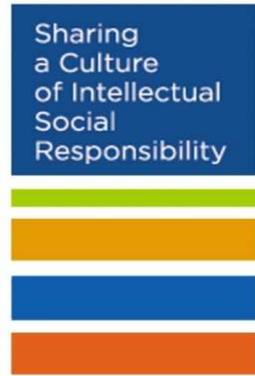




# UNAI NEWSLETTER



**March - May 2015**

## Secretary-General visits Republic of Korea for Key Education Events



At the end of May, the Secretary-General undertook a trip to the Republic of Korea to attend a series of events, including those involving students. While in the Republic of Korea, the Secretary-

General attended a special ceremony at Ewha University where he received an honorary Doctorate Degree in Women's Studies. [Speaking at the ceremony](#), the Secretary-General reiterated the fundamental importance of equality for women: "Respect for women is basic. Now we need true equality. This is not just a slogan. I am calling for a 50:50 gender equality by 2030. This is a rallying cry that we are prepared to back with action."

Opening the Academic Impact Forum, [the Secretary-General](#) called on youth to take action: "I am calling on young people to raise their voices for peace. I ask them often why don't you challenge your leaders, your professors, your congressmen and CEOs. Make this world sustainable. This is the world I will have to leave. Make this situation sustainable. And I am insisting that governments start to listen to the world's youth – including giving them a place at the negotiating table."

He also praised UN Academic Impact Korea for helping to launch the "Friends of UNAI" initiative at the UN to generate more support for the Academic Impact, noting that "the academic community is making important contributions to the United Nations push for sustainable development and a sustainable future."

## Spotlight on Kazakhstan



In May, the Head of the UN Department of Communications and Public Information, Ms. Cristina Gallach visited Kazakhstan.

During this trip, Ms. Gallach visited Astana where she participated in a round-table on global citizenship to KAZGUU University, to which she also presented a certificate of membership of UN Academic Impact.

In Almaty, Ms. Gallach visited al-Farabi Kazakh National University, the UNAI Global Hub on Sustainability. She spoke to a gathering of students about the work of the UN, 2015 as a time for global action, the proposed Sustainable Development Goals, and the role that UNAI members can play in helping to build a better world. She also addressed a separate roundtable of students on UN issues and met with senior leadership at the university.

## United Nations at 70



The seventieth anniversary of the United Nations is an opportunity to reflect – to look back on the UN's history and take

stock of its enduring achievements. Content is available to share for this seventieth anniversary, including videos and other material for social media, logos, and details of events planned. Find out more via the official website:

<http://www.un.org/un70>.

## Empowering Youth to Power the World



**Youth empowerment a focus at the second annual UN Sustainable Energy for All Forum in New York City, 18 to 21 May.**

By Zinnia Batliwalla, UNAI Intern

Leaders from government, business and civil society gathered at the second annual UN Sustainable Energy for All Forum (SE4All) in May to share and advance sustainable solutions on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy. A focus of the forum was youth engagement and empowerment to ensure a sustainable energy future.

Currently one out of five people live without access to electricity. This means no light after the sun sets, inadequate lighting in education and health facilities, and limited opportunities for economic growth and development. In response to this hidden crisis, the SE4All initiative was launched in 2011 by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and aims to achieve the following three inter-linked global targets by 2030:

- To ensure universal access to modern energy services
- To double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- To double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

Addressing energy poverty, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preventing climate change, is an important issue. Collaboration with youth is critical as this is the first generation to grow up understanding the direct impacts of global climate change and the last generation with the ability to do something about it.

During the SE4All session, Rising Tide: Harnessing the Power of Youth, young people described the challenges and triumphs of implementing their own sustainable energy initiatives. Ruby Wynn-

Williams represented Melbourne Girls College and explained how her school's Environment Team develops community-based projects aimed at educating fellow students on the cost of energy so they recognize how their energy use impacts the world. The Environment Team has installed solar panels to power a charging station for students' electronic devices and they have developed energy-generating gym equipment powered by kinetic energy to provide students with a tangible example of the energy required to power their lives.

Dikirani Thaulo of Zayed Solar Academy in Malawi discussed how a programme at his school provides youth with the training to install solar panels to those who do not have access to electricity. By providing training for solar panel installation, more Malawians now have access to energy that is sustainable and renewable.

Energy issues are complex problems that require complex solutions and collaboration across disciplines. Access to energy must be evaluated in developing countries, new technology that provides sustainable energy must be developed, and policy-makers must be guided by evidence-based research. Most importantly, future generations must continue to learn about the impacts of climate change and be encouraged to develop innovative and viable energy solutions.

For more information follow @SE4All on Twitter and visit the forum website at [www.se4allforum.org](http://www.se4allforum.org).

### **New UNAI Academic Writing Series**

You may have noticed while reading the UNAI website a new series of academic articles. The first was published in May, by scientist Stuart Kauffman FRSC. In the article, Professor Kauffman discusses his concept of the "*prestatable*" and its relationship to economics and development. Read more on the [UNAI website](#).

## The UNAI Verdentum Project on Climate Change



Students across the world were able to connect and work together to tackle issues surrounding climate change, in a programme co-launched by UNAI. The programme, called the UNAI Verdentum Project on Climate Change, allows students to create profiles and join projects launched by governments, UN bodies, and international organizations, to tackle serious global issues.

The UNAI Verdentum project urged students to attempt to reduce energy consumption at their schools by 5 per cent or conduct other environmentally friendly activities, such as tree plantation. Schools were involved from Costa Rica, the United States, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal, Uganda, India, China, the Philippines, and Australia.

### What is Verdentum?

Verdentum is a non-profit social network, which functions through a simple 4-step process. First, a government or UN body defines a global issue that is seriously affecting the planet and creates a programme to address it. For example, a government programme that aims to educate students on water pollution with reading material and questions to think about. Once a programme is created, students/schools and universities around the globe join the programme, read the material, understand the gravity of the situation and look at possible solutions. Schools in different locations then get paired for a videoconference to communicate with each other, to develop a relationship, learn from each other and explore how the problem differs from area to area. Finally, participants in each school perform an action-

step identified by the government or UN body. For example, a water pollution programme could ask students to clean their local lakes. If you have students in 100 nations cleaning their lakes simultaneously, you can have massive on-the-ground impact.

### The inaugural pilot programme: The UNAI Verdentum Project on Climate Change

This year the first beta programme on Verdentum was launched: the UNAI Verdentum Project on Climate Change. Students began the programme by reading the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Summary on Climate Change for Policy Makers. The students then looked at challenging questions about climate change, discussed their opinions about it with other students around the world.



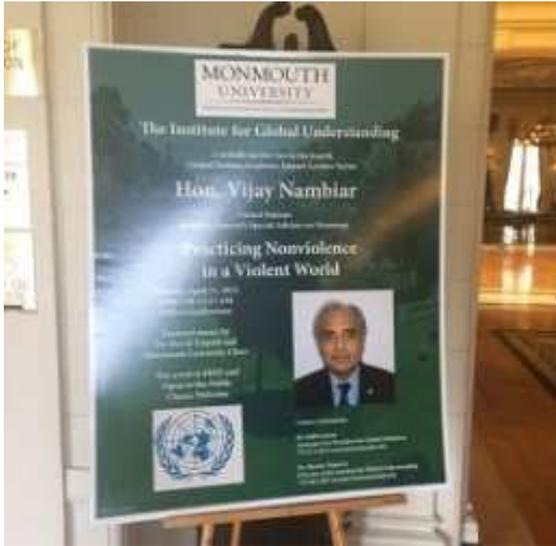
*Photo: Students at the International School of Zug and Lucern, Switzerland video-conference with a partner school in the Philippines to discuss the effects of global warming, as part of the UNAI Verdentum Project on Climate Change.*

### What's ahead?

Several projects are being planned to be launched by UN bodies and international organizations to coincide with the UN's 70th anniversary. Students globally will be able to work with the UN and fellow students to address difficult and serious problems impacting the world today.

Any UN bodies, governments, affiliated organizations, or students can contact [info@verdentum.org](mailto:info@verdentum.org) to find out more about launching programmes. Verdentum's website is [www.verdentum.org](http://www.verdentum.org)

## UNAI Lecture at Monmouth University with Amb. Vijay Nambiar



By Martin Schoenhals, UNAI Consultant

Ambassador Vijay Nambiar, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar, delivered the 2015 United Nations Academic Impact annual lecture at Monmouth University in April entitled “Practicing Non-violence in a Violent World.” Mr. Nambiar based his analysis within the larger philosophical treatment of nonviolence, focusing on Gandhi’s writings about the issue. His talk provided a compelling review of recent strides made by the UN to confront violence.

He noted that the focus of peacekeeping has shifted in recent decades to conflict within nations, rather than between them. New tactics of war, the absence of clear battlefields, and diversification of parties to conflicts, as well as the use of new technologies have caused increased risks of the killing of children, leading to increased international attention to this form of violence.

Mr. Nambiar offered three conclusions: Practising nonviolence does not mean being unwilling to fight or acquiescing in injustice. As long as people remain intent on pursuing zero sum solutions to individual and collective differences, the impulse to violence cannot be contained; and, the bedrock of all human rights, duties and values must be based on the affirmation of life.

## Human Rights’ Protection in Europe, a Dialogue between Luxembourg, Strasbourg, Karlsruhe and Paris



Report from Yann Toma, Paris-Sorbonne University

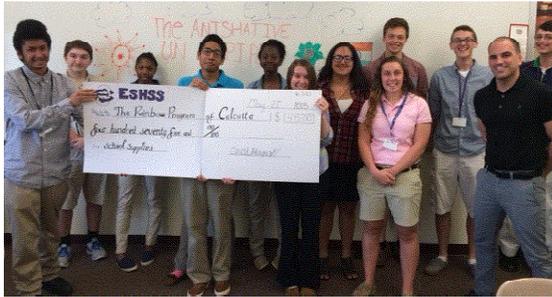
On 30 May 2015, the UNAI Global Hub on Human Rights, the Paris-Sorbonne University, held a ceremony and panel discussion with the University of Cologne to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their joint French German law degree (LL.B. Köln/Paris 1). In addition to the participation of several high-ranking judges from both countries, French and Ministers of Justice attended the anniversary of the “Double-Maîtrise”.

The protection of Human Rights in Europe was the predominant issue during the day, and the importance of mastering the other countries’ language was highlighted. During a panel discussion “Human Rights’ protection in Europe” the complex relationship between the three levels of Human Rights’ protection in Europe, consisting of national (constitutional) law, European Union law and international law was examined.

## Launch of 2015 Education for All Global Monitoring Report

Head of the UN Department of Communications and Public Information, Ms. Cristina Gallach, spoke alongside Mr. Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University; UN Assistant Secretary-General Mr. Thomas Gass, Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA; and senior representatives of UNESCO and UNICEF at the launch of the “2015 Education for All Global Monitoring Report”, held at UN Headquarters in New York on 9 April. Representatives of Ghana, Mongolia and Nepal also participated.

## Fostering a Culture of Intellectual Responsibility



On November 18th, 2014, the 4th Anniversary of the launch of United Nations Academic Impact, students from UNAI member institutions Monmouth University and the ASPIRE chapter of East Stroudsburg South High School met in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at UN Headquarters for a day of discussion titled “Integrated Health, Integrated Approaches”. In the audience, ASPIRE student Anish Bhagwat was moved to action by a presentation by Sarah Mustafa, Monmouth University. Sarah spoke of her work with The Rainbow Program of Calcutta, India, which provides schooling, shelter, and services for children who would otherwise be left alone on the streets.

Anish inspired by both Sarah’s work and words with The Rainbow Program returned to his community and collaborated with UNAI ASPIRE members to mobilized the entire student body of 1474 students at East Stroudsburg South High School to put his idea- “The Anishative”, into action.

The Rainbow Home program secures the basic rights of the girl child through guaranteed education, nutrition, clothing, health care, recreation, love and support to ensure their reintegration into mainstream Indian society. The girls are enrolled in regular school programmes and age appropriate classes, usually after a short period of remedial teaching as well as by a wide volunteer base and buddy programmes with children/students in more privileged schools.

The Rainbow Program also acts as a catalyst in the community, encouraging other school drop-outs and poor children from nearby slums and shanties to attend school without fear of stigma and reproachment.

Anish and ASPIRE adviser Michael Healey contacted Dr. Rekha Datta, who spearheaded Monmouth’s relationship with UNAI, for further information on The Rainbow Program. Dr. Datta encouraged Anish to put his plan into action and shared first hand experiences on the impact donations make upon the programme’s students. The ASPIRE cohort set a goal of collecting “loose change to make a change” with the hopes of raising \$200. Within four weeks, the students had collected \$475 for school supplies and books.

This display of empowerment, this exchange of inspiration and energy between two students at the UNAI 4th Anniversary Conference is in the true spirit of United Nations Academic Impact.

## Annual International Association of University Presidents Fiftieth Anniversary



The International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in Oxford, UK with a conference on 24 May. Entitled “Higher Education 2065,” the conference took place at Trinity College, University Oxford. Participants considered the political, economic, social, cultural and technological trends that will shape their work and what higher education institutions must do to prepare for future challenges. The conference was organized by UNAI member Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Oxford was the location for the inaugural meeting of the IAUP, where, 65 years ago, a group of university vice-chancellors, rectors, and presidents from around the world met. The picture above shows this first meeting, where speakers included historian Arnold Toynbee, statesman Adlai Stevenson, financier John Paul Getty, and diplomat William David Ormsby-Gore, 5th Baron Harlech. Since then, the IAUP has worked to promote peace and understanding through academic cooperation and engagement. Read the message from the UN Secretary-General to this 65th meeting of the IAUP [here](#).

## 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/1LKesmh>

- "Central African Republic: The Path Out of Violence" (12'23")
- "The Republic of Congo: Planting the Seeds of the Future" (9'20")



### **UN in Action short feature series**

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

- Rodney's Journey: Making the Ark of Return (6'22") (#1475)
- Bolivia: Potatoes in Peril (4'13) (#1476)
- Tanzania: Albinos Under Attack (4'56) (#1477)
- Displaced in Ukraine (4'02) (#1478)

### **UN Audio Channels App for Mobile**

Listen to on the go from your smartphone. 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](http://academicimpact.un.org)