



# UNAI NEWSLETTER

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Responsibility

**AUGUST 2014**

## **Seventieth anniversary of the United Nations**



Next year, on 24 October 2015, the United Nations will turn 70.

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 will aim 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.

The Secretary-General noted that on 26 June sixty-nine years ago, the UN Charter was signed in San Francisco. "We the Peoples of the United Nations," the opening words of the Charter, became a reality just four months after the signing of the Organization's founding document, on 26 June 1945, which was held in the auditorium of the Veterans' Memorial Hall in San Francisco.

Over the next 16 months, the Organization will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the UN's founding. The sixteen month commemoration will culminate on the 70th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter – 24 October 2015 – the day now celebrated as United Nations Day.

According to the Secretary-General, "the year 2015 is a once-in-a generation opportunity. Our goal is

to put people at the centre and protect our one and only planet. Our duty is to end poverty, leave no one behind and build lives of dignity for all."

The first in a series of celebratory events took place on 26 June 2014 at UN Headquarters with the International Youth Forum, jointly hosted by the United Nations Academic Impact and ELS Educational Services (see more in the UNAI Newsletter, July 2014).

UNAI invites its members to plan and organize special commemorative events and outreach activities to celebrate the historic event. Other planned programmes which will be related to UN70 include the DPI-NGO conference (27-29 August), the commemoration of the International day of Peace (21 September), and United Nations Day Concert on 24 October, featuring UN Messenger of Peace Lang Lang.

For UNAI members, UN70 is an opportunity to look back upon the UN's history and its many remarkable successes, as well as a chance to look ahead, both to the promise of the post-2015 global development agenda and to the many individual areas of positive difference that the United Nations can make in the life of each human being. UNAI is also encouraging its members to consider offering a UN70 scholarship to a deserving student with a research project on the United Nations.

To facilitate the observance of UN70, the United Nations has created the "UN70 Logo." Its use is encouraged for educational and public outreach projects advancing the goals laid down in the United Nations Charter. The use of the logo is governed by a set of guidelines, which have been posted on the UNAI website and can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1rTqpIT>

## A conversation on fracking



On 16 July 2014, the UNAI hosted a public conversation on fracking – or hydraulic fracturing. Held at UN Headquarters

and organized by UNAI as part of its on-going series, CFR@UNAI, in association with the US-based Council on Foreign Relations, the meeting brought together two of the world's leading voices on energy and sustainable development, Michael Levi of the Council on Foreign Relations and Elisabeth Thompson of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative.,

It was a spirited conversation. Both approached the issue vigilantly, presenting known scientific facts and environmental and economic analyses, pointing out the obvious economic gains, but also the serious environmental risks fracking poses.

Fracking involves drilling horizontally down to the sedimentary rocks, sometimes as far as several thousand feet, then drill sideways for a mile or longer. Shale gas is trapped in thin layers between the rocks and can't flow through the well by drilling alone. Producers deploy hydraulic fracturing, which pumps millions of gallons of water, sand, and chemicals at high pressure to open fractures in the rocks and allow oil and gas to flow.

"Is fracking, by providing actual gas, giving us a cleaner energy source? The answer is yes, perhaps, if you regard natural gas as a cleaner energy source," said Ms. Thompson. "However, if the methodologies used are dirty, or environmentally harmful, then some of the beneficial impacts are significantly eroded."

On average, Ms. Thomas said, each well that is fracked uses up to 8 million gallons of water, and a fracking fluid of 40,000 gallons that uses some 600 volatile organic compounds. The concern is that the concoction can seep into under-ground water supplies, as well as water that is at the surface level when the brine is not properly disposed of.

There are also worries about air quality deteriorating because of how technologies are used and managed. The sudden shift underground, sometimes caused by explosives, has also been found to cause earthquakes. In addition to disposal of waste water from the wells and air quality, communities can have a negative reaction to the sudden, intensive industrial development.

Speaking with the UN News Centre, Mr. Levi explained the negative reaction happened most often in places that have not had that before and are not used to it, which has more to do with urban planning, education, and proper infrastructure, than with making sure people have the right valves and are monitoring the air quality properly.

"The telegenic risks are not necessarily the ones for policy makers to confront," he said, referring to popular videos showing television reporters lighting on fire tap water seeped with methane gas. Methane is believed to be found in the same area as natural gas and brought to surface in the extraction process.

Ms. Thompson argued that in the US at the local level, there were insufficient regulations governing fracking. Hence, there was a clear need for further tightening of regulations. When poor methodologies are used, there remained the risk of air and noise pollution, and risk of contamination of surface and ground water, she cautioned.

Ms. Thompson compared fracking to a medicine that had obvious benefits, but also many side effects. She called for continued research on risks associated with fracking and for educating local communities about challenges they could face with fracking.

Mr. Levi argued that there were enough regulations; what was lacking was more rigorous enforcement of the existing regulations. Both Mr. Levi and Ms. Thomson agreed that further studies were needed to understand how fracking worked and more investment should be made to reduce environmental hazards. Later, in an interview with UN Radio, Ms. Thompson further discussed fracking and its environmental costs. Find more at <http://bit.ly/WBbHA2>



### **Kyung Hee students visit UNHQ**

Led by Dr. Stephen Yong-Seung Park, Dean of Office of International Affairs, a group of 12 students from Kyung Hee University, Seoul, visited UN Headquarters on 31 July 2014. They held meetings with UN officials, including those from UNAI and UN Global Compact, and discussed issues of common interest. The students were particularly keen to learn about the role of UNAI in promoting the UN global principles and what role they could play in translating those principles into reality.

In a discussion that lasted almost 90 minutes, the students went over activities carried out by UNAI members in various parts of the world. A prezi presentation, prepared by Sujung Choi, a student from Kyung Hee interning with UNAI, provided a panoramic picture of the work carried out by the UNAI's global membership.

### **Peace BAR festival at Kyung Hee University**

Each year on 21 September, the United Nations and the world celebrate the International Day of Peace. The idea of such an annual observance was first put forward by Kyung Hee University President Young-seek Choue in 1981 and was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly the same year. The Peace BAR Festival at Kyung Hee University (Republic of Korea), which coincides with the observance of International Day of Peace, celebrates humanity's efforts towards overcoming conflict and confrontations to work towards peace and mutual prosperity. BAR is an acronym for the 60-year tradition of pursuing a 21st century society

that is "spiritually Beautiful, materially Affluent, humanly Rewarding."

At UN headquarters, this year's International Peace Day will be celebrated on Friday, 19 September, as the actual IDP, 21 September, falls on a week-end. UNAI encourages its members to celebrate IDP and to join Kyung Hee University in celebrating our collective effort to build a "Beautiful, Affluent and Rewarding" twenty-first century. We also encourage them to share their stories of celebration with UNAI at [academicimpact@un.org](mailto:academicimpact@un.org), and with Kyung Hee University at [yspark@khu.ac.kr](mailto:yspark@khu.ac.kr)

### **"Music for Peace", 9 October 2014**

UNAI, in association with the World Music Institute and the Apollo theatre, will host another of its "Music for Peace" conversations on 9 October 2014. The speakers will include members of South African Akapella group, the Soil, and South African singers, Boitumelo "Tumi" Molekane and Simphiwe Dana. The conversation, taking place on the International Day of Non-violence, will be dedicated to the role of music in promoting peace and non-violence in the world's conflict zones.

- "The Soil" (pictured above) is an acapella singing group whose music can best be described as "Kasi Soul". The Soil has performed at Grahamstown Arts Festival, Jazz by the River, the Nelson Mandela Theatre and the Catalyst Theatre in Cape Town.
- Boitumelo "Tumi" Molekane is an African lyricist, rapper and poet. Molekane was born in Tanzania while his South African parents lived in exile there. In 1992 he repatriated to South Africa and took up residence in Soweto. In 2005, he recorded the song "Trade Winds" with Cincinnati-based rapper Main Flow, and in 2006 he published his debut album, Music from My Good Eye.
- Simphiwe Dana, one of South Africa's young soulful singers, is renowned for her impressive vocal prowess. In 2004, with the release of her debut album Zandisile, Simphiwe Dana firmly planted her place in the heart of South Africa's music industry. For further information, please contact [academicimpact@un.org](mailto:academicimpact@un.org)

## News from UNAI community

### **Music education programme at University of Canberra**

Disadvantaged children could be in tune for a brighter future thanks to a music education programme led by a University of Canberra education researcher. Assistant professor in music and arts education, Dr. Anita Collins, leads a programme in which rural children in Goulburn are learning how to play the violin in order to become more confident at school and improve their reading, writing and maths skills.

Previously, the Goulburn Strings Project, a strings program at the Goulburn Public School in NSW, was able to provide half-hour lessons once a week to 25 children who shared five violins among themselves. But Dr. Collins and colleagues aim to raise funds to be able to purchase a violin for all 50 children at the school to learn the instrument and play every day. To donate visit <https://www.justgiving.com/GoulburnStringsProject>

### **Study on pollination biology at University of Vienna produces unusual results**

Interactions between flowering plants and their pollinators include some of the most elaborate and intriguing relationships known to science. Agnes Dellinger from the Department of Botany and Biodiversity Research of the University of Vienna and her co-authors have found a most unusual relationship with the birds that pollinate the flowers of these plants.

The genus *Axinaea* belongs to the large, mainly tropical flowering plant family Melastomataceae (Meadow Beauty Family). Most of the approx. 5000 species in the family rely on bees for their pollination. Only about 100 are known to be pollinated by other insects or vertebrates. The flowers of *Axinaea* appear in clusters of few to more than twenty flowers and the petals of the different species are pink, yellow, orange or red. The stamens (male reproductive organs) stand out based on the contrasting colours of their bulbous appendages.

Even more surprising was the finding that the birds do not feed on nectar as in most other bird-pollinated plants but consume the male reproductive organs (the stamens) while visiting the flowers. It turns out that the birds are attracted to the flowers by the conspicuous and sugar-rich stamen-appendages of *Axinaea*. As the birds seize a stamen, they are blasted with pollen by the stamen's complex "bellows" organ. And as the birds forage on, they deposit some of the pollen on a female floral organ (the stigma) and thus pollinate the flower.

For more: <http://bit.ly/1qyn218>



### **Researcher at McMaster (Canada) asks: how much time do you spend online?**

Michael Van Ameringen, director of McMaster's Anxiety Research

Centre, is collecting data from approximately 2,000 people via an online survey. The results will be pooled with responses from people in the United States and Europe to give researchers a clearer picture of how much time people spend online. It will also help them understand whether people who struggle with managing their time on the web are dealing with issues of obsession, addiction or impulsiveness.

Data collection will continue over the next year, after which researchers can begin their analysis. - See more at: <http://bit.ly/1pBDqJ1>

### **UNAI – Republic of Korea to host international conference on post-2015 MDGs**

In conjunction with its Second UNAI Collegian Research Paper Contest, the UNAI Academic Impact Republic of Korea (the Korean Association in Support of UNAI), will host an international conference on 28 August 2014 in Seoul. Principal participants will be qualified teams composed of graduate and undergraduate university students from UNAI Hub and universities in Korea. High officials from academia, government, and the United Nations system will join as speakers and judges for the competition. Contact: Dr. Won Gon, Park, Ph.D., Email: [wonpark@handong.edu](mailto:wonpark@handong.edu)



### **Conference on communications for development at Roskilde University**

For the fourth year in a row, Ørecomm is organising a 4-day event focusing on Communication for Development, this year merged with Sunrise, the major conference that is held at Roskilde University every year. The conference will take place 17-20 September 2014 and will be based on both sides of the strait, at Roskilde University and at Malmö University. The University's Department of Communication, Business and Information Technologies (CBIT) will act as host for the first two days.

This year's theme is "Voice and Matter" and will attract participants from all over the world, who will bring new, exciting and current perspectives in the field of theory and practice. Panels and workshops include titles such as: The Role of Media and Communication in the Post 2015 Agenda; Media, Empowerment and Civic Agency; Participatory Video and Interactive Documentary; and Political Economy of the Development Industry.

The event is open for all, but remember to register no later than 31 September. For registration and more details at <http://voiceandmatter.net/>

### **South Asian University announces online admission process**

Students applying for admission to New Delhi's South Asian University can do so entirely online. The University has announced that admission to its various Masters as well as M.Phil/Ph.D. programmes and aspirants can complete the entire admission process online. Students, who do not have access to internet banking, credit card or a debit card, to pay the entrance test fee can still apply through the offline mode by downloading the application forms from the university website. To further facilitate free flow of information between the university and aspirants, SAU has opened an admission blog dedicated to the aspirants. The blog has, among other things, the detailed information about the courses, admission procedure, videos and the details of Admission Volunteers, to whom aspirants can ask questions and clarify their doubts. The aspirants can also communicate with the university through social networking pages. More at [www.sau.ac.in](http://www.sau.ac.in)

### **The University of Nairobi to introduce a human rights course**

The University of Nairobi (UoN) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations to jointly develop the human rights course curriculum as well as develop staff capacity in human rights education.

According to Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UoN, Prof. Lucy Irungu, the University has several centres of excellence focusing on pertinent issues affecting Kenya including the Centre for Human Rights and Peace (CHRP) which will steer the provision of the Human Rights Education course in UoN as well as build a vibrant programme. Already through CHRP, the first cohort of Masters of Arts degree programme in Human Rights is set to graduate later this year.

The partnership will be coordinated by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) who will provide technical support as well as provide a forum for partnership and collaboration in identifying, highlighting and developing responses to human rights challenges.

For more: <http://www.uonbi.ac.ke/node/6055>

### **KazNU professor publishes anthology of modern Kazakh literature**



Dr. Rafis Abazov, a visiting professor at Al Farabi Kazakh university and an adjunct professor at Columbia University has edited "The Stories of the Great Steppe" (Cognella, 2013).

Featuring first-time translations of numerous examples of modern Kazakh literature, this anthology provides excellent examples of literary life in both Soviet and post-Soviet Kazakhstan, and introduces readers to the rich literary traditions of Kazakhstan, which is a part of the unique prose and poetry traditions of the Central Asia steppes and Eurasia.

KazNU hosts the UNAI hub on sustainability and Dr. Abazov is its focal point.

## Activity reports from UNAI members

**All UNAI members are required to submit an annual activity report, detailing activities carried out in the past 12 months. We have received numerous reports, which are being uploaded on the UNAI website as these reports become available. In this issue of the Newsletter, we share highlights of some of those reports.**

**Meiji University, Japan:** During this reporting period, Meiji University founded the Noborito Institute Peace Education Resource Center to promote effective peace-making practices within its student body and beyond. The University also introduced a new admissions practice, entitled “Admission-upon recommendation”, which is intended to increase the rates at which refugees enroll at the Meiji. An event organized in conjunction with Japanese clothing retailer UNIQLO and supported by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Japan Office, collected recycled clothing for ailing refugee populations.

**Central Institute of Business Management Research & Development (CIBMRD), India:** In collaboration with H.E.R.D. Foundation, VSPM Academy of Higher Education, the Centre of Science for Villages, and the Institute of Rural Industrialization, CIBMRD organized an event titled “Gramin Samridhi – Growth Drivers for Sustainable Rural Development,” which took place in April 2014. CIBMRD also organized an Intra-Collegiate Street Play competition for students pursuing Masters degree in its Business Administration programme. The competition was organized to spread awareness among students and within the local community of the UN’s Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

**Grenoble Ecole de Management (GEM), France:** GEM created a new position in 2014: the Chair of Mindfulness, Well-being and Economic Peace Education. Its mission is to contribute to the development of knowledge, practices and training focused on the management of occupational stress, well-being, the personal development of managers, an evolution in management methods and the understanding of a new industrial model centered on the highest human values and on

economic peace in order to promote sustainable and shared value creation.

**DongSeo University, Republic of Korea:**

DongSeo’s Asia Summer Program (ASP) brought together 346 students and 31 professors from 26 different universities to learn directly about the diverse cultures of Asia. The three-week, credit-based program involved participants from universities in China, Bangladesh, Japan, Thailand, the Philippines, and the US, among others. Participants enjoyed cultural experiences such as playing Korean games and sightseeing around Busan on an all-day tour. The programme also included field trips to Korea’s ancient capital city of Gyeongju and to Geojae Island.

**Baltic Sea Region University Network (BSRUN):** In May 2013, BSRUN hosted its annual “Green University” forum on topics related to sustainability. The conference took place at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland. The Network also hosted a seminar—in conjunction with the Modernization Partnership for the South Eastern Baltic Area—on “Creativity and Cooperation in the South Eastern Baltic Area.” This event took place in Kaliningrad, Russian Federation on the 7th and 8th of June, 2013. BSRUN also organized the event “Frameworks for University Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region” alongside the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS). The forum was held in Turku, Finland on 28 October 2013.

**Long Island University (LIU), USA:** In September 2013, LIU’s “CHATS” programme brought together local and foreign students with the goal of expanding these students’ knowledge of languages, cultures, art, and religions from all parts of the world. Also in the fall of 2013, LIU hosted a conference entitled “Muslim Journeys,” which included exhibits, programmes, book discussions, films and lectures focused on the cultural heritage of Islamic civilization. LIU also organized and conducted a workshop on “Regional Implications of the Arab Spring and the United Nations’ response.”

**Centro Universitário IESB, Brazil:** With the implementation of its new Internationalization programme, IESB committed itself to increasing opportunities for students and faculty to exchange experiences with universities around the globe. These efforts are meant to inspire a greater sense of global citizenship, diversity, social justice and equality in IESB's student body and faculty. Over the past year, student projects have focused on such diverse topics as a historical and judicial analysis of the concept of Human Rights and the use of sustainable materials for housing improvements in impoverished areas—thereby promoting several principles inherent in the United Nations Charter. IESB established a partnership with a local English language school, such that IESB students can now receive English language instruction at a much-reduced fee.

**Fairleigh Dickinson University, USA:** In March 2013, the University celebrated Global Happiness Week. With student organizations holding small events throughout the week on all four FDU campuses, the festivities included a trip to the United Nations on 20 March, the official International Day of Happiness. During the reporting period, FDU's staff undertook a research project on behalf of the Conference of Nongovernmental Organizations (CoNGO) in Consultative Relations with the United Nations. The research project included a survey of CoNGO Substantive Committee members conducted by Fairleigh Dickinson University's Public Mind Institute, a report on substantive committee activities, a report on the effectiveness of CoNGO Substantive Committees with specific recommendations for CoNGO.

**East Stroudsburg South High School's UNAI ASPIRE Chapter, USA:** In 2014, students affiliated with East Stroudsburg South High School's UNAI ASPIRE chapter learned to plan long-term initiatives and develop local and global partnerships in line with UNAI principles. The chapter is currently facilitating monetary and items donations, which will ultimately benefit local families directly affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria. A delegation from East Stroudsburg South High School—along with nearly 600 youth from 80 countries—visited UN Headquarters in New York as part of Secretary General Ban-Ki moon's Education First Initiative.

**Kwansei Gakuin University (KGU), Japan:** KGU hosted a career forum entitled "Introduction to Working at an International Organization." Since its inception at KGU in 2004, this annual event is revered as one of the biggest and oldest forums in Western Japan introducing attendees to the potential of a career in civil service. The forum offered excellent opportunities for the participants, who are mostly high school and university students, to understand the career path of an international civil servant and to deepen knowledge related to international development.

**Research Centre for Evaluation and Socioeconomic Development (CERVAS), Italy:** In May of 2013, CERVAS researcher Edgardo Bucciarelli led a scientific seminar entitled "Microfounding the Financial Instability Hypothesis: a Different Way of Using Experiments in Economics" at the Department of Economics within the University of Salamanca, in Spain. Another working paper produced by Bucciarelli in collaboration with two other researchers tests the viability of using micro-credit financing to promote development in underdeveloped countries. This paper was presented at the 4th CIRIEC International Research Conference on Social Economy (ICOSE), which took place at the University of Antwerp in October of 2013 and focused on the theme of social economy, social inclusion and the fight against poverty. Also, jointly with the organization known as Economic Research Question Time (ERQT), CERVAS hosted a series of scientific seminars on topics from such fields as Development Economics, Human Development, Social Economics, Gender Empowerment and Decent Work. These events, held weekly between October 2013 and February 2014, were structured, in part, to promote knowledge about scientific issues tied to UNAI.

**To find out more about activities carried out by UNAI members, please visit:**

**<https://academicimpact.un.org/content/activity-reports>**

## New e-publications from the UN System

### **The Millennium Development Goals Report 2014:**

This report examines the latest progress towards achieving the MDGs. It reaffirms that the MDGs have made a profound difference in people's lives. Global poverty has been halved five years ahead of the 2015 timeframe. Ninety per cent of children in developing regions now enjoy primary education, and disparities between boys and girls in enrolment have narrowed. Gains have also been made in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis, along with improvements in all health indicators.

**Download:** <http://bit.ly/1nyjDNJ>



**Human Development Report 2014:** Entitled Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience, the Report provides a fresh perspective on

vulnerability and proposes ways to strengthen resilience. Persistent vulnerability threatens human development. And unless it is systematically tackled by policies and social norms, progress will be neither equitable nor sustainable.

**Download:** <http://bit.ly/1pSp1s3>

### **2014 revision of the World Urbanization Prospects:**

The 2014 revision of the World Urbanization Prospects by UN DESA's Population Division notes that the largest urban growth will take place in India, China and Nigeria. These three countries will account for 37 per cent of the projected growth of the world's urban population between 2014 and 2050.

**Download:** <http://bit.ly/1tslPIu>

### **Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour (ILO):**

The study investigates the underlying factors that drive forced labour, of which a major one is illegal profits. Figures will include a breakdown of profits by area of forced labour and by region. **Download:**

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



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