



UNAI NEWSLETTER

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January - February 2016

Lessons Learned from 70 Years of UN Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping



On Tuesday, 26 January more than 200 people attended an event co-hosted by United Nations Academic

Impact (UNAI) and the International Studies Association (ISA) entitled "The United Nations Confronting War and Violence: Lessons after 70 Years."

The three hour discussion examined the lessons learned from seventy years of UN conflict resolution and what role academia, research institutions and data collection can play in strengthening peacemaking, peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

Panelists included Paul Diehl, President of the International Studies Association, Jean Krasno, Lecturer at the City University of New York, Cyril Obi, Program Director at the Social Science Research Center, Hardeep Puri, Secretary-General of the Independent Commission on Multilateralism and Vice President of the International Peace Institute, Former Deputy Executive Director at UNICEF Rima Salah and Arturo Sotomayor of the University of Texas, Austin.

Rima Salah, who recently served as a member of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Peace Operations, noted that a key finding of the panel was the need for the United Nations to be more inclusive in its approach to peacebuilding because

lasting and sustainable peace was more likely to be accomplished if all relevant stakeholders were included in the process.

Jean Krasno spoke about the increased vulnerability of women in conflict and crisis situations and the importance of taking these needs into consideration when creating policies, but also the need for more inclusion for women across the societal spectrum, from political to economic, social, cultural and peacekeeping roles.

Paul Diehl of ISA said that people often think there is very little overlap between academics and practitioners, but the day's discussion showed that there were many areas which could benefit from collaboration across disciplines.

The panel discussion, including the Q&A session, is available online at <http://bit.ly/1Vurzwm>.

Is a More Equitable Society a More Peaceful Society? UNAI-sponsored Conference Examines the Links between Poverty and Conflict



On 11 and 12 January 2016 more than two dozen scholars from universities, think tanks and non-governmental organizations gathered at the United Nations

headquarters for a two-day conference examining the role poverty and inequality play in fostering conflict.

The conference, co-sponsored by United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), George Mason University's School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution and People Programme International, brought together scholars from various disciplines including economics, sociology, psychology, politics and cultural analysis to discuss the causes of poverty and inequality, what could be done to combat these issues and what role the United Nations could play in the process.

The United Nations celebrated its 70th birthday last year and adopted the Sustainable Development Goals in September, providing an opportunity to focus global attention on inequality as an impediment to achieving peace and security.

Conference attendees raised and sought to answer questions on the relationship between poverty, inequality, and political violence, globally and on regional and local levels, and what relevant causes and contexts can help us understand how poverty and inequality contribute to this conflict.

Conference participant Sheldon Danziger, president of the Russell Sage Foundation, demonstrated how income inequality often intersects with other types of societal exclusion and discrimination by analyzing the income gap between men and women in the United States.

According to the White House, full-time working women earn 77 cents for every dollar their male counterparts earn, which means female employees have to work approximately 60 additional days, or three months, in order to make the same amount of money as their male counterparts.

But for some conference participants, research, education, critical thinking skills and problem solving hold the key to ending the inequality that can lead to conflict. "One approach could be to turn the research studies and reports on topics such as potable water, clean energy, sustainable agriculture, and rural healthcare, among others, housed at the United Nations and related to the Sustainable Development Goals, into accessible information available to young people trained in entrepreneurship. These new entrepreneurs would study the techniques of problem-solving: learning to place oneself in another's position, learning to define the problem, learning to ask for ideas,

creating and testing a plan, etc.," said Robert A. Scott, President Emeritus of Adelphi University.

Ramu Damodaran, Chief of UNAI, summed up the conference by noting, "UNAI offers a forum for discussion of important issues, but the idea really is to sustain the conversation beyond these halls to make a lasting impact in people's lives."

Food Security and Climate Change: A new series of articles



25 September was a historic day at the United Nations because the Global Goals for Sustainable Development were

adopted by UN Member States. UN Academic Impact is launching a new series of articles that take a closer look at what is being done, and what can be done, by environmental science research institutions and schools to advance Global Goal 2: "Zero Hunger" and Global Goal 3: "Climate Action."

Each week UNAI will post an article that looks at an important aspect of food security and climate change. This introduction to the series from UN Academic Impact intern Laura Phillips explains the important role of climate change action and sustainable agriculture in achieving the Global Goals and food security in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

As we move towards a population of 9 to 10 billion people by 2050, ensuring food security for the global population poses an enormous challenge. Simultaneously, we must limit temperature increase by 2 °C above preindustrial levels. The increase in food production must come through a change in the way we manage our land. We also need to improve the resilience of food production to future environmental change, protect biodiversity, protect our freshwater resource, move to healthier diets, and reduce the adverse impacts of food production on the whole range of ecosystem services. Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September and the adoption of the COP21 agreement in Paris in December, the synergistic relationship between food security and climate change is crucial to sustainable development, and

achieving these goals. Given that the need to feed a growing population and trying to avoid the dangerous effects of climate change are two of the greatest challenges facing humanity today and in the future, United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) has requested a number of schools and departments specializing in food security and climate at UNAI member institutions to submit articles highlighting research and work focusing on different aspects of food security, nutrition security, climate change, land use change and the subsequent effects and suggested solutions in relation to the SDGs and the outcome of COP21.

Each week, an article from climate change and food security researchers across the world will be posted on the UN Academic Impact website. The first two articles have been posted and are available at academicimpact.un.org

UNAI and ELS Launch 2016 Many Languages, One World Essay Contest



The Emperor Charlemagne once said, "To have another language is to possess a second soul,"

demonstrating the long recognized benefits of multilingualism.

In an effort to promote multilingualism among today's university students United Nations Academic Impact and ELS Educational Services Inc. have partnered together for the third straight year to co-sponsor the Many Languages, One World essay contest.

The contest invites university and college students aged 18 and older to write an essay on the role of multilingualism in advancing global citizenship in one of the six official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish. Students must write the essay in a language that is not their mother tongue or primary language of instruction. The goal of the contest is to promote peace and cross cultural understanding through the study of languages, and to highlight for students the life enriching benefits of mastering other languages.

A total of 60 winners will be selected, 10 for each of the official UN languages, to attend a week long Global Youth Forum in New York City, culminating in an opportunity to speak in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In 2015, more than 3500 people from 130 countries took part in the initial phase of the contest, and 70 students from 42 countries representing 60 universities were selected as winners.

The deadline for essay submissions is 31 March 2016. To learn more about contest rules and eligibility go to the official contest [website](#).

Global Entrepreneurship Education Program holds first Training Conference in southern Africa

The Global Entrepreneurship Education Program, in collaboration with Handong Global University (Republic of Korea), held its inaugural Global Entrepreneurship Training Conference in southern Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe from 24 to 30 January. The conference, co-sponsored by the Harare Institute of Technology (HIT), delivered a week-long intensive entrepreneurship training program for dozens of participants with the purpose of offering future leaders of developing countries an opportunity to experience the global entrepreneurship mindset. The ultimate goal of the program is to help empower the participants to contribute in the development of their country and other developing nations, to help rid communities of poverty and hunger and to advance peace and prosperity throughout the world.

The Global Entrepreneurship Education Program is co-sponsored by UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Korea to help build the capacity for sustainable development among developing countries. During this inaugural program in Harare, students were exposed to the entrepreneurial spirit, learned about the basic skillset necessary to start a business, had the opportunity to compete in a business competition and formed networks with students from other countries for possible multi-national ventures in the future.

Previous Global Entrepreneurship Education Program training programs have been held in the Republic of Korea, Kenya, Mongolia, Cambodia, East Africa, West Africa, Peru, Laos, and Ethiopia. The program gives future teachers, planners, students and prospective entrepreneurs from developing countries the opportunity to learn entrepreneurship through experience, promote capacity building, multilingualism, sustainable development and global citizenship.

To read more about the Global Entrepreneurship Program click [here](#)

UNAI and SDSN Join Forces to Advance the Sustainable Development Goals



Combating hunger, poverty, climate change, and gender inequality while promoting good health, education, clean water and sanitation, and decent work and economic growth are just a few of the aims of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To mobilize action in support of achieving the SDGs, United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) and the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#) recently announced a strategic collaboration to activate universities, research institutions and NGOs to advance teaching, applied research and problem solving around the SDGs.

United Nations Academic Impact Chief Ramu Damodaran said the agreement will help to generate relevant academic content and utilize academic expertise to help aid in policy development and progress on the SDGs.

The SDSN is an association of institutions whose aim is to mobilize global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including supporting the implementation of the SDGs at local, national, and global levels.

Chandrika Bahadur, President of the SDSN Association, noted that joint activities undertaken by UNAI and SDSN will provide a forum for members of the UN family and academia to discuss specific issues of research and policy relevant to the UN's objectives, including the SDGs.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon applauded the partnership saying, "I welcome their collaboration as an important new way to mobilize universities in our historic effort to realize a life of dignity for all."

Read the full statement on the UNAI-SDSN collaboration [here](#)

Providence College of Engineering Hosts Exhibition to Promote Innovation in Tech



UNAI Member Providence College of Engineering in Kerala, India recently hosted the well-attended

PROTEK 2K16, a technical exhibition designed to provide a platform for educational, industrial and public institutions to come together and showcase their ideas and offerings in technology and research innovation.

The exhibition was held from 19 to 21 January 2016 on the Providence College campus and welcomed more than 4000 attendees. PROTEK 2K16 featured exhibitors from around the country who showcased their latest products and services with demonstrations and lectures. The side events and conferences during the exhibition brought together industry leaders, academics and students for networking and an exchange of ideas. The exhibition also created a knowledge-sharing platform to propagate the new trends.

There were various activities on offer over the course of the three day event such as expert talks, demonstrations, workshops, an auto expo, a student project expo, an air show, robotics and a fun zone with games. Around 30 companies and institutions, such as the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), the Centre for Development

of Advanced Computing (C – DAC), and Tata Motors participated.

Providence College of Engineering delivers smart lecture classes and tutorials in state-of-the-art facilities and involves students in industrial projects right from the first year. Among the engineering institutions in the state of Kerala, Providence College of Engineering has a unique approach to imparting knowledge.

Call for UNAI Internship Applications

The United Nations Academic Impact has a position open for a summer internship at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. For more information please see [here](#)



United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law



The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law is part of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. It consists of three main

components: the Lecture Series, the Historic Archives, and the Research Library. Learn more about the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law at: <http://www.un.org/law/avl/>

Upcoming events

- 1 March: [Zero Discrimination Day](#)
- 3 March: [World Wildlife Day](#)
- 8 March: [International Women’s Day](#)
- 21 March: [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)
- 21 March: [International Day of Forests](#)
- 22 March: [World Water Day](#)
- 23 March: [World Meteorological Day](#)
- 25 March: [International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade](#)
- 7 April: [World Health Day](#)
- 12 April: [International Day of Human Space Flight](#)
- 22 April: [International Mother Earth Day](#)
- 24-30 April: [World Immunization Week](#)
- 26 April: [World Intellectual Property Day](#)

Learn more about UN International Days on the [United Nations website](#).

New e-Resources

United Nations Television (UNTV) produces award-winning programmes covering the wide range of issues addressed by the United Nations system of organizations for broadcast and online viewing. These programmes may be used to anchor lessons, to launch classroom discussions or to introduce panel presentations. Some of them are currently in use in classes and in textbooks for language and business courses.



21st Century monthly news magazine

<http://bit.ly/1VlLphy>

Programme No. 106: This episode is dedicated to marking the United Nations' 70th anniversary and includes an in-studio interview with Ian Martin, Executive Director of the influential publication Security Council Report.



UN in Action short feature series

<http://bit.ly/1YN4h8j>

- 2015 PLURAL + Film Festival (4'54") (#1505)
- Heroes for Change: 'Comics Uniting Nations' (4'43") (#506)
- China: Reducing Carbon Footprints (4'14") (#1507)
- 'I am 70': Usha Rai (2'47") (#1508)

UN Audio Channels App for Mobile

Stay in the loop when 150+ Heads of State and Government converge on United Nations Headquarters in New York to speak to the world. The UN Audio Channels app (for [iOS](#) and [Android](#)) gives you access to live audio from UN General Assembly and Security Council meetings as well as the daily news and weekly programmes from UN Radio.

Why join UNAI

We welcome new members to UNAI. Find out some of the benefits of membership here:

- a. It is a global network of schools of higher learning and research, now comprising over 1,000 members in some 120 countries. As a collaborative platform, UNAI members learn from each other and enhance each other's skills and tools.
- b. As a member, you will have direct access to the United Nations Academic Impact, an initiative of the UN Secretary-General, and be able to use United Nations resources.
- c. You will be able to use the logo of the United Nations Academic Impact on your website and in promotional materials, thus raising your institution's visibility and international profile.
- d. You will be able to request assistance in connection with any activity in support of UNAI.
- e. You and your students can join, either in person or via the internet, in "Classroom Conversations" organized by UNAI at UN Headquarters.
- f. You can request briefings/interactive presentations on UN themes by United Nations experts.
- g. As a member, you are required to submit a periodic activity report, which is then uploaded on the UNAI website. As your activities become better known among UNAI global membership and beyond, your institution's international profile enhances.

Sounds interesting? Find out more at academicimpact.un.org