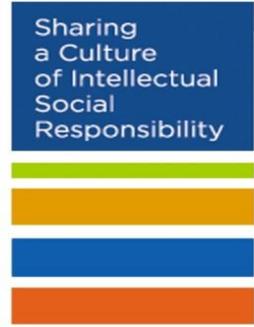




# UNAI NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2016

## 2nd Climate Change Academic Meeting (CCAM 2016) to be Held in Marrakech 10-11 November



With the world teetering on the precipice of irreversible climate change, it is more vital than ever to engage educational institutions to address these trends before it is too late. The University of Cuyo (Argentina), the University of Marrakech (Morocco) and United Nations Academic Impact are hosting a two-day academic conference from 10-11 November in Marrakech on the margins of COP22 to highlight the intellectual social responsibility of universities in addressing questions relating to sustainability and climate change. The event is the only conference where academics can discuss their views on what universities can do to combat climate change, and what responsibility they have to promote sustainable development. Discussions will include how climate change affects migration patterns, scientific and technological solutions to climate change, and how the private sector can be involved in fighting climate change.

To learn more about COP22 and implementing the Paris Climate Change Agreement of 2015 visit: <http://bit.ly/28SJzn2>.

## Messages of Peace from United Nations Academic Impact ASPIRE Chapter of East Stroudsburg South High School



*Students from East Stroudsburg South High School leave messages of peace in chalk at the UN Headquarter in New York.*

Students Mya Guillaume and Francesca Nyakora, members of the ASPIRE chapter at East Stroudsburg High School in Pennsylvania, USA share their reflections on the impact of attending The International Day of Peace Conference on 16 September 2016.

“On 16 September 2016, 70 miles away from our small community in East Stroudsburg, our ASPIRE group arrived at the United Nations for the International Day of Peace where we served as flag bearers for the Peace Bell ceremony. As a Haitian-American I had the honor of carrying the flag of Haiti. Throughout the day, I had the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world and listen to global icons like Stevie Wonder and Leonardo DiCaprio. I learnt that I am one of the lucky few with access to free education and democracy. My personal message to the world is

that it takes many hands to enact change, and that change begins with us.” Mya Guillaume

“Throughout the conference, I realized that as human beings, it is our job to make the world a better place. This change can only be achieved by putting words into action within our communities before going global. After listening to speakers like Stevie Wonder and Leymah Gbowee, who had each experienced tremendous suffering in their lives, I understood that despite how impossible and negative things may seem, you can still make a positive impact in the world. I would like people to know that we are the future of the world and it is important that we do our part to improve it for the generations to come, just as the previous generations have done for us.” Francesca Nyakora.

Watch the related TV news story here:  
[https://youtu.be/JkfhZrgaF\\_0](https://youtu.be/JkfhZrgaF_0)

### UNAI Member Siam University Celebrates International Day of Peace



As part of its commemoration of the International Day of Peace, Siam University launched the ‘LOVE’ Sculpture in its Garden of Peace. The purpose of the sculpture is to provide a tangible reminder of the university’s obligation to promote peace around the world. During the event, Siam University President, Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, and all the participants held hands as a way of signifying to the world the essence and importance of peace in this day and age. President Mongkhonvanit reiterated UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s video message, urging all 3 sectors of society to unite for love and peace. The event also provided a platform for Siam

University’s Representatives of Peace from Asia, Africa, Europe and America to give their messages of peace to the world.

### NEW: SDGs in Action App



The SDGs in Action app was developed to highlight the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - the world’s to-do list to end poverty, reduce inequalities and tackle climate change. It is brought to you by the GSM Association, which represents the interests of nearly 800 mobile operators worldwide, and Project Everyone, a non-profit global campaign to spread the messaging of the SDGs.

Use the app to learn about the 17 SDGs, get global news on your favourite goals, find out how you can take action to help achieve them, create your own events and actions, and invite others to join you in sustainable actions and events.

### YGLF Connects Cornell University to the UN & UNAI



On 18 October Cornell students, professors and staff from the Communication Arts Department (Comm Connect) participated in a most meaningful United Nations program, prepared by the Young Global Leadership Foundation (YGLF) and the UN Visitors Center Briefings Section.

YGLF seeks to establish a peaceful, prosperous and positive global society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century through guiding aspiring young adult leaders to *Join the Global Journey*.

Comm Connect Cornell students are participating in a unique NYC - Comm seminar to expand their knowledge of communication studies and the media and to explore professional venues available to them in NYC.

This year, YGLF arranged for the students to partake in a half-day session at the UN, starting with an illuminating private tour of the newly renovated UN headquarters, followed by two timely briefings from UN experts targeting global social development. The students learned about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how they can effectively connect to the SDGs as active leaders of the millennial and first global generation.

Both YGLF and Cornell University are members of UNAI. At the end of the UN program, the students departed inspired and determined to develop their own innovative initiatives to make a difference through continued connection and collaboration with the UN, UNAI and YGLF.

### **Habitat III: A once-in-a-youth-time-opportunity**

*In October 2016, world leaders and representatives of UN Member States gathered in Quito, Ecuador to adopt the New Urban Agenda, a new road map to deal with urban issues and achieve the SDGs in an urban context.*

*Mariele Hernández, Leader of the Youth division of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a UNAI partner that amplifies the capacity of youth to generate buy-in for the SDGs by mobilizing resources and empowering action, wrote the following piece describing her experience at Habitat III.*



*Mariele Hernández, author of the article and Leader of the Youth division of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, speaking to young people about implementing the New Urban Agenda.*

None of us had participated at Habitat II in Istanbul and yet most of the outcomes of that conference have shaped our daily urban experiences. We knew going to Quito didn't only mean being at the center of an important policy discussion, but we were tasked with ensuring that youth would be at the heart of the New Urban Agenda. By 2030 over 60 percent of urban dwellers will be under 18, therefore it is only fair that children and youth be seen as central stakeholders of our urban future.

The bi-decennial conference kicked off with the assemblies of two constituencies that can no longer be seen as passive recipients: The Women's Assembly and the [Children and Youth Assembly](#). The New Urban Agenda needs to be implemented acknowledging that children, youth, and women face urban challenges differently. More importantly, the success of the Quito Declaration will highly depend on the involvement of these two constituencies as active agents in the decision-making process. The [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network - Youth](#) sent a delegation with the purpose of advocating for a paradigm-shift towards envisioning youth as enablers of change rather than passive agents; when youth are given the means to participate in public life, the possibilities are limitless. Having a seat at the table during Habitat III empowered youth to claim ownership of the New Urban Agenda, while creating a stronger sense of responsibility for contributing to implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The New Urban Agenda provides a framework for creating resilient, sustainable, inclusive and safe cities for the next two decades. Just like Agenda

2030, we must stop looking at youth and children as the future; it is time to understand that we can, in fact, provide the solutions we need to build a sustainable future today. Youth and children are here now; ready to be part of building the cities we want to live in, for us the stakes are high. Improving urban livelihoods of our families, neighbors, and friends is our responsibility and not a mere photo in a high-level conference.

Out of the 36,000 participants that met in Quito many were under 30 years old. As speakers and as participants, young people were present in every side event during the six days of Habitat III. The energy and the enthusiasm were never dampened, even by Quito's high altitude, and our colleagues were never demotivated despite the long lines and language barriers. If cities are to have the leading role in implementing the SDGs, urban youth must be at the epicenter of making the New Urban Agenda a reality. We invite you to learn more about the SDSN Youth Local Pathways Fellowship. [Apply](#) to be one of the young urban change makers leading your community towards sustainable development.

### **Delhi Students Use Art and Discussion to Encourage Gender and LGBTQIAP Dialogue at Universities**



*In 2015 United Nations Academic Impact and the United Colours of Benetton's UnHate Foundation collaborated on a global diversity contest which challenged young people to come up with projects to combat discrimination, bigotry, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance in their communities. Ten winning projects were awarded grants of €20,000 each to realize their ideas. One winning team from Ambedkar University in Delhi have used their funds to implement their project to combat homophobia on college campuses. Here is an update on their progress.*

The Gender & Sexuality Sensitization Project seeks to encourage dialogue around Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual

identity. Since winning a grant of €20,000 from the UnHate Foundation, we have organized gender and sexuality sensitization campaigns at three universities in Delhi to confront sources of discrimination and challenge intolerant and non-affirming policies that impact students. During our fourteen month project, the prime concern was to encourage and establish dialogue around the aforementioned themes, most of which are largely absent from the public domain in South Asia at large and India in particular.

The project functioned along three specific lines. First, extensive research in the form of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and personal narratives were collected in order to gauge the more immediate requirements of university spaces. Second, large scale and small scale workshops were conducted in collaboration with professional experts and resource individuals at various events, with students encouraged to form similar groups on their college campuses. Third, events in the form of *nukkad nataks* (traditional street plays), film screenings, and theatre workshops (for both staff and students) helped us reach out to students and staff members who were otherwise disinclined to participate in discussions.

In terms of concrete achievements, the project has been successful in bringing together faculty members and professional resource people to develop college specific engagements on a yearly basis. Events conducted on different college campuses have brought to light the intersecting questions of class, caste, religion, and visibility of already existing 'queer collectives' with regards to participation in these events. Similarly themed workshops have been conducted by people who participated in our events and have helped to amplify our message.

### **Effat University Students Participate in SDG Conference**

On the 7 December 2015, Effat University and Chestnut Hill College students came together, to participate in a video conference series at the United Nations with Global Education Motivators (GEM). The following reports detail the experiences of three of the students from Effat University.

## Jawaria Ali Khan



*Jawaria was "over the moon" when she found out she would be attending the Global Solutions Conference*

On 7 December 2015, my classmates Rahaf, Hanan and I were informed that we would be participating in a video conference with Chestnut Hill College. We were ecstatic. The event began with an ice breaker video conference in which both sides briefly spoke about the educational and extra-curricular cultures and backgrounds within their respective universities. Later, it was an honour to hear about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from experts like Wayne Jacoby, Abdullah Alsultan, Patience Stephens, Pragati Pascale and Ramu Damodaran.

We were taught the differences between the 17 SDGs, and the former Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). What stuck with me was the fact that despite the differences in geographical and territorial borders, we all wanted global sustainable, positive and developmental change; and that we as youth were making an effort to get there. The time difference did however pose a slight challenge at the event.

Sponsored by Effat University, the final stage of the video-conference entailed physically attending the Global Solutions Lab in Philadelphia, USA. We were over the moon! Ms. Duaa Dawood, Ms. Lisa Zuppe and Dr. Jannat Alabassi helped us through every step of the way.

In Philadelphia, we got the opportunity to explore the city. I was taken aback by the warmth and hospitality of its citizens. Unlike the city, the Global Solutions lab was intensive. It started with lectures

from experts like Betsy Teutsch and Jim Walker, from whom we learnt about techniques and best practices to use in our project. Ms. Betsy's presentation was my favourite, as we were taught about presently available low budget solutions.

I was part of the education group. After several in-group discussions, presentations and feedback from Medard Gabel we finally settled on the K.N.O.W. now Program. It was a very demanding but enriching process working in a team of fun and intelligent individuals.

Personally, the most crucial part of the entire experience was presenting at the UN. Aside from the actual presentation, I also got a tour of the various council chambers, the art and gifts from member states, the gift shop and the meditation room which was my personal favourite. There, I found a prayer rug on which I offered prayers (*Salat*) before the presentation.

All in all, the experience was enjoyable and fulfilling. It broadened my horizons and changed my perspectives. I learned a lot, gave it my all, and hope that I can participate in similar experiences in the future.

## Rahaf Alisari



Scanned by CamScanner

*Rahaf calls her experience at the SDG conference "life changing."*

Buckminster Fuller once said, "We are called to be architects of the future, not its victims." This quote was given to us by Medard Gabel on our first day of the Global Solutions Lab. It implies that there are always ways to create a world we would like to live in.

Our journey began with the video teleconference series between Effat University, Chestnut Hill

College and Global Education Motivators (GEM). The event started in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and moved to the USA. There we attended the Global Solutions Lab in Philadelphia before going to New York where we presented at the UN. I am proud to acknowledge the fact that Effat has made history, by being the first Saudi Arabian institution of higher learning to participate in this initiative. It broadened our understanding of the SDGs and also taught us how we can contribute to them as students.

At the Global Solutions Lab I worked within the human rights group, which had a very diverse membership composition. It comprised three other girls from Cambodia, America and Cameroon. This diversity was a great asset to our group as it enabled us to come up with all-encompassing solutions based on insights and perspectives from different regions in the world. The talent, diversity, motivation, passion and perspectives within all groups in the lab created a nourishing learning environment of healthy competition. This motivated each group to come up with excellent solutions through our individual group projects. During the lab, we not only came up with solutions but also had the opportunity to engage with UN officials and experts. In so doing, we received rare first-hand knowledge and input.

As with every new experience, there were challenges and the lab was no different. But by overcoming the hurdles, we became more resilient and solution-driven. By the end of the series, the term “giving up” no longer existed in our vocabulary!

Through the videoconferencing series, I gained a broader perspective of the world and a desire to bring about positive change in my individual circumstances. I also made life-long friends! Who would’ve thought one could gain so much from a video conference series?

For me, the climax of the entire experience was in New York, where I enacted my life-long dream of presenting at the United Nations! It was a nerve wrecking and mind blowing experience. Following the presentation, discussions and feedback received about our human rights violations monitoring application, we were more motivated to press forward for the success of our project. We still have weekly talks as a group and are in the process of entering a competition. We are also working to ensure maximum outreach so that our application is downloaded and used globally. That said, stay tuned for a generation of positive change one initiative at a time!

### Hanan Altukhaifi



*Hanan wishes to continue the work she started with UNAI and partner with her local NGOs.*

“Each member of this spaceship is responsible for what happens to and in it.” This sense of responsibility led my colleagues and I at Effat University to initiate the Model United Nations club. Its mandate is to raise awareness of global issues among young women in our community. When we were later contacted by GEM to participate in the UNAI series, I was both thrilled and grateful, since I recognized the impact this would have on fellow students.

The series entailed multiple teleconferences between Chestnut Hill College and Effat University, where we engaged in inter-cultural dialogue while learning about the SDGs. Following the inspiring video conference from Mr. Jacoby and other speakers from the UN, I felt accountable and decided to apply to the Global Solutions Lab in Philadelphia.

At the lab, we learned how to analyze global problems. My personal favorite was the Zero Hunger Challenge. It was a life changing experience to work towards a common solution with teammates from different parts of the world. Sayondee from Liberia, Jonathan and James from the United States and I, worked as a team on a project we later named the Food Depot. It is a hub in rural areas that lends agricultural tools to farmers in Liberia. Our hope is that the hub will encourage farmers to migrate from urban areas to the vacant lands in rural parts of Liberia.

The hub also provides farming information that can be used to improve on traditional techniques. We would like to be practical enough to attract neighboring entrepreneurs to sell their own farming products.

With assistance from UN personnel like Domenica Sabella, a communications officer with the World Food Program, we presented our project to the United Nations and received important feedback and guidance.

The project is still work in progress. My teammates and I have been in touch with local NGOs to assist with data collection and cooperation. We are also in the process of setting up an online meeting with the D-Lab in MIT for further collaboration.

## Echidna Global Scholars Program



The Centre for Universal Education at Brookings has **extended** the deadline for submissions to the 2017 Echidna Global Scholars Program, and will now receive applications until 14 **November 2016**. Echidna Global Scholars spend nearly five months at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. to pursue research on global education issues with an emphasis on girls' education.

The Echidna Global Scholars Program is a visiting fellowship hosted by the Center for Universal Education (CUE) at the Brookings Institution. The program aims to build the research and analytical skills of NGO leaders and academics from developing countries. Echidna Scholars spend four to six months at Brookings pursuing research on global education issues, with a specific focus on improving learning opportunities and outcomes for girls in the developing world. Upon completion of their fellowship, CUE supports the scholars in implementing an action plan that applies their new

skills and expertise to share with their home institutions.

The program seeks exceptional applicants committed to girls' education who are in pursuit of an opportunity to build their research and analytical skills. Applicants are expected to have some background in education, development, economics, gender, or a related area; a Master's degree at minimum, and at least 15 years of professional experience. A cohort of 3-4 scholars will be selected.

Please visit <http://bit.ly/2fauA7R> or email [globalechidna@brookings.edu](mailto:globalechidna@brookings.edu) for more information. You can also read the latest content from Echidna Global Scholars here <http://brook.gs/2dZtsWK>



**United Nations Television (UNTV)** produces award-winning programs covering the wide range of issues addressed by the United Nations system of organizations for broadcast and online viewing. These programs 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**

[www.unmultimedia.org/tv/21stcentury](http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/21stcentury)

This month our award-winning TV magazine features the following compelling report:

This programme, dedicated to the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (20 November), contains the following feature segment:

Road Safety - Global Killer (23'33")

In this episode of 21st Century, we focus on a global epidemic: each year, one and a quarter million people die on the world's roads. We know how to bring the numbers down, but will we do it?



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

[www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unia](http://www.unmultimedia.org/tv/unia)

Short features on the UN's work in the field available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian.

**More resources:**

UNifeed [@UN\\_TV](#) | [unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed](http://unmultimedia.org/tv/unifeed)  
UN Webcast [@UNwebcast](#) | [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)  
TV Spots/PSAs [unmultimedia.org/tv/spots](http://unmultimedia.org/tv/spots)  
Meetings Coverage & Press  
Releases [un.org/en/unpress](http://un.org/en/unpress)  
UN Radio [@UN\\_Radio](#) | [unmultimedia.org/radio](http://unmultimedia.org/radio) | [soundcloud.com/unradio](http://soundcloud.com/unradio)  
UN News Centre [@UN News Centre](#) | [un.org/news](http://un.org/news)

**New UNAI Logo**



To all UNAI members,

Shown above is the new updated logo of UNAI. Kindly refrain from using the old logo for any promotional activities. To view the logo in all official UN languages, please visit: <https://academicimpact.un.org/content/branding>

**Guidelines for use of SDG Logo**



This September marked one year since the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were unanimously adopted by world leaders at a historic United Nations summit in New York. They are part of the broader campaign in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development endorsed by all countries. During the past year, the SDGs have become the benchmark for measuring progress, and governments, the private sector and civil society are already taking action to achieve the Goals.

The colorful and compelling visual graphics illustrating the SDGs (i.e., the SDG logo, the color wheel and the 17 icons) are at the heart of the success of communications about the SDGs, and the icons have already been spread far and wide, helping to raise awareness and understanding of the Goals in all corners of the world.

We are very pleased to share with you the [United Nations Guidelines](#) for the use of the SDG logo, including the color wheel, and 17 icons. The Guidelines are aimed at UN System entities as well as external partners, including Governments, NGOs, and the private sector, and describe the proper use of the SDG logo and icons.

## **Why join UNAI**

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

a. UNAI is a global network of schools of higher learning and research, with over 1,200 members in 120 countries. As a collaborative platform, UNAI members learn from each other and enhance each other's skills and tools.

b. UNAI shares information on a wide variety of awards, fellowships, scholarships and contests that may be of interest to students, academics and researchers.

c. UNAI provides information on UN activities and ideas for how you can get involved and contribute in your community, in your classroom or on campus.

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 shared with our network through the UNAI newsletter. This promotion of your activities can help enhance your school's profile both at home and internationally.

Interested? Find out more at [academicimpact.un.org](http://academicimpact.un.org)