



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

Réf. : ERI/NCS/NAC/12

25 JAN 2012

Sir/Madam,

At the beginning of 2012, I would like to extend my best wishes for health, success and happiness to you and yours.

As you know, UNESCO is currently experiencing financial difficulties. This concerns us all, and I know I can count on the support of National Commissions to continue the good work that we have jointly done thus far. We have already received encouraging words of support from many of you over the past months. This is further evidence of your commitment. As with the Director-General, I am convinced that together we can overcome the current difficulties.

In this regard, I am pleased to announce that an information meeting for Permanent Delegates, to be chaired by the Director-General, will be held on 26 January 2012. The purpose of this meeting is to inform Member States of the current budgetary situation of UNESCO, the reform process, and the implementation of the 36 C/5.

I would also like to note that we keep you regularly informed of the latest developments on the Organization's website (<http://www.unesco.int>), especially designed for Member States and National Commissions. In particular, we will continue updating data on the current financial situation, UNESCO reforms, as well as the Emergency Multi-Donor Fund.

As announced, "the National Commission News" has been recently added to the above-mentioned website. As such, we are pleased to inform you that your contributions are already online. We invite you to send us your information regularly so that we may publish it on-line.

Participation Programme for 2012-2013

In the December 2011 Monthly Newsletter I mentioned that new guidelines were prepared to improve the operation of the Participation Programme. I hope you have received the Circular Letter of the Director-General (CL/3985) on the Programme. The deadline for submitting your requests is 28 February 2012. Projects for 2012-2013 should be implemented before 31 December 2013, and the financial reports should be submitted by 30 April 2014 at the latest.

Considering the current difficult situation, a decision was made to allocate funds on a quarterly basis for the implementation of approved requests. This exceptional measure is intended to ensure adequate cash flow management during this challenging time for our Organization.

To help you formulate your requests, reference points were prepared and were annexed to the Circular Letter. The Participation Programme Section is at your disposal for further information (Tel: +33 1 45 68 13 75; Fax: +33 1 45 68 55 34; E-mail: s.bantchev@unesco.org). In preparing your requests, please also kindly refer to Resolution 36 C/69 to consider in particular the overall priorities of the Organization.

Launching the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention (1972)

Forty years after the adoption of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 936 properties of outstanding universal value (725 cultural, 183 natural and 28 mixed properties) in 153 States Parties have been listed on the World Heritage List. To date 188 States Parties have ratified the Convention, which makes the Convention the most widely recognized for heritage protection.

In 2012, the 40th anniversary of the Convention will be held under the theme "World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities." This will be an opportunity to reflect on the importance of World Heritage and its implications to the lives of communities in the era of globalization and in light of economic, social and environmental upheavals.

The opening ceremony of the 40th anniversary of the Convention will take place at UNESCO Headquarters on 30 January. Throughout the ceremony, a tracing of the history of the Convention, from the context of its creation to the diversity of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List will be made. On this occasion, an acoustic concert by UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock will also be organized.

In this regard, we encourage you to organize events throughout the year that you may find most appropriate in your context. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Livio Garuccio (tel: +33.1.45.68.14.46 E-mail: l.garuccio@unesco.org).

Launch of the 4th edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR4)

The 4th edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR4) "Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk" will be launched on 12 March in Marseille (France) by Ms Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director-General and Mr Michel Jarraud, Chair of UN-Water.

Hosted and led by UNESCO, the United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) coordinates the work of 28 UN-Water members and partners in the WWDR. It provides a comprehensive assessment of the state, use and management of the world's fresh water resources.

UNESCO's Division of Public Information (ERI) is preparing a range of materials to promote this new report. Your National Commissions are invited to contribute to organize launch events for the WWDR4 in your respective countries either on 12th March, or close to that date, with your respective UN-Water colleagues. For more information: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/wwap/wwdr/>. Should you be interested in receiving materials related to this issue, you are invited to contact Ms Sue Williams (Tel: + 1.45.68.17.06; email: s.williams@unesco.org).

Forthcoming UNESCO publications

• «The different aspects of Islamic culture - Vol. III - The Spread of Islam throughout the World» is being published in English by the Culture Sector. It will be available from 24 January. For more information, please contact Mr. Mohamed Ziadah (Tel: +33 1 4568 4608, E-mail: m.ziadah@unesco.org).

The third volume in the series entitled '*The Different aspects of Islamic culture*,' presents Muslim societies that were previously established as non-Islamic societies and the contribution of those civilizations to Islamic science and culture. This book attempts to assess the impact of Western colonialism of Muslim countries as well as the situation of Muslim minorities in Western countries today.

• «Policies for Creativity: a guide for the development of cultural and creative industries», was co-published by the Culture sector and the OIF, and is available in French, at the end of February.

This guide touches upon the creation and implementation of sectoral policies for the cultural and creative industries. This useful tool provides a flexible framework that can be adapted to national and local contexts. It covers the different stages of designing and implementing public policies. The French version of this guide has been translated and prepared based on the Spanish version published in 2010. The English version will be available in 2012.

Appointment of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO (Mid-December 2011 / Mid-January 2012)

In Côte d'Ivoire, Ms. Kandia Camara was appointed President, succeeding Mr. Gilbeert Bleu-Laine.

In Estonia, Ms. Kerli Gutman was appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms. Marika Valk.

In British Virgin Islands, Mr. Myron Walwyn was appointed President, succeeding Mr. Andrew Fahie.

In Jamaica, Ms. Lisa Hanna was appointed President, succeeding Ms. Olivia Grange.

In Japan, Mr. Takao Kuramochi was appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr. Nobuo Fujishima.

In Switzerland, Mr. Jean-Bernard Münch was appointed President, succeeding Ms. Francesca Gemnetti, and Mr. Nicolas Mathieu, Secretary-General, succeeding Ms. Madeleine Viviani.

In Tunisia, Mr. Abdellatif Abid was appointed President, succeeding Mr. Taieb Baccouche, and Mr. Mohamed Khlifi, Secretary-General, succeeding Ms. Fatma Tarhouni.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Eric Falt