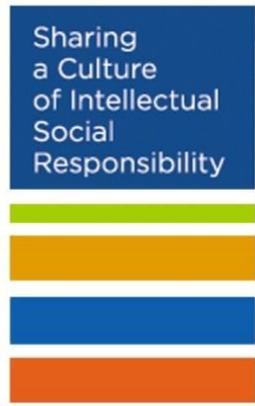


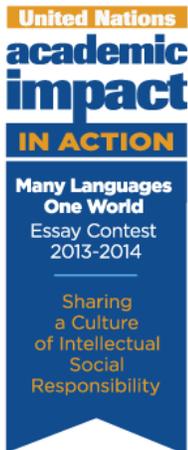


UNAI NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2014

“Many languages, One world” essay contest finalists to meet at UN Headquarters on 27 June 2014



The “Many languages, One world” essay contest, organized by the ELS Language Services and UNAI, is drawing to a close. After careful review by a panel of international judges, a total of sixty finalists – ten in each of the six UN language groups - have now been finalized. They are all expected to attend a series of activities in New York from 25 – 27 June, including a day-long youth forum at UN Headquarters.

Eight months ago, in October 2013, the United Nations Academic Impact teamed up with ELS Language Services

to launch an international essay contest to highlight the role of multilingualism in a globalized world. The expectation was that it would generate interest among those college and university students who planned to pursue a career in international diplomacy or multilateralism. To everyone’s surprise, almost 4,000 people participated in some phase of the contest.

Participating students are from 128 countries representing every part of the world and levels of education ranging from associate to doctoral degrees. Their fields of study run the academic gamut, including all of the arts and sciences, medicine, pharmacy and dentistry, engineering (from biomedical to chemical to petroleum to data engineering and analytics); law, business, finance and management, agriculture, architecture, communications, and linguistics and translation.

A large number of publications across the globe have reported on this initiative (globally via Facebook and Twitter, and local publications ranging from the USA to the Russian Federation and from Africa to Fiji and New Zealand.) Visits to the contest website totaled more than 125,000 (top countries include USA, Spain, Indonesia, Russia, India, Mexico, UK, Ukraine, Colombia and Australia).

As the contest enters its final stages, ELS has begun notifying winners and inviting them to attend various activities in New York. These will include a two-day interactive meeting at Adelphi University, and a youth forum at UN Headquarters on 27 June 2014.

One of those to have already been invited to attend the New York meets is Eric Krasnow of Cornell University (USA). An economics major and international relations and Spanish minor in the College of Arts and Sciences, Eric plans to share his perspective on language and global citizenship with the other winners of the contest. He told Cornell Chronicle (of Cornell University), language was of the utmost importance in all aspects of a culture.

Eric, who wrote his essay in Spanish, a language he has been studying under Cornell’s Programe in Seville, said, “I started my essay by defining global citizenship, and said that a good global citizen has a moral commitment to improving the world. In order to understand the problems of a culture, we need to understand the culture and speak the language of that culture.” UNAI congratulates Eric and looks forward to greeting him and the other 59 winners of the contest in New York.

Committee on Information welcomes UNAI



The just concluded 36th session of the Committee on Information, a subsidiary of the

General Assembly, has adopted a draft resolution welcoming the United Nations Academic Impact.

The Committee, in particular, takes note of the continued growth of the United Nations Academic Impact initiative, and calls upon DPI to promote global awareness of the United Nations Academic Impact in order to encourage a balanced participation among Member States and their continued support to the initiative.

The draft resolution also encourages the United Nations Academic Impact to take effective steps to facilitate exchanges between the United Nations and institutions of higher education in all regions to support the common principles and goals of the United Nations, while recognizing the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its constitution.

Several COI members, in their formal statements to the Committee, lauded UNAI for initiatives undertaken in their respective countries and regions. In the words of a delegate, his government looked forward to supporting UNAI “through informative students briefings that not only introduced the initiative’s projects and activities to the University students, but also encourages new universities and academic institutions to join UNAI.”

The Chair of the Committee, **Ambassador Lyutha Al-Mughairy** (pictured above), in her closing statement, referred to the just concluded “Many Languages, One World’ essay contest, as a good example in the exercise of multilingualism, a priority for the Committee.

The Committee on Information meets annually for a two-week period to review the programmes and activities of the Department of Public Information. This year’s session took place from 28 April – 9 May.

XVII Triennial Conference of the International Association of University Presidents, 11 – 14 June 2014



IAUP, the worldwide association of Chief Executive Officers from around the globe and a key partner of UNAI, will host its XVII Triennial Conference, under the overall

theme of “Creating the future of higher education.” To be held in Yokohama, Japan, from 11 – 14 June, the conference is expected to draw representation from the Japanese Imperial Family, several Nobel Prize winners and worldwide leaders of industry and education.

In a video message to the conference, the United Nations Secretary-General congratulates the International Association of University Presidents and thanks it for continued support to the United Nations. He also thanks IAUP for its decision to bestow on him its first J. Michael Adams Award for Global Leadership. “I am deeply honoured to accept on behalf of the United Nations,” he notes. He recalls that Dr. J. Michael Adams, a former IAUP President who passed away in 2012, was a global force for progress, a tremendous advocate of the United Nations – and “he was my personal friend.”

Referring to the power of education, the Secretary-General recalls that when he was growing up, Korea was devastated by war. “UN agencies gave us help – including study materials.” He further notes that he never forgot those textbooks. They fostered learning – and proved the power of international solidarity to inspire hope. “Those free textbooks taught me that when you help others to get an education, they can help themselves and our world.”

The Secretary-General observes that he started the Global Education First initiative to put all children in school, give them quality learning and raise global citizens.

“I applaud your focus on creating the future of higher education. The United Nations is shaping a vision for development after the year 2015. I count on you to help us create an inclusive, universal agenda for a better future. Thank you for educating so many people and supporting the United Nations. I wish you great success,” the Secretary-General concludes.

Activity reports at a glance



The United Nations Academic Impact invited its members to submit their periodic activity reports, reflecting programmes and outreach initiatives undertaken by them in support of UNAI in the past 12 months. From this issue, we begin serializing highlights of those reports. The complete list is available at <http://bit.ly/ShGGyp>

Adelphi University (USA) students and faculty from the Levermore Global Scholars Program participated in the NYC civil society consultation on the “Post-2015 Development Agenda” on 1 November 2013. This was co-sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UN Foundation, and was hosted at the New York Times building in Manhattan. The aim of the consultation was to exchange ideas and gather views from NGOs to help inform the new international strategy that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals.

Benedict College (USA) on 5 April 2013 co-sponsored a fundraiser Fashion Show with the Benedict College International Students Association to spotlight the inequities and barriers to basic education confronted by impoverished children in Kenya and to raise funds to build a school equipped with modern classrooms to educate these children, who are literally educated “under a rock” in Walala, Kenya.

Central Institute of Business Management Research & Development (India): CIBMRD and HERD Foundation (USA?) organized a workshop for the benefit of over 100 rural participants comprising of farmers and youth of surrounding villages. The objective was to provide support and expertise to the rural populace to gain useful information for understanding sustainable rural development initiatives for actualizing rural prosperity.

Fairfield University (USA) hosted a Dialogue on Syria on 14 November 2013, sponsored by the Muslim Student Association and Jesuit Universities Humanitarian Action Network (JUHAN). This

dialogue helped increase awareness and deepened the discussion about one of the most pressing humanitarian emergencies in the world today.

Kyiv National Economic University (Ukraine) opened an online educational platform “iLearn” in its effort to help pupils from orphanages to prepare for Standardized External Tests through interactive on-line lectures and tutorials. During the reporting period, more than one hundred lectures on several subjects, including Math, Ukrainian language and literature, English and Ukrainian History, were delivered. More than 340 pupils have already become the users of the program.

Network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe (Belgium) in December 2013 hosted the Expert Meeting on State Responsibility for Protecting Higher Education, organized by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack. The meeting explored the idea of developing and seeking wide recognition of a statement of ‘Principles of State Responsibility for Protecting Higher Education,’ with the view toward engaging key stakeholders—especially States and members of the international higher education sector—in an open conversation about the importance of protecting higher education and ensuring that the section can fulfill its vital educational, scientific, economic and cultural roles.

Southern Cross University (Australia) partnered with the AIME Indigenous Corporation to bring the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME) to its Gold Coast, Northern Rivers and Mid North Coast Indigenous communities. AIME is an educational program that gives Indigenous high school students the skills, opportunities, belief and confidence to finish school at the same rate as their peers. Through the partnership with the AIME, SCU students are recruited to provide mentoring support to students participating in the program.

Tsuda College (Japan) hosted an event in collaboration with a national NGO on the issue of child labour in international society and the role of the United Nations and NGOs, on 10 November 2013 at Tsuda College as a special seminar at the Tsuda Festival. This event, supervised by a

professor, and run by Tsuda students, focused on Africa, and in particular the use of child labour in Ghana's chocolate-production industry.

Institute of Higher Education of Brasilia, Brazil worked on "Project Fenix", in collaboration with several partners, from March to December 2013, aiming to help waste collectors to have access to human and social rights and equal opportunities, to strengthen their roles in finding solutions to their own problems and to establish a dialogue amongst them in order to resolve their conflicts without use of violence. IESB offered monthly training and around 120 waste collectors were trained through this project.

Islamic University of Gaza is providing people with disability with vocational and professional rehabilitation program under its Irada Project. It aims to help integrate people with disability economically and socially in the Palestinian society. The programme includes mosaic and glass painting, carpentry, furniture painting, book binding and woodcarving. Through this project, around 400 people had already been trained.

Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU), Japan has formed a partnership with UN Volunteers and deployed 70 student volunteers to UN agencies' field offices, to contribute to sustainable development, peace and volunteerism. KGU acts as a liaison office for five other partner universities in Japan, while extending also training courses for all the youth volunteers at KGU's training centre before their dispatch. From September 2013 to March 2014, 12 students served as UN Youth Volunteers in Asia, the Pacific, East Europe and Africa for about 6 months.

Manuel S. Enverga University, Philippines. Under MEU's College of Arts and Sciences Tertiary Education Program for the Bureau of Jail Management Penology in Quezon, currently, 27 inmates enrolled for free in the Arts program, which entitles them to a diploma after two years. This programme aims to provide prison inmates a fair chance for employment and assimilation when they return to their communities.

New York Medical College, USA: The NYMC Safe Motherhood Project in Malawi which was started in 2011 is still active with students and alumni who participated in raising funds for the project. Dr. Padmini Murthy who was instrumental in starting the project at NYMC has been invited to speak

about the strategy "Thinking and acting locally". As a result of her talks at various educational institutions students from Ithaca College, Union College, George Mason Universities have stated working on raising funds and collecting supplies to help women and children in Malawi and El Salvador.

Università del Salento, Italy, has established a Department for Lifelong Learning (Servizio per l'Apprendimento Permanente) with the aim of coordinating the organization and implementation of educational initiatives to be deployed in an environment characterized by rapid societal changes and constant economic transformations.

University of Manitoba, Canada, in the Fall of 2013, publicized the results of the UM Internationalization Baseline Study conducted by its Centre for Higher Education Research and Development from fall 2012 until May 2013. Findings from the baseline study show that UM has seen a steady increase in the number of international partnership agreements, research and development projects and international student enrollment and mobility.

Zaporizhzhya National University, Ukraine, is the only Ukrainian university that provides pre-school training for children from vulnerable families and children with special needs at its own Centre for Children's Education. Consultations and workshops for parents, volunteers, social service workers are being constantly provided both by university's experts from the Department of Practical Psychology and Pedagogics and by its partners from NGO Kinderforderwerks Magdeburg, Germany.

Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University, Ukraine, held an International Online Linguistic Conference of Young Scientists on April 16, 2013. The conference programme included 4 reports from the University of Warsaw and 4 reports from Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University, and the presentation of students' scientific societies of both universities

UNAI members that have not yet sent their annual activity for the preceding 12 months are requested to do so without delay. These reports should be submitted using a template, which has been e-mailed to all UNAI member focal points. It is also available on the UNAI website at <http://bit.ly/1jHPHn>

Red ribbon ceremony at University of Botswana

University of Botswana (UB), a UNA1 member, is taking the lead in the fight against HIV/AIDS. On 8 April, it held a Red Ribbon Awards ceremony to acknowledge and celebrate UB's achievements in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The Red Ribbon Awards were first introduced by UNAIDS and other partners with the aim of recognizing and celebrating fight against AIDS achievements. UB's Red ribbon Award seeks to acknowledge, motivate and appreciate HIV and AIDS workers as well as to highlight the imperativeness of keeping HIV and AIDS on the top agenda of individuals, departments, faculties and intuitions. It is for this reason that UB recognized the heroes and heroines involved in the fight against HIV and AIDS through the awards.

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

University of Technology, Jamaica to partner with University of Miami on research in ICT

The School of Computing and Information Technology at the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech), as part of its thrust to build on its cutting-edge research in ICT and to enhance interaction and sharing of knowledge with international scholar communities has strengthened its partnership with the Graduate School at the University of Miami (UoM).

The two Universities have entered into an internship affiliation agreement that will, among other things, over the next three years, enable research internships and student and faculty exchanges aimed at improving existing technical computer science and research skills as well as promote cultural diversity among the participants.

For more: <http://bit.ly/1m2063i>

KazNU hosts Model UN conference

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, the UNA1 hub on sustainability, hosted a Model UN conference from 1 – 3 May. Organized in association with United Nations Information Office in Almaty, and attended by students from Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Italy, India, Pakistan, and other countries of Central Asia, the conference, Model UN New Silk Way, provided its participants with a

look into what a formal UN conference would be like. By role playing as a UN diplomat, students were able to discuss social and world problems, and to share their ideas on ways and means to address them. They also drafted a final resolution. Thematic discussions included such areas as "Ensuring Access to Education for All," "Afghanistan on Track to Building Post-2014," "Trade and Tariffs," and "Protection Against Domestic Violence."

GEM to host 2014 Design Science Lab, 22 – 30 June 2014



The Global education Motivators, a UNA1 member, and BigPictureSmallWorld, a US-based educational initiative, will host its 2014 Design Science: Global Solution Lab, which will take place for seven intensive days from June 22 to June 30, 2014 at Chestnut Hill College in suburban Philadelphia and at United Nations Headquarters.

This year's Design Lab will focus on a number of issues, including continuing downturn in the global economy, the gap between the rich and poor, climate change and the rise of massive new energy consumers like China and India.

The 2014 Design Science Lab will develop designs and strategies that address these real and present problems, envision a global society where basic human needs are met, and develop a blueprint of what such a world would look like— and how we can get there. One particular focus of the 2014 Design Science Lab will be regenerating cities.

To register for the event, please visit:

<http://www.designsciencelab.com/tuition/index.shtml>

Opinion: Unlearning intolerance about adoption



On 16 May, UNAI in association with Rainbow World, held the screening of a film, "Approved for Adoption" by Jung Henin, followed by a panel discussion on ways to combat prejudices against adoption. Lynn Franklin, author of "May The Circle Be Unbroken: An Intimate Journey Into the Heart of Adoption" was one of the speakers. We reproduce excerpts from her statement

Identity uncertainty is developmentally normal but it is more acute for those who are adopted whether domestically or internationally, transnationally and transracially, who know nothing about their family heritage. Studies and changes in adoption practices over time have established the value of connection to birth relatives whenever possible.

In the film, *Approved for Adoption*, we never really learn why Jung's parents adopted. While they welcomed him with open hearts, they had no apparent understanding of how to parent this boy from a country they knew little or nothing about who had suffered untold loss and traumas they were unaware of. Well-meaning certainly, but poorly equipped, they treated him like all the others. He was expected to conform, but he wasn't just like them. His behavior confounded them. They parented in a vacuum within the context of their own culture at that time. His mother is temperamentally stressed with everyone and at a loss with Jung until the abrupt shift toward the end as she gently reaches out when he is ill and confides that she lost a child. The fear of losing Jung somehow cracks her armor. It also seems like a turning point for Jung. We eventually see him as an adult exploring Korea and learning more about his cultural roots and accepting the reality of his past. Loss is a theme running through adoption for virtually everyone, and adopted people struggle to reconcile what they've lost with what they have.

Over time, more openness in adoption has been the biggest shift in domestic adoption, and search and reunion stories have become common. Connections are also made internationally, but efforts to maintain records of the identity of families of origin are insufficient, and laws in receiving countries can obstruct access.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption stipulate that efforts must first be made to provide permanency in a family in the home country, including through family preservation or domestic adoption. The efficacy of implementation of these conventions varies country by country depending on resources available. While the vast majority of children need help in their home country, inter-country adoption remains one avenue of permanency for children, particularly in countries that lack the infrastructure to provide domestic alternatives, and there is a growing focus on older children with special needs. We must do our best to tend to those who do find homes through inter-country adoption and the support they and their families need for them to thrive.

Ultimately, intolerance is unlearned through education that leads to improved policies and practice and to greater understanding, compassion and reconciliation. Jung's film and forums like this create a space for dialogue, and I'm grateful to UN Academic Impact for providing this opportunity. The complete statement is available on the UNAI website at <http://bit.ly/1mZjtg2>

New UNAI Members

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

Zhejiang University of Finance & Economics, China (www.zufe.edu.cn)
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan (<http://www.tufs.ac.jp/>)
Diplomatici, Italy (www.diplomatici.it)
World Music Institute, USA (www.worldmusicinsitute.org)
Ursinus College, USA (www.ursinus.edu)
Culinary Institute of America, USA (www.ciachef.edu)
Tsurumi University, Japan (<http://www.tsurumi-u.ac.jp/e/index.html>)



Sign up for e-mail alerts from the UN News Centre

UNAI members can now sign-up for regular e-mail alerts from the United Nations. This free service provided by the UN News Centre could be particularly helpful for students and researchers of international affairs and issues dealing with peace and conflict resolution.

The UN News Centre is the online source for breaking news that covers all the activities of the United Nations system around the globe, as well as the gateway to other news-related products and services within the Organization.

To sign-up for e-mail alerts from the UN News Centre, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1mkTP2M>

New UN A/V products for educators

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, such as 21st Century, a monthly news magazine, are currently in use in classes and in textbooks for language and business courses. The latest programmes from the 21st Century series are:

- Brazil: The Water and Waste Warrior (15'01")
- Haiti: Youth – A Nation's Hope (8'08")

These and other 21st Century programmes can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1io2D7O>

New e-resources from the UN system



Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity (World Bank): This major new report distills vast data and hundreds of studies to shed new light on constraints facing women and girls worldwide, from epidemic levels of gender-based violence to biased laws and norms that prevent them from owning property, working, and making decisions about their own lives.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/QMNEum> (PDF)

Sharing the Value of Democratic Governance (UNDP): This report, jointly produced by UNDP and the Business for Peace Foundation, provides an in-depth analysis of the leadership qualities of Business for Peace Honourees and the various business models they have exercised in redefining their relationship with society. The report stimulates new thinking and discussion on how to close or narrow the gap between business and society, and offers concrete examples of how shared value is being achieved in the business sector. The report aims to inspire more companies to recognize the potential of a shared value approach, as well as to seize opportunities for more ethical and responsible leadership.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1h97CXo> (THIS URL IS NOT FUNCTIONING)

World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development (UNESCO): This publication offers a groundbreaking look at recent evolutions in media freedom, independence, pluralism and journalist safety. These areas are explored in depth in each region and with respect to gender and global media. The overarching trend observed throughout the study is one of disruption brought on by technology and to a lesser extent the global economic crisis, with mixed results for freedom of expression and media development.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1gQkHKz> (French)

UN observances in June

Global Day of Parents (1 June): The Global Day of Parents is observed on the 1st of June every year. The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012 with resolution A/RES/66/292 and honours parents throughout the world. The Global Day provides an opportunity to appreciate all parents in all parts of the world for their selfless commitment to children and their lifelong sacrifice towards nurturing this relationship.

World Environment Day (5 June): World Environment Day is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Over the years it has grown to be a broad, global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated by stakeholders in over 100 countries. It also serves as the "people's day" for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet.

World Day against Child Labour (12 June): The International Labour Organization launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.

World Refugee Day (20 June): For years, many countries and regions have been holding their own Refugee Days and even Weeks. One of the most widespread is Africa Refugee Day, which is celebrated on 20 June in several countries.

International Day against trafficking and drug abuse (26 June): In December 1987, the General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse. This resolution recommended further action with regard to the report and conclusions of the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Your thoughts

The "Many Languages, One World" essay contest, organized by UNAI and ELS Language Services, has generated tremendous response from students and teachers alike.

When I read that I was not selected for the next round, diverse feelings came to me. A little of sadness came first, but after that, came the satisfaction of being one of the few persons around the world that decided to participate against probably the most intellectual, smart and best prepared students from countries with the best education system in the world. Thank you for giving poor students from countries like Colombia the opportunity to have international experiences and to help stimulate a conversation on global citizenship.

Andrés David Puello Ospino

I had a huge desire to be part of the event in New York, but even if I don't win, I want to tell you that this experience opened my mind and I worked so hard to give the best of me. Be assured, in the future I would put my multilingual skills to use, and I am totally sure that I will do something good for the world.

Tatiana Cortés

For this and previous issues of the UNAI Newsletter, please visit

<https://academicimpact.un.org/content/newsletters>

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