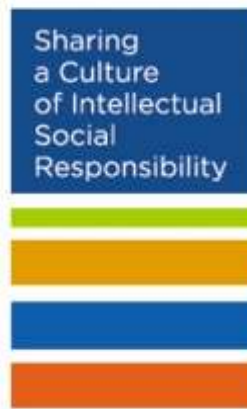




UNAI NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2014



Activism by UNAI members has enriched landscape of ideas: Secretary-General

The Secretary-General, in a report to the Committee on Information, a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, notes that, in the past year, UNAI has witnessed a range of activities by its member institutions that have enriched the vast global landscape of ideas and academic activism.

The report is addressed to the members of the Committee on Information, which will meet for its 36th session in New York from 28 March – 9 May 2014.

The report makes particular mention of six “activities” by UNAI members:

i. The Black Sea Universities Network, representing over 130 academic institutions in the Black Sea Region, held in November 2013 a seminar on “Tourism and sustainable development” in Rize, Turkey. It adopted a set of policy recommendations and research ideas and agreed to act on them jointly.

ii. In Japan, several of UNAI’s 17 member institutions held in October 2013 a wide-ranging discussion on the initiative’s global strategies, best practices and upcoming events. The participants also discussed how they could strengthen local network and information sharing beyond borders.

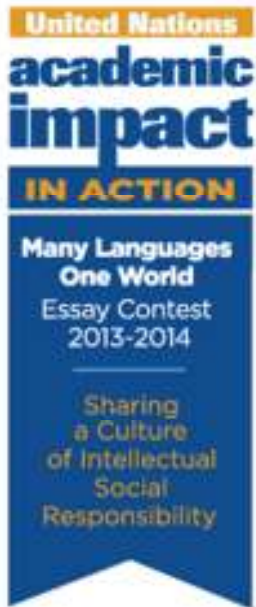
iii. The Korean Association in Support of UNAI, bringing together 44 of 54 UNAI members in the Republic of Korea, held in August 2013 an international conference focusing on the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the Prospect of a Post-2015 Development Framework. The conference was open to all students of UNAI’s member universities.

iv. In Ghana, Regent University College of Science and Technology, in support of UNAI’s principle of educational opportunities for all, renovated the classroom block of Adimadim Kyenku-larbi D/A Junior High School which included providing a four-seat water closet, classroom furniture, a computer laboratory and a generator.

v. In Italy, the University of Salento, in line with the UNAI principle on human rights, inaugurated a Centre for the Integration of Students with Disabilities (“Centro per l’Integrazione”), which offers a wide range of services designed on the basis of specific needs of each student as identified by disability specialists.

vi. In Pakistan, the Institute of Rural Management in Islamabad, in support of UNAI, pioneered a one-year condensed Accelerated Learning Programme aimed at bringing children who drop out of primary school back to mainstream education.

To read the complete report of the Secretary-General, please visit: www.un.org/ga/coi



“Many Languages One World” contest draws over 1,000 entries

With well over 1,000 valid entries from all parts of the world, the first phase of the “One World Many Languages” essay contest has just ended. More than 4,000 people from 128 countries took part in some phase of the contest.

A panel of international judges, convened by UNAI and drawn from language programmes of the United Nations, will now review the essays and make final selections. Semi-finalists will be announced by 15 April

2014.

Organized by UNAI and ELS Language Services, the contest was open to university and college students who were invited to write an essay on global citizenship and understanding, one of the 10 principles of UNAI. The students were asked to write their essays in one of the six official UN languages, which must not be their mother-tongue, or the medium of instruction of their education.

The people who participated in the contest included college freshmen as well as Doctoral candidates, and their fields of study ran the academic gamut, including all of the arts and sciences, medicine, pharmacy and dentistry, engineering, law, business, finance and management, agriculture, architecture, communications and linguistics and translation. A large number of publications across the globe picked up this story, and the social media platforms, especially Facebook and Twitter, provided strong support.

The official launch of the competition took place on 14 October 2013 with a signing ceremony at UN Headquarters between the UN Department of Public Information and the ELS Educational Services. The essay competition will culminate in an international conference of selected winners, who will be awarded by ELS a full expense-paid 5 day trip to New York where they will convene in a United Nations Youth Forum and Conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.



Unhate Foundation launches diversity contest with UNAI

The Unhate Foundation of Italy, in cooperation with the United Nations Academic Impact, is inviting young people aged 18 – 30 to participate in an innovative contest aimed at promoting a world without hate and where human rights are recognized.

This education-oriented initiative asks students, researchers and faculty members between the ages of 18 and 30, including those from institutions that are members of UNAI, to develop, prepare, and present a specific initiative at the local or community level that clearly promotes the ideal of tolerance, respect for diversity and harmony within and between peoples.

In the first phase of the contest, young people are invited to create “unhate” news that they would like to see in real life. Taking cue from the broad Unhate Foundation principles, they are to choose a subject that matters to them and spin it into the news they wish they could see translated into real life.

In order to participate in the initiative, participants must register for the UNHATE Community by completing the registration form or by registering directly through their own Facebook account.

The news will be uploaded on the UNHATE Foundation website where a community of youth will be created. Young people worldwide will be invited to vote on the news submitted by clicking the “like’ button of the contest’s Facebook page.

In the second phase of the contest, the 100 most voted stories by the community will be evaluated by an Unhate Foundation jury who, in consultation with UNAI, will select top 10 stories.

In the third phase, Unhate Foundation and the United Nations Academic Impact will jointly select implementing partners who would work to give life to the ideas and ideals reflected in these top ten stories. Each project will receive a grant of €20,000 as a practical way to contribute to the desired social change highlighted by the news.

The Unhate News and rules of participation in the contest can be found here:

<http://www.unhatenews.com/rules>



Handong Global University re-launches webpage for global hub on capacity building

Handong Global University (HGU), Republic of Korea, which continues to lead the UNAI global hub on capacity building in higher education, has re-launched its webpage. The webpage, www.unai-capacitybuilding.org, with link to the university web site, has been redesigned with updated, more detailed, information on HGU's role as a global hub.

The University, in a message to UNAI, confirmed that its role as the UNAI global hub will consist of three pillars: (1) education for global development and entrepreneurship to strengthen endogenous capacity building for sustainable development, especially for developing countries; (2) global collaborative research for green growth for sustainable development; and (3) global partnership for prosperity by reducing the knowledge gap between developed and developing countries, in partnership with the ongoing UNESCO-UNITWIN capacity building programme for sustainable development.

Meanwhile, HGU has begun preparations for the second UNAI Collegian Research Paper Competition and Global Development Conference, which will take place in October 2014. This year's conference is expected to focus on "Prospect for Post-2015T for Post-2015 Framework and Global Engagement by Universities."



KazNU to host conference on sustainability

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), the newly designated UNAI hub on sustainability, will host in

Almaty the 3rd Asian Universities Forum, "Asian diversity and the role of Universities in the sustainable development," on 21 – 23 May 2014. This will be held within the framework of the Astana Economic Forum, considered to be a global platform for discussing major socio-economic challenges. For more: www.au2014.kaznu.kz

Head of DPI visits UNAI members in the Republic of Korea



Last month, the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, Mr. Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal visited two

UNAI members in Seoul, the Republic of Korea – Yonsei University and Ewha Womans University.

In both institutions, the Head of DPI addressed students and faculty and exchanged ideas on strengthening global cooperation in promoting the work and ideals of the United Nations.

On 6 March, addressing students at Yonsei University, the Under-Secretary-General emphasized the importance of becoming global citizens and taking an active interest in issues that reach beyond one's country or immediate region. He welcomed the fact that so many Koreans are working in volunteer roles in development programmes around the world.

On 7 March, the Under-Secretary-General told students at Ewha Womans University about the kinds of qualities the UN is looking for prospective candidates, which include a deep understanding of global affairs, fluency in multiple languages, and a passion for making a positive difference in the lives of other people.

New UNAI Members

The following institutions have joined UNAI in the month of March 2014:

1. Japan: Kwassui Women's University (<http://www.kwassui.ac.jp/university/2>)
2. Japan: Hosei University (<http://www.hosei.ac.jp/>)
3. USA: The Culinary Institute of America (<http://www.ciachef.edu/>)
4. USA: World Music Institute (<http://www.worldmusicinstitute.org/>)



Call for conflict-free campus to support peace process in Congo

To commemorate International Women’s Day, on 6 March, UNAI co-hosted with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and the Enough Project, a special event at UN Headquarters focusing on the role of “conflict minerals” and their linkages to sexual violence. Entitled “International Women’s Day: Elevating the Conversation on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict,” the discussion covered the ways in which women experience conflict, the role of women in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and efforts to combat the conflict minerals trade, and urgent actions needed to end and prevent sexual violence.

While many people are familiar with the issue of conflict diamonds or blood diamonds through films or books, the term conflict minerals might be unfamiliar to many. Conflict minerals refer to raw materials from a particular part of the world where conflict is occurring, affecting the mining and trade of those materials. Among the ongoing conflict regions, the DRC has been torn by internal conflicts for more than a century. And one of the leading factors contributing to this continuing conflict is profits from the mineral trade. Those conflict minerals include gold and 3Ts—tin, tantalum and tungsten—which are found in abundance in eastern part of DRC.

Among the panelists Time Mohin, Director of Corporate Responsibility of Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), explained how electronic industry can play a leading role to fight against conflict and sexual violence in DRC. After recognizing the connection between electronic products and mining in DRC, electronic companies could start to collaborate on taking positive action. Robin Wright, an American actress, stressed that every person who owns cellphone should feel moral obligation to people suffering from the conflict.

Through Enough Project’s Raise Hope for Congo Campaign, students can add their names to the Conflict-Free Campus Initiative (CFCI) and help make their schools a leading human rights institution.

Find more: <http://bit.ly/1gUKJeA>



NSU to offer Model UN course in Spring 2014

Northeastern University (NSU), (Boston, USA) a UNAI member, is offering this Spring a one-credit, pass/fail course on Model United Nations (MUN).

MUN at NSU will meet once per week throughout each semester to discuss global issues and to prepare for Model United Nations conferences and competitions. Model United Nations conferences and competitions are realistic role-playing simulations of the actual United Nations (the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Committee, the Security Council, the International Court of Justice), and other international organizations, such as the Arab League and European Union. At the MUN conferences, NSU students compete with hundreds, or thousands, of students coming from colleges all across the United States, in addition to a significant number of foreign students coming from abroad. Each student participates as a member of a delegation, with each college delegation representing assigned countries, and each country sending delegates to various bodies, committees, and councils. Individual students, as well as their colleges, compete for highly valued awards, recognition, and honors, based upon how well they have represented the interests of their assigned countries.

For more: <http://bit.ly/1mfRutp>



Prof. Sultan Razzak to receive Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education

Prof Sultan Muhammad Razzak, Vice Chancellor of International Culture University (Bangladesh), has been selected for the “Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education” by the organizers of the World Vice Chancellors Congress 2014. The award will be handed over to Prof. Razzak at the congress to be held in Mumbai, India, on 28 June 2014.

International Culture University, an online school of higher learning, is a member of the United Nations Academic Impact.

For more: <http://bit.ly/1dmdavK>



LAU, Beirut, hosts workshop on continuing professional development

In what has become an annual tradition, Lebanese American University's (LAU) Department of Education, in collaboration with Levant Distributors, held a workshop on Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The two-day event, targeting school principals and schoolteachers, kicked off at LAU Beirut on February 28. Over a hundred faculty and staff members from educational institutions throughout Lebanon attended the event, which tackled such topics as school accreditation, assessment and active learning in the classroom, as well as community services and quality of education in early childhood.

"Accreditation is a process not a status," explained Alice Azar Wazir of the Beirut Baptist School. She went on to point out that the procedure promoted collaborative problem solving and open communication by collecting, analyzing and using the data to identify the school's needs and plan for required changes in the instructional program.

On the question of assessment, Chadi Nakhle, dean of students and instructor of economics at Brummana High School, stressed that assessment should be something that is done with and for students, not to them. "Assessment and instruction should be interwoven in a way to benefit students, to know where they stand and for teachers to be able to redesign, refine or improve teaching methods when needed," he explained. Find more here: <http://bit.ly/1cCPvMr>



UNAI Lecture at Monmouth's Global Understanding Convention (7 – 11 April)

The focus of Monmouth University's (New Jersey, USA) 2014 annual Global Understanding Convention (7 – 11 April) is "Towards global equality: education, dignity, prosperity." The Convention will be opened with this year's UNAI Lecture, which will be delivered by Dr. Azza Karam (UN Fund for Population Activities). The opening day's event is free and open to the public. For more, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1d0yaNN>

UNAI launches "Music for Peace" at UN Headquarters



The United Nations Academic Impact believes that every discipline of learning and practice can prove relevant to the ideals of the United Nations. Music is one that is key to two UNAI principles—that of peace and that of "unlearning intolerance."

With that end in mind, UNAI is initiating "Music for Peace," a new conversation series. The objective is to learn from world-class musicians and music teachers about the role of music in promoting peace, conflict resolution and cross-cultural dialogue.

The first of such conversations—co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of India to the UN—took place on 24 March 2014, with the world-famous sarod maestro from India, **Amjad Ali Khan**. Maestro Khan was accompanied by his sons—**Ayan and Amaan**. Speaking to the *UNAI Newsletter*, Maestro Khan stressed that, although sarod was an ancient string instrument, its music easily crossed borders and united many peoples and cultures. Music has an innate quality that unites people and overcomes differences, he said.



The meeting was also addressed by Ambassador **Ashoke K Mukerji**, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, who thanked UNAI for co-hosting the "Music for Peace" event.

The next "Music for Peace" conversation will be on 2 April, with the members of Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars.

Albany Law School and UNAI to host conference on “Slavery in the 21st Century”

Albany Law School (Albany, USA), in partnership with the United Nations Academic Impact, will host a half-day seminar on “Slavery in the 21st Century,” on 9 April 2014 at United Nations Headquarters.

The introductory panel will examine “Slavery’s continuing impact, lasting vestiges and modern forms,” with a keynote presentation by Kevin Ryan, President, Covenant House International.

The second panel will focus on “Tactics of the modern abolitionists,” which will discuss, among other things, action taken by UN Member States. Confirmed speakers include: Dorchen Leidholdt, Sanctuary for Families; Professor Paul Finkelman from Albany Law School; Professor Rhacel Salazar Parrenas from University of Southern California; Andrea Mercado from the National Domestic Workers Alliance and Warda Henning, UNODC (New York).

The event will be webcast and available at webtv.un.org

To register for the event, please visit: <http://www.albanylaw.edu/event/combatting-slavery/Pages/default.aspx>

Albany Law School, a member of the United Nations Academic Impact, is one of the few schools that have very specific transnational organized crime programmes.



Higher Education Alliance (HEA) to host Summer Session at the UN

The HEA Summer Session at the United Nations is a week-long immersion study programme that gives graduate and advanced undergraduate students the opportunity to explore, examine and experience the inner workings of world’s premier global governance body—the United Nations as well as other international NGOs and institutions.

The Sessions will take place in both New York City and Washington D.C. over the course of one week. Students will be required to do assigned readings before the sessions as well as to record reflections based on the briefings attended. HEA is a member of UNAI. Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1dIOV2p>

New e-publications from the UN system

Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential (UNDP): Part one of the report examines the relationship between women and natural resources in peacebuilding contexts. Part two of the report discusses entry points for peacebuilding practitioners to address risks and opportunities related to women and natural resource management. Download here: <http://bit.ly/1fWd0Rk>

Ensuring human rights in the provision of contraceptive information and services (WHO): These guidelines provide recommendations for programmes on how to ensure that human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled, while services are scaled up to meet the need for contraception. Download here: <http://bit.ly/1fdot9c>

Beyond Macroeconomic Stability: Structural transformation and Inclusive Development (ILO): This report explores the link between structural transformation and inclusive development. It examines three thematic pillars: the limits of conventional macroeconomics; the long-run agenda of structural transformation and the development of capabilities; and inequality and its macroeconomic consequences. Download here: <http://bit.ly/1iGk1mW>

New UN A/V products for educators

Brazil: Dreaming in Green (13’13”): For one Brazilian astronaut, this glimpse of the planet’s fragility set him on a new path – to create an environmental utopia, the first in the world, in the Amazon rainforest.

Indonesia: Spirit of Volunteerism (9’12”): In Indonesia, a top Italian violinist has volunteered to work with deprived children and help them heal their emotions through music.

These and other programmes under DPI’s *21st Century* series can be found here: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/21stcentury>



Q&A

with Dr. Toyoshi Satow

Dr. Toyoshi Satow is President of J F Oberlin University, Japan, and the in-coming President of the International Association of

University Presidents (IAUP). He recently visited UN Headquarters and met with the Secretary-General. He also spoke with the UNAI Newsletter.

On the Secretary-General's initiative to link up with academic institutions through UNAI: I truly appreciate that Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, opened the doors to the academic community when UNAI started. I think it was a great opportunity for any higher education institution to join the global education network. In order to strengthen the collaboration, I think we should keep trying to share the ideas and values with each other and create not just a network but also a face. The ten principles that are at the centre of UNAI provide a shared framework to realize a global community our students will become part of. Thus, it is necessary for UN leaders and the higher education leaders to work together to strengthen the tie.

On UNAI's progress so far: It is amazing to see so many colleges and universities participate in UNAI. The first step is to increase the number of institutions that get involved in UNAI, and to start sharing what they do as part of this global project. In this sense, UNAI has been very successful in its first three years. When you visit the web site of those institutions, you find so many schools publish and update what they do around the UNAI principles. I also hear from the leaders of those institutions that UNAI helps them to globalize their schools. I believe the UN and the academic community are creating a win-win relationship.

On UNAI's next steps: On one hand, it is important to plan the next strategies to realize UNAI's goals. But on the other hand, it would be

really appreciated if the UN leaders can go visit different countries and meet with the leaders and students of higher education to explore how and why those institutions work along with UNAI. I am pretty sure that each school or country is facing different problems in different situations. To make this happen, we can ask various academic societies or conferences to invite UN leaders so that they can meet with the academic communities.

On IAUP's role: Since IAUP consists of the leaders of higher education institutions from all over the world, IAUP can promote UNAI and encourage the institutions implement UNAI principles within their own courses, projects or faculty. IAUP can also create opportunities for the Presidents, faculty or students to share what they do by inviting them to our regional meetings. I think the strength of IAUP

“The ten principles that are at the centre of UNAI provide a shared framework to realize a global community to which we send our students.”

is that we have so many energetic Presidents, Rectors or Chancellors who can influence other leaders in the local areas or wider regions.

On Oberlin's role as UNAI hub on the UN Charter: In 2012, we published a book titled “Pathways to Peace – Interviews with Three Nobel Peace Laureates.” The idea was to publish a textbook which can help students be interested and understand the basic philosophy and ideas of the United Nations Charter. We published it as a not-for-sale book so that anybody in the world can read it for free. All the contents were digitalized into a PDF format and uploaded to our web site.

Our role as the UNAI hub on principle #1 is to create a bridge between Higher Education institutions and the United Nations. The UN Charter can be translated for educational purposes; it is the foundation of UNAI principles. Thus our most important role is to create and show “pathways” to everybody. ##

UN observances, April 2014



20th Commemoration of the Rwanda Genocide (7 April):

The start date of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, 7 April,

has been designated by the UN General Assembly as the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda. The memorial ceremony at UN Headquarters in New York will take place on 10 April, at 6:15 p.m. It will be webcast live at webtv.un.org.



World Health Day (7 April):

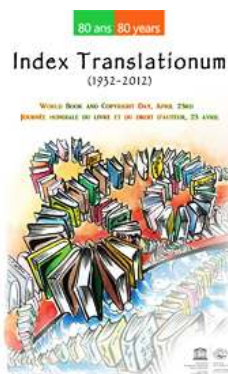
More than half of the world's population is at risk from vector-borne

diseases such as malaria and dengue. Yet, we can protect ourselves and our families by taking simple preventive measures, including vaccination. This year's World Health Day will focus on vector-borne diseases. For more:

<http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2014/en/>

International Mother Earth Day (22 April):

International Mother Earth Day is a chance to reaffirm our collective responsibility to promote harmony with nature at a time when our planet is under threat from climate change, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and other man-made problems. When we threaten the planet, we undermine our only home—and our future survival. On this International Day, let us renew our pledges to honour and respect Mother Earth.



World Book and Copyright Day (23 April):

23 April is a symbolic date for world literature, for on this date in 1616, Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died. It is also the date of birth or death of other prominent authors such as Maurice Druon, Haldor K. Laxness, Vladimir

Nabokov, Josep Pla and Manuel Mejía Vallejo.

Your thoughts

On 21 March, International Mother Language Day, a group of high school students in East Stroudsburg South (ASPIRE Chapter), took part via Skype in a "Classroom Conversation."

Joey Fertig: *This was a really invigorating experience and I hope there will be many more in the future.*

Anish Bhagwat: *Among the many influencing topics that were discussed, my favorite was the fact that music has a big part in bringing people together.*

Stephanie Sezen: *This conversation has taught me that language has the power to unite the world. Having new linguistic opportunities will encourage global citizenship as well as heal conflicting ideas between two or more societies.*

Michelle Mbuthia: *As a Kenyan-American, I think there should be more emphasis on teaching about different cultures around the world.*

Leila Boucekouk: *The purpose of language is to paint together thoughts, emotions and ideas of individuals for all to witness. The International Mother Language Day reminded me of this and introduced the importance of language to a global community. Speak now!*

Miriam Boucekouk: *After listening to everyone's stories and sharing all of our thoughts in the Skype call, I left the room inspired to pass our ideas on and educate others on languages*

For this and previous issues of the UNAI Newsletter, please visit <http://outreach.unai.org/unai>

For comments on or queries about UNAI Newsletter, please write to Hasan Ferdous at ferdous@unai.org