.

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1997, the archaeological remains of Lumbini, also known as "the Sacred Garden" and considered as the birthplace of Lord Buddha, have been for centuries a major pilgrimage site. In an attempt to bring together the needs of experts and the expectations of the general public, this title presents eight studies on the Sacred Garden, which span from historical texts to perspectives of today's visitors and pilgrims.

This publication in full colour, with photographs and maps, will be available for free distribution and for sale, in print and electronic form in July 2012.

- *The Global Survey on Internet Privacy and Freedom of Expression* will be published in English by the Communication and Information Sector.

Digital communication technologies present significant new challenges for the protection of the right to privacy and freedom of expression. Fully aware of the complexity and scope of these challenges, the report will provide informational foundations for effective policy-making by governments and Internet companies alike to better protect privacy online.

This publication will be launched early November 2012. It will be available in print and electronic form for free distribution and for sale.

- *Promoting Access to Quality Education for Roma People* will be published in English by the Education Sector.

The right to education for Roma people is still a major challenge. As much as 50% of Roma children in Europe still fail to complete primary education, and in most Central and Eastern countries no more than 25% of Roma children attend secondary schools.

This publication gathers experiences, proposals and conclusions from participants to the UNESCO sub-regional Expert Meeting on "Promoting the Right to Equality Education for Roma People" (Serbia, October 2011). It will be available online for free as of August 2012.

Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (mid-April to mid May 2012)

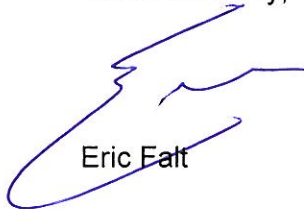
In Curaçao, Mr. Carlos Monk was appointed Chairperson of the National Commission.

In Paraguay, Prof. Beatriz Eugenia Gonzalez de Bosio was appointed Secretary General, succeeding to Mr. Pedro C. Gómez de la Fuente I.

In Japan, Mr. Shigeharu Kato was appointed Secretary General, succeeding to Mr Takao Kuramochi.

In Senegal, Mr. Ibrahima Sall was appointed President, succeeding to Mr. Kalidou Diallo.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt