



UNAI NEWSLETTER

Sharing
a Culture
of Intellectual
Social
Responsibility

October 2014

General Assembly establishes Nelson Mandela Prize



The General Assembly has established the “United Nations Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize” as a tribute to

the achievements and contributions of the late South African leader who inspired not only his own country but the entire world.

“Our best tribute to Nelson Mandela is not found in words or ceremonies—but in actions that take up the torch he passed to us,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in remarks to the Assembly on 6 June 2014, following the adoption by consensus of the resolution establishing the prize.

“The United Nations General Assembly has a proud record of acting against apartheid—and for Nelson Mandela,” said Mr. Ban. “From the early days of sanctions to the more recent declaration of 18 July as Nelson Mandela International Day, this Assembly has placed itself on the right side of history—with the people who need us most. Today, the Assembly took another step forward in carrying on Nelson Mandela’s lifelong work through this meaningful prize.”

By the terms of the resolution, the Assembly asked the Secretary-General, in consultation with the President of the Assembly, to establish within six months of adoption of the text the criteria and procedures for bestowing the prize. This is to be adopted by the Assembly no later than 30 November 2014.

UNAI to launch Michael J. Adams Conversation Series



In the context of the 70th anniversary commemoration of the Organization, the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) is launching an annual conversation series where a globally renowned scholar speaks to, and interacts with, the United

Nations community on a subject of global significance and interest. The series will be named for Dr. J. Michael Adams, who was pivotal in enlarging the reference to non-governmental organizations in Article 71 of the Charter to academic institutions by leading the successful effort of the first university—Fairleigh Dickinson—to obtain consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. While President of the International Association of University Presidents, Dr. Adams contributed immensely in time, wisdom and counsel to the definition of UNAI.

The inaugural lecture in the series is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. EST, on 21 October, and will be delivered by the eminent Saudi Arabian scientist, Dr. Hayat Sindi, who is a visiting scholar at Harvard University and a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador recognised for her efforts in promoting science education in the Middle East, especially for girls. She is also a co-founder and director of “Diagnostics for All”, a non-profit fusing biotechnology and microfluidics, dedicated to creating low-cost, easy-to-use, point-of-care diagnostics designed specifically for the 60% of the developing world that lives beyond the reach of urban hospitals and medical infrastructures. Dr. Sindi will speak on “Women, Science and our Globalised World.”

UNAI welcomes Verdentum's new climate change initiative



A non-profit social network,
connecting the world for a better tomorrow

Verdentum is a non-profit social network that connects students worldwide with policy makers, to better understand and work towards solving global problems. Its aim is simple: to evoke a culture of "global problem solving" across nations, focusing on key international problems such as climate change, on which we will need to work together to solve. As a UNAI member, Verdentum hopes to encourage new generations of students to work together to problem-solve and make an impact on a global scale.

Participating in a social work experience project or campaign doesn't have to be boring or local anymore, it can be global. For example, first imagine a tree planting campaign; then imagine the same campaign with students from over 100 countries participating. Fulfilling "Creativity, Action, Service" (CAS) requirements for International Baccalaureate (IB) students or working towards social experience hours couldn't be easier.

Verdentum envisages the following four steps.

Step 1: Policy-maker defines an issue. (A policy-maker, such as a UN official, launches a programme on water pollution on Verdentum.)

Step 2: Schools in various countries join the programme. (Each school with a profile on Verdentum can log-on and read about the water pollution programme, understanding the problems of water pollution and actions needed.)

Step 3: Schools video conference with schools in different locations. (Schools participating in the programme will be connected via video conference to discuss the issue: a school in Iceland, for example, may video conference with schools in Kenya, India, the Russian Federation and the US to discuss their water pollution problem and solutions.)

Step 4: Schools carry out actions suggested by the policy-maker.

The pilot programme, which will focus on climate change, is now scheduled to be launched on 24 October, United Nations Day.

UNAI has been involved in the planning and development of the project, sharing views on the nature of the project and challenges of its implementation with Verdentum members and the panel of advisers. It encourages UNAI members and ASPIRE chapters to actively support the project and be part of a new global movement to take care of our Planet Earth.

For more, please visit:

<http://www.verdentum.org/index.html>

UNAI's 4th anniversary, 18 November 2014



On 18 November, the UNAI turns four. Launched by the Secretary-General on 18 November 2010, it has by now grown into a global platform of over 1,000 colleges and universities, working with the UN and with each other to promote the goals and ideals of the United

Nations. In these four years, UNAI has witnessed a range of activities by its member institutions enriching the vast global landscape of ideas in diverse forms—conceptual thought, practical experience, the written word and artistic expression.

To mark the 4th anniversary, UNAI plans to host a half-day conference at UN Headquarters, focussing on global health. Three core groups have been identified as participants: Rutgers University, Monmouth University and ASPIRE, East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

If your school is interested in being involved in the conference, please contact UNAI at your earliest convenience at academicimpact@un.org.

United Nations Day, 24 October



Next month, on 24 October, the United Nations will turn 69. This will set the stage for a

year-long observance of and reflection on the role of the United Nations in a quickly evolving global climate, leading to the 70th anniversary of the Organization on 24 October 2015.

Earlier, addressing the African Union Summit in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 26 June 2014, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the start of the global celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, which aims to honour the historic breadth of the Organization's development, security and human rights work, and ultimately, unite the international community in common cause to enable a strong UN to realize a better world.

UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being. 24 October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly recommended that the day be observed by Member States as a public holiday.

UNAI encourages its members to consider ways they can meaningfully observe the birthday of the United Nations that continues to be the world's most universal organization. In a world defined by our inter-dependence, the UN is increasingly viewed as the only global body capable of addressing the many "problems without passports" that the world faces.

For ideas, resources and documents on past UN Day observances, please visit:
<http://www.un.org/en/events/unday/>



World Humanitarian Summit: opportunities for collaboration for UNAI members

The World Humanitarian Summit is an initiative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to improve global disaster preparedness and response. In the lead-up to the summit in 2016 in Istanbul, the WHS seeks to collaborate with academic institutions as a way to engage researchers, professors, and students in humanitarian research and discourse. In this way, WHS will leverage existing work that is being conducted and provide a practical application of academic endeavours to solve humanitarian challenges.

In order to efficiently involve academic institutions and strengthen existing networks, WHS will work with pre-existing mechanisms such as the UN Academic Impact, the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA), as well as academic networks in the Global South.

WHS offers a number of opportunities for collaboration with academic institutions, including UNAI members. For example, they may engage in the online discussions and upload research in the four themes or in regional discussions (<http://bit.ly/1tiKvCf>); participate as guest experts in one of WHS's interactive webinars over the next two years; or contribute research, position papers or think-pieces to one of its thematic areas.

WHS is planning to host a number of regional consultation events over the next 12 months, in which UNAI members will be able to participate.

The World Humanitarian Summit will provide publicity and visibility to collaborating universities and academic networks. WHS will also provide tangible opportunities for students to solve real-world problems.

For more information, contact: Arif Khan, WHS Partnerships Coordinator, UN OCHA, khan101@un.org

Activities of the UNAI community

Aiji Tanaka of Waseda University, Japan, new head of International Political Science Association



Waseda University's Aiji Tanaka, Senior Executive Director for Academic Affairs and Professor of political economy, was elected president of the International Political Science Association on July 22 for a term of two years.

IPSA, established in Paris in 1949 under the aegis of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), is the largest and most authoritative international academic society for political science. It is supported by 54 national associations, institutional members representing over 100 organizations, and more than 3800 individual members around the world.

Waseda University is a UNAI member.

The Hoa Trang Nguyen Prize 2014 at Tan Tao University, Vietnam

The Hoa Trang Nguyen Prize is an annual award honouring top scorers at the national university entrance exam, national academic contest winners, and students attending at the International Olympiad. The Prize is annually organized by Tan Tao Group in coordination with the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, and the Vietnam Association of Non-public Universities and Colleges. The award has a profoundly positive impact on society by encouraging student excellence and fostering the spirit of learning of students across the country. In 2014, the Hoa Trang Nguyen 2014 Prize Awarding Ceremony is scheduled to be held in two regions: Northern Region (Including 31 provinces): Scheduled to be held at the National University of Hanoi in early October; and Southern Region (including 32 provinces and cities in southern and central): Scheduled to be held at Tan Tao University in Long An province in mid-October.

Tan Tao University is a UNAI member.

UN Advanced Certificate Programme at Long Island University

The Brooklyn Campus of Long Island University offers a New York State-approved collaborative programme, which makes it possible for students to complete both a United Nations Advanced Certificate and earn an M.P.A. This unique combination of programmes provides a comprehensive background in public administration with an in-depth overview of the United Nations system and its specialized agencies. Students begin this fascinating educational journey by earning the United Nations Advanced Certificate and subsequently transferring to the M.P.A. programme when the Certificate is completed or near completion.

Find out more:

<http://www2.brooklyn.liu.edu/un/index.html>

Canberra University professor's study confirms land clearance effects on biodiversity

The well-known negative effects of land-use change on our biodiversity appear to be rivalled by climate change, according to a comprehensive new analysis of almost 150 worldwide studies by a University of Canberra researcher and his colleagues. Their findings have been published by *Biological Reviews*—a biology journal published by the Cambridge Philosophical Society, a scientific society at the University of Cambridge.

University of Canberra Centenary Professor Ralph Mac Nally, co-author of the paper, explained that the world's biodiversity is in free-fall, mostly due to human population growth and the ever-increasing exploitation of natural resources.

"Almost all global indicators are showing that there are fewer populations of plants and animals, and declining numbers of most native species in all ecosystems," Professor Mac Nally, a world-renowned ecologist who joined the University earlier this year, said.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1qiMvES>

HGU invites UNAI members to join UNESCO UNITWIN initiative



Handong Global University, UNAI's global hub on capacity-building in higher education systems, is inviting scholars from UNAI member institutions to join its UNESCO UNITWIN initiative.

UNITWIN, which is the abbreviation for the University Twinning and Networking Programme, is a grant programme led by Handong Global University, Republic of Korea, and sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Education. The purpose of the initiative is to make individual scholar's lecture material, whether in a form of text, audio, or video, open to the public in order to increase access to quality educational material for everyone including those who do not enjoy the privilege of formal education.

The initiative has three goals:

1. Capacity building: Participating faculty will have a better understanding of digital media and teaching, leading to enhancement in teaching.
2. Global benefits: Open contents created through the initiative will benefit not only the students at participating institutions but also other teachers, students and self-learners from all over the world.
3. Networking and collaboration: Participating faculty's involvement with the OER (Online Educational Resources) community will enable them to access and exchange ideas with colleagues from universities around the world.

HGU has established an online platform for these lecture materials to be uploaded. It also provides a limited amount of grants to participating lecturers. An application review committee determines the eligibility for grants. Irrespective of eligibility for grants, UNAI scholars are encouraged to upload their lecture materials on the programme platform at <http://www.uuooi.org/english/portal.php>

South Asian University to host conference on cultural identity, 16 and 17 October 2014

"Contemporary history is replete with assertions rooted in questions of identity and representation. Identity formation occurs in the context of one's relative position within the larger frameworks of class, caste, citizenship, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, race and religious affiliation and so on. The location within these is often essentialized and further negotiated through social, political, economic and cultural processes. Also, other large-scale processes of industrialization, migration and urbanization guided by certain prototypes of development especially in the contemporary discourses, lead to issues of acculturation and assimilation where new forms of self get created and included with pre-existing ones. This very idea of inclusion calls for deliberation on the notion of exclusion and question of identities that are alienated."

This is how the New Delhi-based South Asian University describes the basic concept behind its international conference on the culture of identities, to be held in New Delhi on 16 and 17 October. Organized by SAU's Department of Sociology, the conference is formally called "Debating identity: dialogues across boundaries," and it is open to international students and researchers. Candidates in MA and MPhil/PhD programmes in social sciences and humanities at recognized universities and research organizations in South Asia have been invited to present papers at the conference.

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1r6vd2Q>

Wagner College at 131

Wagner College, a UNAI member, will mark its 131st anniversary at the annual Founders Day Convocation on 8 October. The convocation's highlight will be the Kaufman-Repage Lecture, to be delivered this year by Pulitzer Prize-winning environmental reporter and New York University professor Dan Fagin. Prof. Fagin won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction for his book, "Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation" (Bantam, 2013).

Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1r6vjHM>

Peace BAR Festival at Kyung Hee University



Kyung Hee University, Republic of Korea, held its annual celebration of International Day of Peace through a week-long Peace BAR Festival, from 21 – 26 September. This year’s conference included symposia, roundtables and Kyung Hee’s own peace forum to share thoughts on “Cosmic Humanity and Public Practice,” the main theme of this year’s celebration. As part of the celebration, members of the University’s ASPIRE chapter held their own ceremonies. They worked on producing a message to send to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, urging the UN to have a new approach to peace and security issues.

(The picture above shows students attending the Peace BAR Festival Symposium at Kyung Hee University’s Seoul campus in Dongdaemun District, Eastern Seoul.)

Fairleigh Dickinson University announces launch of new Speakers Series

Fairleigh Dickinson University has announced a stellar line-up of speakers for the inaugural 2014-2015 season of the New Jersey Speakers Series at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Modelled after similar, sold-out series in Philadelphia and Boston, the New Jersey Speakers series will bring world leaders, acclaimed authors and other fascinating personalities to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark for seven Thursday evening presentations, each of which is followed by an audience Q & A with the featured speakers. The series is sold by subscription only and tickets to individual lectures will not be available. Find out more: <http://bit.ly/1DnnfaV>

International Day of Peace at Siam University, Thailand

Around 60 international students joined this year’s celebration at Siam University Garden of Peace on 21 September. During the event, Dr. Pornchai Mongkhonvanit, President of Siam University, highlighted the message of Peace Day. The message of the UN Secretary-General was read out by the assistant to the President, Mr. Michael Slater. The slogan and theme of this event "We all have a Right to Peace" was sung by nursing students, and birds were set free to symbolize stopping all slavery. Siam University ISMAP students, Myanmar, Cambodia and India addressed in their own mother tongue the Peace Message. This celebration was joyfully ended with dinner and a group picture at Siam Pillar of Peace, Peace Garden.

Siam University is a member of UNAI.

Conference on New Paradigm in Human Development at KazNU, 5-7 November

The conference is being organized in Almaty by the World Academy of Art & Science, World University Consortium and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) to examine the theoretical foundations and policy framework for a new paradigm in human development capable of addressing the pressing challenges confronting humanity today. The conference will consist of four trans-disciplinary, inter-related tracks focusing on issues related to governance, international security, human rights and law; economy, finance and employment; education and human development; and energy, resources and climate. This conference builds on the proceedings of about a dozen recent conferences exploring the limitations of current theory and public policy and viable alternative approaches. Find out more at <http://bit.ly/1CG8U8b>

UNAI activity reports

To read the latest UNAI members’ activity reports, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1k9MdUD>

New e-publications

Preventing suicide: a global imperative (WHO):



This is the first-ever WHO report on suicide prevention. It aims to increase awareness of the public health significance of suicide and suicide attempts, to make suicide prevention a higher priority on the global public health agenda,

and to encourage and support countries to develop or strengthen comprehensive suicide prevention strategies in a multi-sectoral public health approach.

Download: <http://bit.ly/1oJ6vjJ>

The economic impact of the 2014 Ebola epidemic

(World Bank): A World Bank Group analysis finds that if the Ebola epidemic continues to surge in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, its economic impact could deal a catastrophic blow to the already fragile countries. However, swift national and international responses can limit the costs.

Download:

<http://hdl.handle.net/10986/20218>

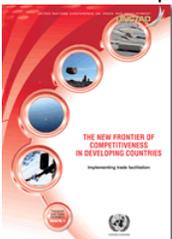


The 50th Anniversary of the Group of 77 at the UN (United Nations):

This special issue of the *UN Chronicle* celebrates the fiftieth

anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77 at the United Nations, with a focus on the negotiations leading to the 15 June 1964 signing of the "Joint Declaration of Seventy-Seven Countries", as well as the Group of 77's role as a catalyst for international development.

Download: <http://bit.ly/1vOChUR>



Implementation of trade facilitation in developing countries (UNCTAD): The report is based on research conducted in 26 least developed and developing countries, and provides valuable insight into the

status of implementation of trade facilitation measures covered by the World Trade Organization's Bali Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Download: <http://bit.ly/1DnEMQg>

Why join UNAI

Because

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 enhances 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.

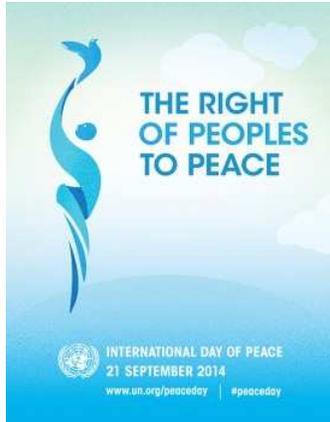
f. You can request briefings/interactive presentations on UN themes by United Nations experts.

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

International Day of Peace: some reflections

At this year's International Day of Peace (19 September), students from Rutgers University took part in a special celebration at UN Headquarters. Some of them wrote to UNAI describing their experience.



This year's International Day of Peace celebration will long remain in my memory. And so will the encouraging words of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who emphasized the

importance of youth involvement in the search for peace and justice, especially in our time of globalization. We, the people, should all share the responsibility for the world we live in and everybody has the right to make themselves heard. United Nations Goodwill Ambassador Jane Goodall also underlined the need to work not for, but together with the youth. She sees our generation being confronted with the three main tasks of supporting the people, the animals and the environment. These challenges might seem overwhelming and often we do not know what to say or to do. But UN Youth Champion Monique Coleman encouraged the audience to stand up anyway, to show presence and concern. We should take her advice to heart. I know that I will.

Merit Hagenkort

When you are invited to a celebration of International Day of Peace, you probably start thinking about the goals of celebrating the day. And then you are told you can be a flag bearer, and you start thinking about your representation as part of an international community. At that moment, you feel the temptation to forget your nationality and just be part of the same community that seeks peace everywhere. I must say that I felt that feeling during the whole celebration. We shared more than hopes for better days, we shared the same human conflict with the world situation.

Stephane Rodrigues Dias

The Peace Bell Ceremony in the Rose Garden at the UN took place in the fresh and sunny morning of the 19th of September 2014, and it was deeply human and very moving. The speeches of the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the President of the General Assembly Sam Kutesa calling for world peace and a day without conflict were extremely powerful. The garden was full of flag bearers from practically every country in the world, all of them students, daring and resourceful. Later, we held a video-conference meeting with students from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who shared their perspectives and problems with us. We couldn't have been more excited.

Alejandro and Pablo Palomar Muñoz

When I arrived at the UN headquarters, and saw all the people from different nations, cultures and roots standing up together shoulder to shoulder, I couldn't control my tears especially when the bell was rung. It was very purposeful of the UN to celebrate Peace Day, and involve young people to participate at UN Headquarters. By all means, this participation will encourage them to be the messengers of peace around the world.

Hasan al-nawadi

For queries/comments, please write to Hasan Ferdous at ferdous@un.org

To learn more about the United Nations Academic Impact, please visit: <http://outreach.un.org/unai>