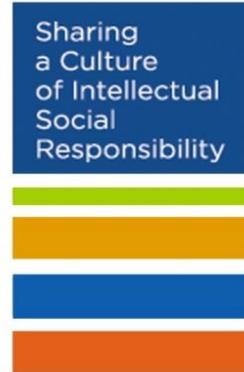




UNAI NEWSLETTER



March - April 2016

Government of India Donates \$200,000 to help UNAI Engage, Inform and Empower Academic & Research Communities



The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations has donated \$200,000 to United Nations Academic Impact to support UNAI's outreach, engagement and advocacy initiatives with education and

research communities around the world.

This is the fourth year the Government of India has contributed financially to the work of UNAI, activities that Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, Permanent Representative of India to the UN, says are integral to achieving Agenda 2030. "UNAI's focus on weaving academic work throughout the world to contribute to overall development can play a critical role in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, and we hope this contribution will help UNAI in its mission."

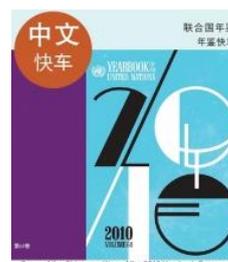
The UNAI trust fund helps the initiative offer a broad platform to over 1,000 member institutions in more than 120 countries to share resources, ideas and innovations for the purposes and principles of the United Nations agenda.

"I'm grateful to the Permanent Mission of India for this tremendous effort to help improve outreach to harness academic research for the betterment of society," said Ms. Cristina Gallach, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information of the United Nations. "This important contribution will help UNAI meet its members' other needs like providing more cooperation opportunities among institutions."

Since 2013, the Government of India has contributed \$500,000 to UNAI as part of its commitment to promote quality education, global citizenship and collaboration among academic institutions around the world. Educational institutions in India represent a tenth of UNAI's membership.

"Education is a means to equip individuals to become better persons and contribute to society," said Ambassador Akbaruddin. "UNAI's efforts to harness work being done across educational institutions around the world is in consonance with this thinking."

Soochow University Students Use Translation Expertise to Advance the Work of the UN



Information since 2014.

Soochow University, which just last year became a member of United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), has been translating the *Yearbook Express* for the Yearbook Unit of the United Nations Department of Public

Information since 2014. This work, which the University has incorporated into an innovative curriculum for its Master of Translation and Interpreting (MTI) students, represents a substantial contribution to bringing the *Yearbook of the United Nations*—the authoritative reference on the annual activities and concerns of the Organization—closer to the people served by the United Nations. So far, the University—located in Suzhou, East China—has prepared eight Chinese editions of the multilingual *Yearbook Express*, with more to come.

The *Yearbook Express*, published on the website of the *Yearbook*, provides summarized *Yearbook* content in all six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) by featuring the chapter introductions of recent *Yearbooks* along with the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.

Through the collaborative platform of UNAI, and in its *Yearbook Express* translation project, the University sees itself as shouldering part of its intellectual social responsibility in helping realize the purposes and mandate of the United Nations.

Soochow University Lecturer Zeng Yan attributes the success of the curriculum to a 3-step procedure developed by MTI Professor Wang Hong. The students—about 50 participate in the course—first read relevant material and research United Nations terminology before rendering the *Express* into Chinese. Four professors of translation then revise and comment on the translations. Finally, Ms. Zeng polishes the resulting product for submission to the Yearbook Unit with a view to accuracy, clarity, conciseness and consistency across the board.

The biggest challenge faced by students lies in successfully translating the myriad of technical terms and phrases that define the work of the United Nations, including the names of organizations and special United Nations activities. Students are required to regularly check the multilingual terminology database UN-Term or the online Official Document System in order to align their results with the accepted translation. The University has also established a terminology database of its own that includes all the unique terms that students have encountered during their work and whose translations have been confirmed by United Nations sources.

The curriculum provides an unparalleled opportunity for MTI students to gain rewarding hands-on experience with real United Nations material and in working to meet actual United Nations requirements and standards. As one student remarks: “After translating UN documents for a semester, I feel that my translation competence has been reinforced. It is also easier for me to deal with long and complicated sentences.” Another student comments: “The *Express* translation is a combination of independent thinking and group collaboration. We develop a sense of responsibility as well as a sense of achievement.” A fellow student, who finds that

the work also helps broaden her horizons in terms of international affairs, avers: “I am extremely proud of engaging in this translation project and getting in touch with the United Nations.”

The Yearbook Unit—which apart from its cooperation with Soochow University works with teams of translators recruited through the United Nations Volunteers Online Volunteering Service—deeply appreciates the high-quality translations produced by Soochow University and would welcome similar forms of collaboration with other academic institutions in translating the *Yearbook Express* into other United Nations official languages.

‘We are in a race against time,’ says Ban, as leaders sign landmark Paris climate accord



As world leaders gathered at United Nations Headquarters in New York this morning to officially sign the Paris Agreement on

climate change – the landmark accord that sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous global warming – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on Member States to move quickly to join the accord at the national level so that it can enter into force as early as possible.

“Let us never forget – climate action is not a burden; indeed, it offers many benefits,” the UN chief said as he opened the High Level Signature Ceremony for the Paris Agreement in the General Assembly Hall.

“It can help us eradicate poverty, create green jobs, defeat hunger, prevent instability and improve the lives of girls and women,” he added.

The ceremony was opened by a brass quintet from the Juilliard School in New York, which played Spring from Vivaldi’s Four Seasons.

Mr. Ban then introduced Getrude Clement, 16-year-old radio reporter from Tanzania and a UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) youth climate mapper, who focused on why climate action is crucial for children. They, she said, would feel its effects most acutely. “We expect action, action on a big scale,

and we expect action today, not tomorrow,” she emphasized. “The future is ours, and the future is bright.”



outside.

“Record global temperatures. Record ice loss. Record carbon levels in the atmosphere. We are in a race against time,” Mr. Ban stressed.

Indeed, he emphasized that the window for keeping global temperature rise well below two degrees Celsius – let alone 1.5 degrees – is “rapidly closing.”

“The era of consumption without consequences is over. We must intensify efforts to decarbonize our economies. And we must support developing countries in making this transition. The poor and most vulnerable must not suffer further from a problem they did not create,” the Secretary-General said.

In that vein, the UN chief highlighted that climate action is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

“Today is a day that I have worked toward since day one as Secretary-General of the United Nations and declared climate change to be my top priority. Today you are signing a new covenant with the future,” he said.

The covenant must amount to “more than promises,” Mr. Ban stressed, and find expression in actions taken today on behalf of the current generation and all future generations.

“It must find expression in actions we take today on behalf of this generation and all future generations – actions that reduce climate risk and protect communities, and actions that place us on a safer, smarter path,” the Secretary-General said.

Mr. Ban highlighted that participants would be joined at the morning’s events by 197 children, representing the Parties that have adopted the Paris Agreement.

“Of course, they represent more than this. These young people are our future. Our covenant is with them,” he said.

In his remarks, Mr. Ban also underscored that while it is good news that States are breaking records at the UN – records are also being broken

“Today is a day for our children and grandchildren and all generations to come. Together, let us turn the aspirations of Paris into action. As you show by the very act of signing today, the power to build a better world is in your hands,” Mr. Ban concluded.

Also speaking at the opening ceremony was General Assembly President Mogens Lykketoft, who congratulated Member States, civil society and business leaders for “keeping the pressure on” and taking initiatives to “keep the momentum going.”

“This is a moment of great hope,” Mr. Lykketoft stressed.

“We must raise the level of ambition even further. We must take urgent and bold steps to make this transformation happen,” he added.

Today’s event coincides with International Mother Earth Day, and in his message on the Day, Mr. Ban said that the Paris accord, in conjunction with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, holds the power to transform our world.

The Paris Agreement was adopted by all 196 Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris on 12 December 2015, widely known as COP 21. In the Agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius.

François Hollande, President of France, host of COP 21, recalled the spirit of solidarity expressed at the conference and stressed that the terrorist attacks on Paris had been the backdrop to the Agreement. World leaders had nevertheless demonstrated their ability to come together with a sense of partnership and responsibility to ensure that an agreement would be the fruit of the Paris meeting, as a symbolic act for the rest of the world.

Never in the history of the United Nations had it been possible to bring together 170 countries to sign an agreement, all together, on one day, he noted, emphasizing that there is no turning back now. The world must accelerate action to implement low-carbon policies.

Noting that some \$100 billion is needed between now and 2020, he said every country must set an example, particularly developed countries, by stepping up contributions for combating climate change. “It is not just a question of States taking action, the entire world must come together,” he stressed. “Everyone must feel that they have a stake in this.”

Also addressing the ceremony, Academy Award-winning actor Leonardo DiCaprio said that as a UN Messenger of Peace, he had been travelling all over the world for the last two years, documenting how this crisis is changing the natural balance of our planet. He has seen cities like Beijing choked by industrial pollution; ancient boreal forests in Canada that have been clearcut; rainforests in Indonesia that have been incinerated; and unprecedented droughts in California.

“All that I have seen and learned on this journey has terrified me [...] I do not need to throw statistics at you. You know them better than I do, and more importantly, you know what will happen if this scourge is left unchecked,” he told the delegates, adding: “Now think about the shame that each of us will carry when our children and grandchildren look back and realize that we had the means of stopping this devastation, but simply lacked the political will to do so.”

Indeed, Mr. DiCaprio continued, the historic signing of the Paris Agreement is reason for hope, but evidence shows that will not be enough. “Our planet cannot be saved unless we leave fossil fuels in the ground where they belong. An upheaval and massive change is required now – one that leads to a new collective consciousness. A new collective evolution of the human race inspired and enabled by a sense of urgency from all of you,” he said.

So, after 21 years of debates and conferences “it is time to declare no more talk. No more excuses. No more 10-year studies. No more allowing the fossil fuel companies to manipulate and dictate the science and policies that affect our future. This is the only body that can do what is needed. You, sitting in this very hall. The world is now watching. You will either be lauded by future generations, or vilified by them.”

The Race is On to Choose the Next UN Secretary-General!



This year marks the last year in office for United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which means that the race is on to

selected a new SG to lead the organization for the next five years. The post of Secretary-General has been described as “the most impossible job in the world,” while the official UN description says the

job is “Equal parts diplomat and advocate, civil servant and CEO.”

In the past the selection of the Secretary-General has been done via a process shrouded in mystery and not accessible to the average citizen. But this year the process is moving into the 21st century with candidates participating in town halls and taking questions submitted via social media from people all over the world.

In December 2015, the President of the General Assembly, Mogens Lykketoft and the President of the Security Council, Ambassador Samantha Power of the United States, invited Member States to nominate candidates for the next SG, placing an emphasis on gender equality by encouraging States to put forth women candidates. In its 70 year history the organization has had eight Secretaries-General, all men, and many people feel that the time has come for a woman to lead the organization. Between 30 December 2015 and 12 April 2016, 9 candidates have been put forward by their respective governments. Thus far the candidates include: Irina Bokova of Bulgaria; Helen Clark of New Zealand; Natalia Gherman of the Republic of Moldova; António Guterres of Portugal; Vuk Jeremić of the Republic of Serbia; Srgjan Kerim of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Igor Lukšić of Montenegro; Vesna Pusić of the Republic of Croatia; and Danilo Türk of Slovenia.

In an attempt to make the selection process more transparent and inclusive, for the first time in seven decades candidates were invited to hold informal dialogues in which they answered questions from Member State representatives, members of civil society and the general public. The talks took place over the course of two days, 12 to 14 April 2016, at UN headquarters in New York.

The questions raised covered a range of issues from the Sustainable Development Goals to human rights, gender equality and climate change.

While Member States will have the final word on who gets to lead the UN for the next five years, the informal dialogues were a departure from business as usual and offered people the opportunity to participate in the process and challenged candidates to speak to a broader constituency than had been the case in the past.

To learn more about the selection process of the UN Secretary-General, please visit:

<http://www.un.org/pga/70/sg/>. If you missed the candidates' informal dialogues you can watch them all on the UN webcast at <http://webtv.un.org/>.

East Stroudsburg South UNAI ASPIRE Students Help Families Globally



From the launch of the United Nations Academic Impact on 18 November 2010, UNAI continues to influence and inspire students all around the world to

take action in their communities. In September students from the ASPIRE chapter of East Stroudsburg South High School in Pennsylvania visited the UN to celebrate and help raise awareness on the International Day of Peace. Michael Healey, UNAI Aspire advisor and AP US Government and Politics teacher at East Stroudsburg South, has continued to promote and work towards the goals of UNAI with his students over the last 5 years.

Following their visit to the UN, ASPIRE students and students in Mr. Healey's AP US Government class are actively trying to find new ways in which they can impact and improve their community. They began their school year with a fundraiser for the Malala Fund to benefit Syrian girls' education. In February, Khiabeth Burgos, a senior, proposed a challenge to students at the start of the Spring Semester: develop a new idea each month to help the community. Annette Shukaitis, a junior, proposed an idea to collect and donate money to Heifer International to buy a goat, which will be given to a family in East Africa. Heifer International is a charity that purchases animals, such as goats or chickens, and gives them to families in developing communities to improve their daily lives.

"Two years ago my grandparents decided that instead of buying all the grandkids expensive Christmas presents they would take half of each grandchild's Christmas money and see how much money they had before donating it to Heifer to give an animal to a village. All of the grandchildren thought it was a wonderful idea and on Christmas day we were happy to find out that a family would be receiving a baby goat with our Christmas money," said Annette.

Students plan on raising awareness throughout the school by walking around with cans to collect donations. Previously, with the Malala Fund, students collected over \$700.00 in spare change school wide.

"These students are inspired to put words into action. I am honored to teach and work with youth with such potential and passion," Mr. Healey commented.

Each week, a group of students put time aside to get together and tally the donations collected. The drive was set to end in mid-March with the goal of \$150.00.

Students are taking initiative by making promotional videos to show throughout their school. Joelle Duroseau, a junior, took the lead and produced a video with facts, statistics, and information about the fundraiser and global poverty. Students shared this on Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and in our local media.

The true message of UNAI is evidenced in the work of these ASPIRE and AP US Government students. They illustrate that education is transformational in classrooms and across the globe. To conclude the drive, a final money count was performed on 4 March 2016 with the students surpassing their goal by over one hundred dollars with \$294. These funds will be used to purchase two goats and chickens to enhance the livelihood and opportunities for communities in developing areas. In April, students will begin fundraising for their school district's Very Special Prom, an event which provides an end of the year formal Gala for Special Needs students. UNAI ASPIRE and AP US Government students along with their advisers Michael Healey and Michele Vella will attend the prom as helpers and supportive community members.

Call for International Law Competition

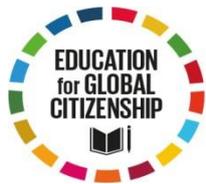


International Law Competition "Youth for Peace" is an annual contest for students from different countries. The participants are expected to

demonstrate excellent knowledge of international humanitarian law, international public law and human rights law, as well as ability to adapt to the

changing environment. The Competition provides students with an opportunity to enrich and extend their knowledge in the sphere of international humanitarian law through participation in the simulated armed conflict. For more information please see [here](#)

The 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference



Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together

GYEONGJU, REPUBLIC OF KOREA
30 MAY-01 JUNE 2016

The 66th United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)/Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference will be held in the City of Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, from 30 May to 1 June 2016.

The conference is the first in its history to be held in Asia. Organized by the NGO Relations and Advocacy Section of the United Nations Department of Public Information, in partnership with the Republic of Korea, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, and the National Organizing Committee of Korea, the theme of the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference is “Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together.”

The Conference will take place during the launch year of the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals, and aims at mobilizing civil society and academic organizations around the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on education and global citizenship as drivers for change and action.

To find more about the 66th UN DPI/NGO Conference, or wish to make a reservation, please click [here](#).

International Bioethics Summer School



A Manhattan-based international NGO associated with UNAI, Global Bioethics Initiative (GBI),

organizes two bioethics summer schools in 2016, one in New York City and one in Dubrovnik, Croatia, July & August 2016. The lectures and discussions deal with the ethics of contentious international issues ranging from end-of-life care/the right to die to organ donation/trafficking, to mental illness/addiction and to HIV surveillance, among those. For more information about the program in New York and how to apply, please click [here](#); for more information about the program in Dubrovnik and how to apply, please click [here](#).

Upcoming International Days and Observances

3 May: [World Press Freedom Day](#)

15 May: [International Day of Families](#)

29 May: [International Day of UN Peacekeepers](#)

5 June: [World Environment Day](#)

8 June: [World Oceans Day](#)

12 June: [World Day Against Child Labour](#)

20 June: [World Refugee Day](#)

21 June: [International Day of Yoga](#)

11 July: [World Population Day](#)

15 July: [World Youth Skills Day](#)

18 July: [Nelson Mandela International Day](#)

30 July: [International Day of Friendship](#)

12 August: [International Youth Day](#)

19 August: [World Humanitarian 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/1VILphy>

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://www.unmultimedia.org/>

- Honouring Peacekeepers (Programme #1512; TRT 3'54")
- A Bird Watcher's Paradise (Programme #1513; TRT 4'29")
- Zanzibar Island: Leadership Roles for Women (Programme #1514; TRT 4'20")

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