

## UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/2017

### University of Manitoba

#### Canada

During the 2016/2017 reporting period, University of Manitoba undertook a number of activities that underscore its commitment to UNAI and its principles. The following examples stand out as particularly noteworthy:

#### **Activities and projects the University of Manitoba has undertaken in the past year addressing some of the ten UNAI principles:**

*Principle 2: Capacity Building – A commitment to building capacity in higher education systems across the world*



#### Building Capacity through participatory Research Course Development (Ukraine), funded through Academics without Borders

Hosted by the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Lviv Polytechnic National University (LPNU), this project aimed to raise the capacity of LPNU instructors to conduct Participatory Research. The project involved (1) a workshop for instructors/faculty on conducting Participatory Research, and (2) developing curriculum and a manual for a culturally appropriate university course on Participatory Research. Some collaborating community members (e.g. heads of non-governmental organizations) were also invited to participate in the workshop.

Following the training, these instructors and community members have sustained their raised capacity by collaborating to develop the curriculum for a university course on Participatory Research for upper level undergraduate and graduate students.

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by the University of Manitoba and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

*Principle 4: Global Citizenship – A commitment to encouraging global citizenship through education*

#### Centre for Globalization and Cultural Studies

“Imaginarities” are the representational systems that both mediate reality and form identities. In her research, Canada Research Chair Dr. Diana Brydon is examining how “global imaginaries” are changing notions of home, belonging and citizenship as well as posing new challenges to local and national communities.

Brydon’s goal is to assess and develop ways in which research into globalization and the analysis of cultural practices can contribute to furthering transcultural understanding and interdisciplinary collaboration, both within Canada and abroad. Her research is providing important new insight into Canada’s social, economic and cultural development.

*Principle 6: Human Rights – A commitment to human rights, among them freedom of inquiry, opinion, and speech*

#### Centre for Human Rights Research

The Centre for Human Rights Research (CHRR), established in 2012, brings people and organizations together from within and outside the University of Manitoba to facilitate research that is both academically rigorous and accessible to the public. Goals include enhancing interdisciplinary and collaborative research capacity, creating richer training opportunities for students, and facilitating the fusion of research-driven knowledge, public policy and intellectual debate on issues related to human rights and social justice.

The CHRR has identified four preliminary areas of focus for large-scale, inter-disciplinary human rights research:

- Water as a human right
- Reproductive and sexual rights
- Documenting human rights
- Children’s rights

*Principle 7: Intercultural Dialogue – A commitment to promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding, and the “unlearning” of intolerance, through education*

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by the University of Manitoba and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

### Nahlah Ayed Prize for Student Leadership and Global Citizenship

The International Centre offers an annual prize to encourage students at the University of Manitoba to participate in horizon-expanding activities that celebrate diversity, curiosity, respect and mutual understanding in order to develop global skill sets. Each year, the Centre offers a prize of \$200 and a commemorative certificate to two students—one domestic, and one international. Award recipients must have demonstrated exceptional vision and leadership and good global citizenship through (1) his or her participation in activities that bridge local and global communities, and (2) by actions that demonstrate how students are making vital contributions to civil society, and are responding constructively to the emerging issues experienced by local and global communities.

### Community Service-Learning

Community Service-Learning (CSL) is a way of learning that integrates volunteering, social justice, education and reflection. CSL helps student participants better understand their identity, power and privilege; challenges and solutions in social, economic and environmental justice; and their role in social change. Through CSL, participants develop intercultural competence, critical thinking and engage in social action that is ethical and mutually beneficial for themselves, the University and the University of Manitoba's community partners. A complement to the students' theoretical and academic education, CSL is an opportunity to share their knowledge and skills while learning from community.

[Principle 8: Peace and Conflict Resolution – A commitment to advancing peace and conflict resolution through education](#)

### The Arthur V. Mauro Centre at St. Paul's College, University of Manitoba

Dedicated to the advancement of human rights, peace and social justice, conflict resolution and global citizenship through research, education, and outreach—the Mauro Centre is home to the University of Manitoba's Ph.D. program in Peace and Conflict Studies. The Centre's initial emphases has been the cultural, religious and philosophical dimensions of peace; social, economic and environmental justice; peace education; human rights; and the role of international organizations and standards in the quest for peace and justice. Seeking to prepare leaders in a multiplicity of contexts with local, national and global impact, the Mauro Centre is

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by the University of Manitoba and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

also interested in the role of the Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in pointing ways for people to live in peace and harmony in a post-modern world.

*Principle 9: Sustainability – A commitment to promoting sustainability through education*

#### Education for Sustainable Well-Being Research Group

An interdisciplinary research group of the University of Manitoba housed in the Faculty of Education, the Education for Sustainable Well-Being Research Group's commitment is to undertake research that focuses on issues linked to education for sustainable well-being. Research projects must address education as a means for human and societal development for sustainable well-being. The Research Group's objectives also include promoting and supporting undergraduate and graduate education and research in the area of education for sustainable well-being, and enhancing the education for sustainable well-being of all humans with a focus on Manitoba and Canada.

**Academic research that is currently undertaken at the University of Manitoba which could help in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals:**

*Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*

#### Richardson Centre for Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals (RCFFN)

The mission of RCFFN is to lead functional food and nutraceutical research for the improvement of health and nutrition, to support the development of an economically viable functional food industry in Manitoba and Western Canada.

#### Key goals include:

- Facilitating discussion, discovery and development of new products, analytical techniques, technology and innovation;
- Focusing related research capabilities and human resources currently in place at the University of Manitoba Faculties of Agricultural and Food Sciences, Human Ecology, Medicine and Rady Faculty of Health Sciences;
- Coordinating multi-disciplinary collaborative research and development efforts necessary for taking bio-actives from identification to ready-for-clinical examination and pre-commercialization;

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by the University of Manitoba and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

- Attracting new researchers and scientists involved in related areas of study;
- Attracting, training and retaining students in all aspects of research and development in functional foods and nutraceutical studies; and
- Expanding the technical infrastructure available at the University of Manitoba, within the province and the region.

RCFFN continues its research excellence by partnering with other stakeholders to produce some of the most innovative foods and nutraceutical products on the market.

Agriculture Conservation Study, funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Government of Canada Research Support Fund

With the goal of increasing the efficiency of farm fields by a factor of two, this conservation agriculture study is looking into new ways to till and seed soil, protecting the soil's integrity. In conservation agriculture, 30-100 percent of crop residue is left in the fields to provide benefits such as boosting soil fertility, halting erosion and minimizing nutrient runoff. This practice, however, plugs up traditional tillage and seeding equipment. North American farmers solved part of the problem by creating the concept of vertical tillage (VT), however the funding from this study will enable the development of a vertical seeding (VS) concept to demonstrate how VT and VS can be combined to greatly increase yields while lowering energy consumption.

Addressing Food Security in Northern Manitoba, funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the John E. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF)

Food insecurity is widespread in many of Canada's northern communities, leading to a variety of health problems such as obesity, diabetes, anemia, and heart disease. A research project by a bio systems engineering team at the University of Manitoba decided to tackle this issue by using innovative greenhouses to provide a sustainable solution for food production in northern communities. Using specially designed, highly efficient LEDs, the greenhouses also serve as a venue for community gardening, which offers numerous social benefits to the northern communities including personal well-being and community development.

*Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*

Centre for Global Public Health (CGPH)

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by the University of Manitoba and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

CGPH partners with researchers from Manitoba and around the globe to conduct innovative public health research. Current research projects focus on multiple sclerosis, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, sexually transmitted infections and chronic kidney disease.

Through education and knowledge translation, CGPH is committed to creating an exceptional environment for training and mentoring graduate students, fellows and trainees, as well as providing opportunities to participate in research projects and international health and development. CGPH promotes the translation of knowledge gained in global public health research and projects for application in international and domestic public health settings. Through a pro-active technical assistance program, CGPH faculty and students provide capacity building and technical expertise to academic, governmental and non-governmental organizations in global public health programs. CGPH also facilitates the development of key public health knowledge networks with experts from around the globe.

### Centre on Aging

The University of Manitoba's Centre on Aging was established in 1982 with the mandate to serve as a focal point for conducting research on aging. The experiences of aging individuals and the dynamics of an aging society are investigated using rigorous scientific standards. Community representatives contribute to projects, and the Centre distributes its findings to administrators, policy makers, practitioners and seniors to assist them in making decisions.

The Centre on Aging believes listening to older adults and those who work with them ensures more effective research. Dialogue is encouraged through:

- An annual spring symposium which brings together researchers and community representatives;
- Informal seminars on current research and future projects;
- Public lectures by internationally renowned researchers; and
- A Newsletter published three times each year

The Centre has developed a national and international reputation for excellence in research.

### *Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*

Enhancing food and economic security of West African farmers—funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC)

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by the University of Manitoba and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

A multi-disciplinary research team from Nigeria, Benin and Canada conducted research on synergizing fertilizer micro-dosing and under-utilized indigenous vegetables innovations to enhance food and economic security of farmers in the West African sub region.

Poor soil fertility and land degradation are particularly acute in Sub-Saharan Africa, resulting in low quality food production and especially low production of indigenous vegetables. This project synergizes innovations from two concluded projects to advance indigenous vegetable production, enhance vegetable yields, promote consumption and value addition, propel marketing, preserve soil and water ecosystems and enable fertilizer cost saving.

The project team determined the optimum combination of fertilizer micro-dose for production of indigenous vegetables and utilized the Innovation Platform and Satellite Dissemination Approaches to govern scaling up to maximize the number of farmers benefitting from the innovations. They reached and integrated 10,000 rural farmers (of which over 50% were women) per district into the project—promoting cost-savings, protecting ecosystems and diversifying diet and income sources to empower poor rural farmers, with an intentional emphasis on women.

#### *Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources*

##### The Churchill Marine Observatory (CMO)

This globally unique, highly innovative and multidisciplinary research facility will be located in Churchill, Manitoba, adjacent to Canada's only Arctic deep-water port. The Observatory will directly address technological, scientific, and economic issues through the study of the impact of oil spills in sea ice, and the issues facing arctic marine transportation including future consequences of increased marine shipping traffic.

#### **Some issues facing the city/country/region where the University of Manitoba is located :**

The University of Manitoba's mission is to create, preserve, communicate and apply knowledge, contributing to the cultural, social and economic well-being of the people of Manitoba, Canada and the world.

Through consideration of our global positioning and a history of over 140 years, the University of Manitoba developed a Strategic Plan (2015-2020) with five priorities that address some of the more significant issues facing the city of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, and Canada:

##### *a) INSPIRING MINDS through innovative and quality teaching*

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by the University of Manitoba and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

The University of Manitoba is Manitoba's research university: research informs our teaching and teaching informs our research. We provide a wide range of high-quality liberal arts, science and professional programs consistent with our mission and size that equip our undergraduate and graduate students to be locally and globally engaged citizens.

*b) DRIVING DISCOVERY AND INSIGHT through excellence in research, scholarly work and other creative activities*

The University of Manitoba has a tradition of excellence in research, scholarly work and other creative activities spanning over 140 years, having made seminal contributions in many fields and finding life-changing solutions to problems being faced by peoples of Manitoba, Canada and the world through fundamental and applied research.

*c) CREATING PATHWAYS to Indigenous achievement*

The University of Manitoba acknowledges the need to work respectfully and collaboratively in partnership with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities in all of our activities. Manitoba's Indigenous population is younger and growing at a faster rate than the non-Indigenous Canadian population. In fact, it is predicted based on Statistics Canada census data that Indigenous peoples will comprise nearly 19 per cent of Manitoba's population by 2026. The success of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and communities is vital to the health and well-being of our province and, indeed, our nation.

*d) BUILDING COMMUNITY that creates an outstanding learning and working environment*

One of the largest communities in Manitoba, each of our more than 38,000 students, staff and faculty have ambitions, potential and promise that contribute to the diversity of our community and establish a unique environment for learning and working. Our university community engages in programs that foster interchange and the creation of knowledge, ideas and opinions in a respectful, mutually supportive climate of trust.

*e) FORGING CONNECTIONS to foster high impact community engagement*

Our mission includes the traditional aspect of service to the community, yet we have embraced a shift in thinking to better reflect the reality that we do not simply serve our communities, we engage with them. Our relationships with our colleagues, alumni, friends, donors, and partners - local, national and international - are both reciprocal and collaborative.

Disclaimer: This activity report has been submitted by the University of Manitoba and does not necessarily reflect the views of or represent an endorsement by the United Nations Academic Impact.

### **Three suggestions on how UNAI can better support the University of Manitoba :**

- Suggestion one: Providing ideas on how to apply UN initiatives and activities in University of Manitoba classrooms and the local community
- Suggestion two: Demonstrating how our university students, academics and researchers can connect and share ideas, research and resources
- Suggestion three: Connecting with other global universities and communities to further Sustainable Development Goals and other UN principles.

### **Links:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/umanitoba>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/umanitoba>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/YouManitoba>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/umanitoba/>