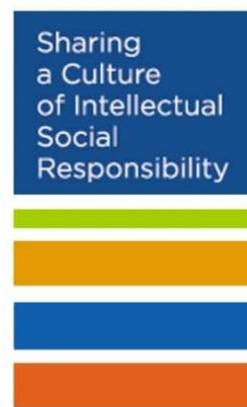




# UNAI NEWSLETTER



## Climate change: UNAI in action

The latest report on climate change,

issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on 13 April has added new urgency for global action (<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg3/>). Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, welcoming its findings, has urged all countries “to act swiftly and boldly” to reach a “global, ambitious and legal [climate] agreement in 2015.”

But action on climate change does not have to wait political agreement by Member States. Each of us can do our part. UNAI member institutions are already engaged in promoting climate change, both within the classroom and outside.

On 3 March, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty formally took over as the new UNAI global hub on sustainability. In a letter addressed to UNAI members, Galym Mutanov, Rector of KazNU, has described this as “an important mission” and invited other UNAI members to join the global efforts in support of sustainable development.

University of Essex, a leading university in UK and a member of UNAI, continues to lead initiatives in support of the United Nations goal on climate change and sustainability. Its latest initiative was a seminar on Green Innovation and Business Growth, organized as part of the United Kingdom’s annual Climate Week (3 – 9 March 2014). (Find more about it here: <http://bit.ly/1tLrA2V>)

As part of its efforts to promote understanding and thought on climate change among its members, UNAI has reached an understanding with the Shorenstein Center of Harvard University on sharing, on its website, their “IPCC made simple” precis as well as accompanying teaching tools they have prepared.

UNAI will also include on its website opinion pieces by academics and researchers associated with UNAI and provide greater coverage to efforts by UNAI members on climate change.

In an opinion piece, written especially for UNAI, Rick Hesel, a senior adviser to the International Association of University Presidents, refutes some of the assessments of and critical reaction to the IPCC report. Writing as an academic, but also as a father, he notes that consequences of climate change are real. “Without concerted action and sacrifice by all, our very existence on the planet is at stake,” he concludes. For more: <http://bit.ly/1cP9Oe>

To bolster the Secretary-General’s appeal, the United Nations Academic Impact is teaming up with *Climate Voices, Science Speakers Network*. This web-based platform brings scientists and their fellow citizens together in discussions of climate science and local impacts of climate change. UNAI invites its members specializing in climate studies to create a profile on the Climate Voices website (<http://climatevoices.org>) which will allow them to be contacted by the public to join local gatherings and give brief, context-setting presentations on climate science and to then initiate discussions about climate change with the audience. For further information, please contact: [cschmidt@ucar.edu](mailto:cschmidt@ucar.edu)

## **Stop blood-letting in the Central African Republic: Desmond Tutu joins call by UN Secretary-General**



*Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of South Africa has been a strong supporter of the United Nations Academic Impact. Recently, UNAI shared with the Nobel Peace laureate the video message of the Secretary-General, in which he calls for an end to the blood-letting in the Central African Republic. In*

*response, on 20 April, the Archbishop issued his own appeal, joining hands with Secretary-General Ban.*

“While the Central African Republic has experienced more than its fair share of coups, power grabs, authoritarianism and corruption since throwing off the shackles of colonial rule in 1960, the country's Christian and Muslim citizens have to a great extent lived in a state of impoverished harmony.

But over the past 13 months, the nation's seemingly incessant struggles for political power and resources have degenerated into anarchy, hatred and ethnic cleansing – the country stands on the brink of genocide; some would say it has already commenced.

The announcement that the United Nations is to deploy a peacekeeping force is a massive relief. The United Nations will help – and the African Union and France already are – to protect the people from themselves. They will assist to restore broken systems, including policing and justice.

But, as Christians celebrate their spiritual resurrection through the resurrection of Jesus Christ this Easter, I particularly want to associate myself with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call to the leaders and people of the Central African Republic to rekindle the spirit of tolerance and mutual respect.

Among God's greatest gifts to people – all people, including Christians, Muslims, Animists and atheists – are the abilities to determine right from

wrong, to reason and to reconcile our differences. When we forgive we liberate ourselves and sow a seed for a new beginning; it has a powerful multiplier effect.

It is the people of the Central African Republic who hold the key to sustainable peace. It is the people who must re-learn to live together.”

### **Diversity contest for university and college students in second phase**

The diversity contest, launched by Unhate Foundation of Italy, in cooperation with the United Nations Academic Impact, has entered its second phase. This education-oriented initiative asks students, researchers and faculty members to develop, prepare, and present a specific initiative at the local or community level that clearly promotes the ideal of tolerance, respect for diversity and harmony within and between peoples.

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

The news, now uploaded on the UNHATE Foundation website, will be reviewed by young people worldwide, who are invited to vote on the news submitted by clicking the “like’ button of the contest’s Facebook page.

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

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

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

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



### **International Week at University of Applied Sciences, Upper Austria**

UNAI member, the University of Applied Sciences, Upper Austria, will host the 2014 International Week from 11 – 14 May.

The Week will consist of two parts: guest lectures and the Cross-Cultural Business Conference. The conference offers its guest lecturers the possibility to hand in papers for publications and to engage in scientific discussion during the Cross-Cultural Business Conference, which is embedded in the annual International Week. In order to increase the international atmosphere, each guest lecturer or researcher is invited to bring along a group of students, who will participate in the lectures offered during the International Week. The Cross-Cultural Business Conference will cover areas like the key management subjects of the study programme Global Sales and Marketing in an intercultural environment. For more: <http://bit.ly/1hPykYM>

### **KazNU to host III Asian Universities Forum**



Al-Farabi Kazakh National University, the UNAI global hub on sustainability, will host the III Asian Universities Forum in Almaty on 21 – 23 May 2014. The theme of the conference is:

“Eurasian diversity and the role of universities in sustainable development.”

The meeting, taking place within the overall framework of the VII Astana Economic Forum, will consider issues related to internationalizing higher education in the Eurasian region and on enhancing the role of universities in creating conditions for sustainable development. It is also expected to develop practical recommendations for the development of the internationalization of Asian universities through joint projects on sustainable development and modernization of higher education systems of Asian universities.

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



### **University of Warwick, UK hosts workshop on Africa and the Post-2015**

The University of Warwick, a UNAI member, held on 19-20 March 2014 a workshop focusing on supranational place branding and sustainable development, with a particular focus on Africa and the Post-2015. Yvette Stevens, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, Geneva, was the keynote speaker. The Workshop, sponsored by the Department of Politics and International Studies and its UNAI programme, explored further research collaborative projects, and a special edition of a journal.

Speaking at the workshop, Robert Hinson, Associate Professor in the Department of Marketing and Customer Management, University of Ghana Business School, observed that majority of the countries in Africa are not communicating comprehensively online. He posed five provocative questions: What type of Brand Africa do we want? What will the unique selling proposition of Brand Africa be? What level of resource commitments do we need for a strong effective Brand Africa? Who will initiate the Brand Africa effort? and Who will oversee the nurturing, monitoring and evaluation of Brand Africa?

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

### **“Let’s Skype It” on employment opportunities, 19 May**

UNAI will host its next “classroom conversation” via Skype on 19 May 2014 at 11:30 a.m. (New York time). The topic is employment opportunities with the United Nations. At the moment, the conversation is planned with graduate students of the European School of Management and Technology, Berlin. Other schools interested to be part of this conversation are requested to contact Hasan Ferdous at [ferdous@un.org](mailto:ferdous@un.org)

## **UNAI-Korea to host conference on international education, 13 – 14 May**

Korean Association in Support of UNAI, a broad platform of over 40 colleges and universities in the Republic of Korea, will host an international conference that will focus on education. The title of the conference is "Education Next: New Educational System under a Unified Korea" and include such topics for discussion as: role of various actors in Korean society on collaboration to design a new school system under a unified Korea; preparing the next generation of educators and fostering collaboration among international actors.

Among those invited attend are Maher Nasser, Director, Outreach Division of the UN Department of Public Information, Dr. Chester E. Finn, Former Assistant Secretary of Education and current Senior Fellow at Stanford Hoover Institution; and Dr. Katherine Merseth, Senior Lecturer and Director of Teacher Education Programs at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

## **Pomona College Professor Helps Discover Epic New Burgess Shale Fossil Site**

Robert Gaines, a Pomona College professor of geology, was part of the team that has discovered a stunning new Burgess Shale fossil site in Canada's Kootenay National Park. The massive deposit may be the world's most important fossil discovery in decades. In a paper published today in Nature Communications, the team describes the new "Marble Canyon" fossil beds for the first time.

The original Burgess Shale locality, discovered by Charles Walcott in 1909, is one of the world's most important fossil sites and home to some of the planet's earliest animals, including a very primitive human relative. That site was designated one of Canada's first UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1980. The Marble Canyon fossil beds appear to equal the importance of the original discovery, and may one day even surpass it.

Pomona College is a member of UNAI. For more: <http://bit.ly/1nsOZlh>

## **Looking at MOOCs: UNAI and University at Albany initiative**

On June 19, from 4-6 p.m., UNAI will partner with the University at Albany's Rockefeller Institute of Government on a public forum addressing the ongoing controversy over the role of MOOCs – Massive Open Online Courses – in the developing world. Will MOOCs, as advocates maintain, foster educational democratization? Or do they risk, as critics fear, failing to serve those most in need and undermining local institutions?

MOOC pioneer Anant Agarwal, president of edX, a Harvard-MIT collaboration, will serve as the lead speaker, joined by a distinguished panel of MOOC experts for a lively, moderated discussion.



## **Adoption, the untold story**

The United Nations Academic Impact, in association with the Rainbow World, will hold the screening of the film, "Approved for Adoption," on 15 May 2014 at United Nations Headquarters.

"Approved for

Adoption" is an actual memoir of the filmmaker Jung Henin, who was adopted at the age of 5 from South Korea by a Belgian family. This animated movie traces Jung from the day he first meets his new siblings, through exuberant elementary school, and into an awkward teenage years, when his sense of identity starts to create frictions at home. This episodic film will provide us with a great sense of understanding about adoption itself from the perspective of a young boy and make us reflect on today's portrait of adoption.

For this event, Franz Baumann, Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management at the United Nations Secretariat in New York will join as a panelist. Jung Henin (filmmaker), Lynn Franklin, author of "May the Circle be Unbroken," and Prof. Kim Park Nelson of Minnesota State University Moorhead, will also attend.



## **Combatting slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: “listen to the survivors”**

*The following excerpts of an article, originally published in Huffington Post, is by Kevin Ryan, president and CEO of Covenant House*

*International. Mr. Ryan was among those who attended a half-day seminar at UN Headquarters, organized by Albany Law School and UNAI on 9 April.*

As we gathered at the United Nations earlier this month, I felt the emergence of a movement. Advocates and activists convened for "Combatting Slavery in the 21st Century," determined to shine a light on the forced sexual exploitation and forced labor that enslave millions across the world.

We heard about varying forms of slavery over the centuries, domestic workers earning a pittance an hour, and the effects of deep poverty and immigration law on trafficked people. Professor Melissa Breger of Albany Law School observed that, worldwide, two children are sexually trafficked every minute.

I told the story of young Raquel, who, at great risk to her safety, testified against her traffickers in Guatemala, and, when asked what their sentence should be, asked that they be jailed, "so they won't be able do that to other girls."

The most compelling sentence of the day? "Consent is irrelevant...in the face of great vulnerability." That's the gist of the Palermo Protocol, the United Nations document setting forth the terms of our global fight against human trafficking, which 159 countries have signed.

That one sentence sums up what we see too often among trafficked people, particularly the homeless youth we serve at Covenant House -- If you're a prostituted person who is younger than the age of consent, society sees you as a criminal, when you are actually a victim of statutory rape. If you are prostituted and raped through force, fraud, or coercion, you had no real choice in the matter. And, on a larger scale, if you're prostituted

because it was the only way you can obtain shelter, or food, or because your life is devoid of financial security and opportunity, you too are being exploited.

Warda Henning, an international lawyer with the United Nations, said human trafficking is a \$32 billion industry worldwide, and children make up 27 percent of trafficked people. The vulnerability of kids feeds this marketplace. Women and girls account for two-thirds of trafficking victims, and only one in 100 trafficking victims ever gets rescued.

We heard talk of nation-wide policies that have reduced the number of trafficking victims. Dorchen A. Leidholdt, director of the Center for Battered Women's Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families, spoke about how in countries like The Netherlands and Germany, the legalization of prostitution went hand-in-hand with increases in trafficking and crime, leading to the conclusion that legalization was "a well-meaning law that was little more than a subsidy for pimps."

Building a movement is never easy, but we can start by listening to the voices of survivors and placing their intelligence and experience at the front of our work. We must follow their light, and magnify it.

To read the full article, please visit:

<http://huff.to/1itnCsf>

### **Conflict-Free Campus Initiative**

The Conflict-Free Campus Initiative (CFCI), a flagship programme of the Enough Project's Raise Hope for Congo campaign, works to create consumer demand for conflict-free electronics that do not contribute to war in DRC. CFCI is a network of student activists from over 150 schools around the world who are taking action on their campuses by hosting advocacy events and passing procurement resolutions that promote socially and ethically responsible mineral supply chains from DRC.

UNAI supports this initiative and urges its members to join. Register now to join the movement at <http://www.enoughproject.org/>

For further information, please contact:

[acallaway@enoughproject.org](mailto:acallaway@enoughproject.org)

## University of Tasmania's Faculty of Education celebrates 10 years of international student exchange

This year marks the 10th year for the Faculty of Education students at both the University of Tasmania, and Malmo University in Sweden who have embraced the opportunity of student exchange to experience life at the partner institution. Associate Professor Marion Myhill, Academic Dean at the University of Tasmania, who was involved in initiating the exchange programme in 2004, has been exceptionally impressed with the agreement.

"The (Malmo exchange) programme is particularly well organized, our students are welcomed and supported very warmly, and the programme is very well received by our students. We also very much enjoy receiving the Swedish students in return."

University of Tasmania is a member of UNAI.

### 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 are currently in use in classes and in textbooks for language and business courses.

**Tajikistan: Building Democracy (13'57"):** Struggling to find jobs and hope for a secure future, many young people are leaving. But some are determined to find a new way forward, believing they now have a chance to build democratic traditions in their country.

**Jordan: Syria's Refugees Meet Mama Munira (9'12"):** Over the past three years, Syria's civil war has left more than 130,000 dead and forced millions to flee to neighbouring countries like Jordan.

These and other 21st Century programmes can be found here:  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/21stcentury/>

## Yearbook of the United Nations launches new website with new features

The United Nations has launched the new website of the Yearbook of the United Nations (<http://unyearbook.un.org>), the main reference work on the Organization's activities. Since 1946–47, the Yearbook has served as the authoritative source of information on the United Nations system, providing comprehensive coverage of political and security matters, human rights issues, economic and social questions as well as legal, institutional, administrative and budgetary matters.

The first Yearbook website made its debut in 2008, offering free access to the Yearbook collection. The new website boasts a powerful search engine and enhanced e-book quality readability across all platforms and mobile devices. A scrolling gallery of Yearbook cover art provides clickable access to each of the 63 published Yearbook volumes.

Yearbook Pre-press, a new feature, offers a look at Yearbooks currently in production, with draft Yearbook chapters and detailed chapter research outlines added regularly. The Yearbook Express, an online-only publication comprising all Yearbook chapter introductions in the six official United Nations languages — in addition to the annual Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization — returns, with the 2009 and other editions coming soon.

UNAI members and researchers are encouraged to visit the new website and to use the "Contact" function to provide feedback about their experience.

*The United Nations Academic Impact website is now available in the six official UN languages. Please visit us at <https://academicimpact.un.org>*



# Q&A

## with Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars

good place to live, with the help of the UN, we could get food, sleep and medical treatment. The UN was very supportive in general. Above all, we have strong determination. We wanted to make history and this determination helped to stay united.

*On 2 April 2014, at the invitation of UNAI, four members of Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars took part in a lunch-time conversation on the role of music in promoting peace. What follows is a Q&A based on the conversation, led by Ruben Karoma, the band leader.*

### **How did you four meet with each other?**

Before the war, I played music. After coming to camp, my mission was to look for musicians. Whenever I saw new arrivals, I approached to each of them and I did it until we became four of us.

### **What's the greatest challenge in terms of forming your band?**

One of the challenges when we started our group for the first time was that we only had our voices and one acoustic guitar. We needed something more that we can play for larger audience. That was the first challenge and we tried to get help from the UN. One of the NGOs from Canada helped us a lot by giving two sound boxes and one generator.

Another challenge that I found was to assemble the musicians. I did not have money to pay for these people and they were so desperate to be fed. Luckily, I have a very supportive wife. She did not only supported me but also raised money to help these musicians. With the money, we were able to give food to them so that we could keep our group going. Although refugee camp was not a

### **How did you get contact of the UN?**

UN is responsible for refugees. When we ran [HASAN: "WERE FORCED OUT"? OR "RAN OUT"?] out of our country, we were registered by the UN. UN works with many NGOs. When we were in refugee camp, UN took care of us. This is how we got contact of the UN.

### **You have a strong political message. How did you reconcile the music with your message?**

For me, as a musician, I felt responsibility to help refugees with music. If someone has a grievance and there is no chance to air it out, the person will be eventually satisfied when it is said by others. That is what I did. People have this grievance. But they cannot say it out to anybody. So I took the grievance and thought that this grievance should be heard by other people. By putting them into music, people could listen to it. That's why I did it.

### **One of your songs is, "Living like a refugee is not easy", but its rhythm sounds very happy and active. Why?**

"Living like a refugee" was a grievance of refugees at that time. As a musician, we behave like a journalist. We listen to what people want. And we try to air out their grievances. Another thing is that we always try to make people happy because people are already in a very sad situation.

*You may listen to "Living like a refugee," performed by the Refugee All Stars at the UN here: <http://on.fb.me/QJ6tyI>*

## New e-publications from the UN system



**Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do! (DPI):** The book presents a variety of resources for the reader to learn about history and modern uses of weapons: guns, bombs, nuclear and biological weapons. The reader is encouraged to use that knowledge to foster a dialogue

with peers, the media and politicians. Suggestions are given for points of discussion as well as methods to tailor them to be concise and have impact. The action driven format of the book makes it both an excellent primer on disarmament and also one on civic engagement. For more: <http://bit.ly/1mwQQIy>

**World Water Development Report 2014 (UNESCO):** The World Water Development Report 2014 shines light on the interdependence between the management of water and energy. Thanks to its clarity and relevance, this important document reminds us that the linkages between freshwater and energy are crucial to human well-being and sustainable socio-economic development. To download: <http://bit.ly/1jxOnd9>

**Prosperity for All: Ending Extreme Poverty (World Bank):** The new World Bank paper, Prosperity for All: Ending Extreme Poverty, begins by looking at progress to date in reducing global poverty and discusses some of the challenges of reaching the interim target of reducing global poverty to 9 percent by 2020. Download: <http://bit.ly/1iCTNI7>

**Beyond Macroeconomic Stability: Structural Transformation and Inclusive Development (ILO):** This thought-provoking volume goes beyond the narrow conceptualization of macroeconomic stability to explore the link between structural transformation and inclusive development. To download: <http://bit.ly/Po39rN>

## UN delegates on **UNAI**

During the general debate at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee on Information, a subsidiary body of the United Nations General Assembly on 28 and 29 April 2014, a number of Member States commented on the activities of UNAI. We excerpt:

We have noted with satisfaction the progress made by United Nations Academic Impact initiative and the numerous activities undertaken in partnership with academic community. In Pakistan, it pioneered a programme aimed at bringing children who dropped out of primary school back to mainstream education.

### Masood Anwar, Pakistan

The United Nations Academic Impact initiative is a good example of how we can promote two-way interaction between the UN and civil society and increase their overall involvement in the activities of the Organization.

### Ambassador Hahn Choonghee, Republic of Korea

Japan currently is home to 19 Universities that partake in UNAI initiative, and plans to expand this number to 25 by the end of this year. Japan looks forward to supporting the initiative through informative student briefings that not only introduce the initiative's projects and activities to university students, but also encourage new Japanese universities and academic institutions to join UNAI.

### Shinsuke Shimizu, Japan

India will continue to support UNAI in whatever way it can.

### Rajesh Mishra, India

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

For comments on or queries about UNAI Newsletter, please write to Hasan Ferdous at [ferdous@un.org](mailto:ferdous@un.org)