



UNAI NEWSLETTER

Sharing
a Culture
of Intellectual
Social
Responsibility

September 2014

UNAI-HGU Forum on SIDS held in Samoa



Scholars from Handong Global University and the National University of Samoa joined in a two day meeting at

Apia, 31 August and 1 September, on the margins of the Third United Nations Conference of Small Island Developing States.

Formally called “Capacity Building in Higher Education, Energy, and Entrepreneurship for Achieving Sustainable Development in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS),” the forum focussed on two broad themes: the role of higher education in national capacity building and the development of comparative advantage, and the role of youth and entrepreneurship through changes in traditional patterns of education. The forum also explored viable solutions that bring changes leading to genuine sustainable development of the SIDS, and creating a platform of cooperation between the UNAI-HGU and SIDS actors.

SIDS, which is a special group of 51 small-island

developing States and territories with similar development and environmental challenges, are subject to structural vulnerability. At the Third International Conference on SIDS (1 – 4 September), the international community sought to enhance existing successful partnerships as well as to launch new ones to advance the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States.

Opening the UNAI-HGU Forum, meeting, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted that education was key to every one of the Millennium development goals and would be for the post 2015 agenda as well.

The UNAI-HGU Forum was attended by scholars from Handong Global University and a large number of students and delegates to the main conference. It concluded with a call for the teaching and learning communities to join in furthering what the Secretary-General had described as thinking “blue” in economic as well as environmental terms noting this was the colour of both the ocean which united small island States as well as of the United Nations itself. The Vice Chancellor of the National University of Samoa and senior faculty shared their own work on site in this context.

UNAI members and the broader academic community are actively pursuing ways to address the issues concerning SIDS. In the Baltics, the **Baltic Sea Universities Network** is spearheading collective action to promote sustainability through education and training. In Tuvalu, the **University of the South Pacific** recently held a week-long workshop on installing, operating and trouble-shooting off-grid solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. In Jamaica, **the University City College** continues to partner with a local civil society group to run an emergency centre serving food to under-privileged people. And in the Maldives, the **National University** through its Hin’gaa Hoama programme encourages students and staff to use a pollution free way of transport to commute from home to school.

UNAI Collegian Research Paper Contest and Global Conference



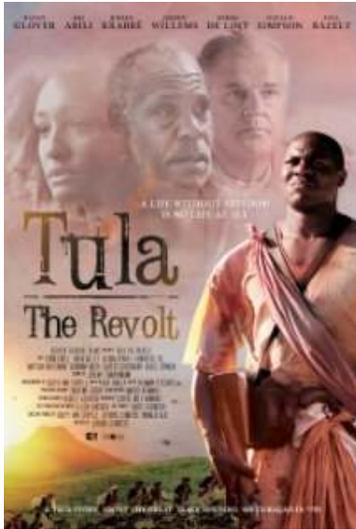
For the second consecutive year, the UNAI Academic Impact Republic of Korea (the Korean Association in Support of UNAI) successfully held its UNAI Collegian Research Paper Contest and Global Conference in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 28 August.

The substantive focus area of this year's contest was "Prospects for Post-MDG Framework and Global Engagement by Universities." An international panel of judges reviewed the entries received from students and researchers, belonging UNAI member institutions worldwide. The following were adjudged this year's winners:

- Grand prize: Jihoon Jung, Republic of Korea, for the essay, *Appropriate Technology for Water Quality Improvement in the Perspective of Sustainable Development: The Analysis of BioSand in Local Context*;
- First prize: Dahye Chung, Republic of Korea, for the essay, *Education in Refugee Camps as a Linkage Between Humanitarian Assistance and Development*;
- First prize: Mihai Oprea, Romania, for the essay, *Closing the Lifecycle Loop of Glass*;
- Second prize: Mi-jin Kim, Republic of Korea, for the essay, *The Measure to Improve Quality of Education for post-2015*;
- Second prize: Ramilya Zhidkeyeva, Kazakhstan, for the essay, *The Freshwater Saving*;
- Honourable mention: Ayumi Katagiri, Japan, for the essay, *College Students Engage in Teacher Education: Improving the Quality of Teachers in Developing Countries through Learning Community Methods*.

The contest coincided with an international conference on post 2015-MDGs framework, which was attended by several of the contestants. In a video message to the conference, the Secretary-General applauded UNAI-Korea's creative engagement with students and young scholars in promoting United Nations values and global objectives. He also thanked the young participants who had gathered in Seoul from various UNAI member universities and chapters of UNAI's youth offshoot, ASPIRE.

"You have given practical examples of ASPIRE---Action by Students to Promote Innovation and Reform through Education," the message read.



Fordham University to host film Screening and Talk Back with Danny Glover, 9 September

Fordham University, a UNAI member, in association with the United Nations

Remembrance Programme of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, will host the screening of the film, *Tula, The Revolt*, on 9 September at Fordham’s School of Law (150 West 62nd Street, 2nd Floor, Constantino Room) at 6:30 pm. Well known actor and UNICEF Messenger of Peace Danny Glover will take part in a conversation with students following the screening of the film.

'Tula, The Revolt' is a feature length movie about the leader of the big slave uprising on the island of Curacao, a Dutch colony, in 1795. It tells the true story of a man who dared to stand up against his oppressors leading his people in a peaceful march for freedom, equality and brotherhood.

Admission to the event is free, but pre-registration is required at: bit.ly/TULA_Fordham

Music for Peace with South African artists, 9 October 2014

UNAI will host another of its “Music for Peace” conversations on 9 October 2014. Speakers will include members of South African Acapella group, the Soil, and South African singers, Boitumelo “Tumi” Molekane and Simphiwe Dana.

The event takes place in observance of International Day of Non-Violence (2 October), Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday and in tribute to the Mahatma’s formative years in South Africa. It will be co-hosted with two well-known cultural icons of New York City---the World Music Institute and the Apollo Theatre. UNAI, launched by the Secretary-General in November 2010 is committed to both

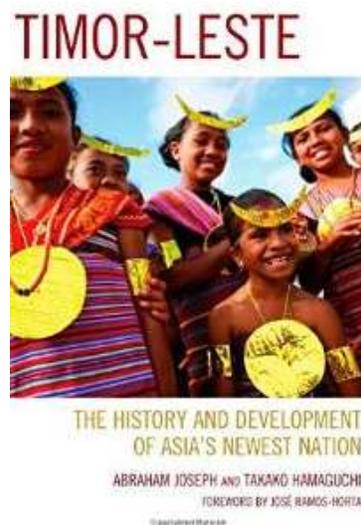
the “unlearning of intolerance” and to peace and conflict resolution, both expressed through the power of music.

The event is open to all but pre-registration is required at <http://music-for-peace-conversation.eventbrite.com>

UN and Timor-Leste, book discussion, 8 October

Timor-Leste, an island country in South East-Asia, is a former Portuguese colony that won its

independence, thanks to the efforts of the United Nations, in May 2000. The decolonization process was led by UNMIT (United Nations Mission in Timor), a



multidimensional, integrated UN peacekeeping operation established by Security Council in August 2006.

Timor Leste: The History and Development of Asia's Newest Nation, by Abraham Joseph and Takako Hamaguchi, looks back at the involvement of the United Nations in this country’s independence process. It has been published by Lexington Books, and can purchased from UN Bookshop (<https://unp.un.org/bookshop/>)

UNAI will host a classroom conversation, focussing on the book – but also on the UN’s role in the overall decolonization process - on 8 October from 11:00 – 12:30 pm at UN Headquarters. Both authors will join the conversation which will be led by Dr. Jose Luis Guterres, Foreign Minister of Timor Leste.

Dr. Rekha Datta of Monmouth University, a UNAI member, will also take part in the discussion.

Activities of the UNAI community

BSUN Forum on Water and Civilization, 10 -13 September



The Black Sea in Southeastern Europe is bounded by Europe, Anatolia and the Caucasus and is ultimately connected to the Atlantic Ocean via the Mediterranean and the Aegean Seas and various straits.

The Black Sea Universities Network, a UNAI partner, held the First International Congress of the Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) in July 2000 in Istanbul. Since then various important issues have been discussed at the congresses and meetings of the BSUN, often with the involvement of the broader international academic community.

This year, from 10 – 13 September the representatives of the Black Sea University Network and the United Nations Academic Impact together with academics and relevant experts from across Europe will gather at the University of Belgrade, which will host the 2014 Black Sea University Network Congress and Forum on the role, importance and treatment of water as an element in building human civilization, including the examination of various related international policy elements and possible adjustments and new directions, all under the overall topic of "Water and Civilization".

Whether it is observed as an essential nutrient, a necessary element in agriculture, an energy source, an object of artistic exploration or a cultural construct, it is inevitable that water will remain at the epicentre of important policies and strategies, and of scientific and cultural investigations.

Beside the main program on the first day of the Congress, additional side events will be held, such as workshops and panels with specific sub-topics.

For more: <http://bsun2014.rect.bg.ac.rs/>

UNAI hub on global citizenship launched at AGMUS, Puerto Rico



The Ana G. Méndez University System (AGMUS) of Puerto Rico is the new UNAI global hub on global citizenship. The University has created a new website to promote global citizenship among UNAI members and beyond.

In announcing the launch of the hub, Dr. David Mendez, Associate Vice President for International Affairs, has extended an invitation to UNAI member institutions to share their knowledge on global citizenship by contributing features and news items through the new global hub website.

Global citizenship, the website explains, is an evolving concept that is shaped by a variety of factors: personal experiences, culture, background, geography, philosophies, gender, race, religion and ethnicity, among others. Furthermore, the role of education is of utmost importance as we develop conscious and effective global citizens. Educational initiatives geared to prepare better global citizens must instill a sense of interdependence and interconnection as an approach to develop viable solutions to address all the challenges that humanity is currently facing, such as, violation of human rights, lack of access to education, impact of war and conflicts, poverty and famine, intolerance, environmental concerns, and lack of sustainability.

Through this website, AGMUS wishes to encourage scholars and people concerned about the wellbeing of our world, to share ideas regarding the concept of global citizenship, to discuss ways to foster the education of global citizens and to consider the development of collaborative projects among universities that will impact communities around the world.

Please find out more at <http://www.unaiglobalcitizen.org/about.html>

3rd International Youth Leadership Program at BNUJ, China



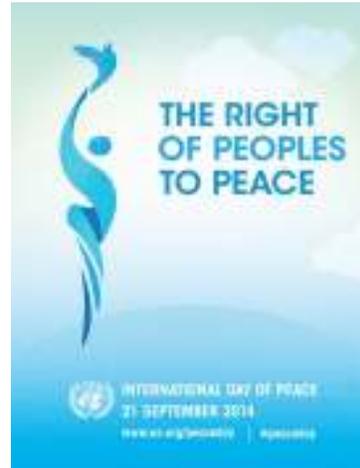
In the afternoon of July 1st, the 3rd International Youth Leadership Program (IYLP) was unveiled at Beijing Normal University Zhuhai's International Center. In addition to the 56 participant students, those who attended the opening ceremony included Prof. John L. Holden, Deputy Dean of Yanjing School, Beijing Normal University, Prof. Chen Guangju, Vice President of BNU, and Dr. Wang Jun, Deputy Director of BNU's Office of International Exchange and Cooperation.

In the opening ceremony, distinguished guests and student representatives ceremonially touched the IYLP crystal ball and then Vice President Prof. Fu presented IYLP flag to student representatives, which marked the successful opening of the 3rd IYLP program.

IYLP is initiated by BNU and BNUZ and co-hosted by students from the University of Oxford, the University of Birmingham, and the University of Harvard. As a platform for cross-cultural communication and international cooperation, it aims to cultivate future leaders for the development of the society, the nation and even the human being as a whole. The first 15 days of the programme is held in Zhuhai, and the remaining five days in Beijing. This year, 17 students from the Universities of Oxford, Birmingham and Harvard, together with 14 students from BNU and 25 students from BNUZ attended leadership lectures, made co-operational research and gave final presentations.

IYLP has been carried out successfully for two sessions in the past two consecutive years and won great feedbacks from the academic community and UNAI.

International Day of Peace and Peace BAR Festival, 21 September



Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the General Assembly Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, the theme of this year's International Day of Peace is the "Right of Peoples to Peace". This anniversary offers a unique opportunity to reaffirm the United Nations commitment to the purposes and principles upon which the Organization was founded. The Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace recognizes that the promotion of peace is vital for the full enjoyment of all human rights.

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. In celebration of IDP, Kyung Hee University, Republic of Korea, organizes each year the Peace BAR Festival, celebrating humanity's efforts towards overcoming conflict and confrontations to work towards peace and mutual prosperity. BAR is an acronym for the 60-year old tradition of pursuing a 21st century society that is "spiritually Beautiful, materially Affluent, humanly Rewarding."

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, and with Kyung Hee University at yspark@khu.ac.kr

University of Bergen professor's campaign to save the Aramaic languages



In the modern world, the Aramaic languages are threatened by extinction. Now, thanks to the efforts of the University of Bergen (Norway), a UNAI member, there is hope for their survival. The project Aramaic Online is a collaboration between the University of Bergen (UiB), the University of Cambridge, Freie Universität Berlin, Universität Leipzig and the St. Ephrem the Syrian Monastery in the Netherlands.

The project, with funding from the European Union, is hosted by UiB and its coordinator is Professor Shabo Talay at UiB's Department of Foreign Languages. The project takes broad aim to secure the future of the Turoyo language. In addition to an online course, on several levels, development of learning material is a vital part of the project. Summer schools for adolescents are planned, as well as training for Aramaic teachers. A network of international experts in the language will also be created.

As Turoyo today mainly exists as a spoken language, the project aims to develop a new orthography. The language has its roots in the classical Syriac (Aramaic) language, which today only is practised in liturgy and ancient writings. As a language, Turoyo stands with one foot planted in the Middle East and the other in Europe, and the project will use both the Latin alphabet and the Syriac alphabet when creating the new orthography.

Birzeit University develops electronic tourist guide



Birzeit University, a UNAI member, in association with the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation (CCHP) and University of Trento, Italy, have deployed an innovative and pioneering electronic tourist guide for heritage sites in Bethlehem, using QR technologies. The goal of the European Union funded initiative is to enhance the experience of Palestine's visitors and valorize the cultural heritage of Bethlehem City, through an innovative use of smartphones and tablets.

While walking in the old city, tourists can scan a QR code with smartphones and automatically listen to an audio guidance in their own language, as well as watch video and read further description, about a certain heritage site. The initiative targeted 8 important locations of cultural and heritage significance in the city, including the Church of Nativity, Manger Square, and Star Street, among other locations.

For more: <http://www.birzeit.edu/news/sina-institute-deploys-smart-multilingual-guide-bethlehem>

New UNAI members

The following universities have joined UNAI in August 2014:

Kyorin University, Japan

National University of Quilmes, Argentina

University of Iceland, Iceland

Opinion: 500 days of action for MDGs



Leila and Miriam Bouchekouk, from UNAI ASPIRE Chapter East Stroudsburg South High School, attended a special event at UN Headquarters on 18 August, marking the 500 Days of Action for the MDGs, with Malala and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

One day that I will never forget is August 18, 2014, because of the impact it had upon me. When I woke up that morning I knew that I would be going to the United Nations to see Malala Yousafzai and the United Nations Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon. However, when I arrived with my group and saw the two of them in action answering questions and elaborating on the 8 Millennium Development Goals, it was clear that they wanted to make sure that in the next 500 days, changes will be made. It was clear that this was something that Malala, SG Ban-Ki Moon, and everyone else in the room was passionate about. It is not too late to complete the promise that the United Nations leaders made in 2000 to ensure that in the following 15 years, our goals to fight poverty, protect the environment, eliminate hunger, eradicate diseases would be accomplished. The energy in the Trusteeship Chamber was enormous; 500 different people from all over the world came together on that one day so we can all make a difference. When the conference was over the conversation did not end, for the next 500 days there will be action to complete the 8 Millennium Development Goals. The most important goal to me is to see every child in school, and that every child in the world will have the opportunity to receive an education, and because of the 500 Days of Action, this goal is not impossible.

--Miriam Bouchekouk

The 500 days of action for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) event achieved an acceleration in the progress towards the MDGs, but not by promoting awareness for the deadline of these goals. I believe that this day led to a simple yet powerful transformation from the millennium development goals to the millennium development momentum.

During the event I forced myself to pry away from the speakers for a moment to look around me. What I noticed was everyone all around me taking notes, dedicating their ears, and/or trying to capture every moment with their cameras to preserve the strength of the momentum forming before our eyes. These individuals will go back to their communities to plant a seed to impact even more advocates for universal education. The motion for this momentum comes about from the common goal we have to eradicate the problems presented in the MDGs, with a special focus on education. Why education? Because it is essential to attain the millennium objectives. As Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon explained, "Invest in human beings, invest in education."

The result of August 18, 2014 was a moving body composed of millions of youth and adults united for one common goal. Something as strong as this momentum cannot go unnoticed for much longer. Something as powerful as education will never diminish once planted in a society, but instead flourish the world.

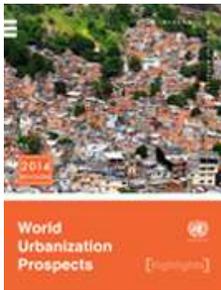
--Leila Bouchekouk

UNAI activity reports

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.

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

New e-publications from the UN System



2014 revision of the World Urbanization Prospects

(United Nations): 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. By 2050, India is projected to add 404 million urban dwellers, China 292 million and Nigeria 212 million.

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

Renewable Energy for Parliamentarians: A How-To Guide

(UNDP): This Guide is a publication by UNDP and the Climate Parliament in the framework of their joint Parliamentary Action on Renewable Energy (PARE) project. The Guide explores the benefits of renewable energy development, presents an overview of renewable energy technologies and their respective applications, and offers concrete guidelines and tips for parliamentary action. Specific attention is paid to regulatory and policy frameworks.

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



Adapting to climate change through land and water management in Eastern Africa (FAO):

This publication presents the results and lessons learned from the FAO-Sida supported pilot project "Strengthening capacity for climate change adaptation

in land and water management" in Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania.

Download: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3781e.pdf>

AV products from UNTV

Uruguay Forty Years Later: Victims Still Seek Truth and Justice (13'12"):

Uruguay was known as one of the "Torture Chambers of Latin America" during the Cold War in the 70s and early 80s under the then dictatorship. Now survivors and relatives of the missing are pressing for the truth about what happened during those dark days in their nation's history. We follow a man determined to help them.

Trinidad: Saving the Turtles (11'03"): They are among the oldest creatures in the world and they only rarely venture out of the sea. But when they do, they are especially vulnerable - and it takes an unusual combination of people and nature to protect them. Here's our story from Trinidad and Tobago.

Weapons of Mass Destruction (15'40"): Weapons of mass destruction – nuclear, biological and chemical – have plagued the human race since their invention – and they still pose a threat today. Terror attacks – and accidents – have spread panic in several countries over recent decades. But there are signs that increased vigilance and cooperation can help create a safer world.

Solomon Islands: Saving the Pacific's Tuna (7'54"):

In the Western and Central Pacific they are a part of the culture – and a multi-billion dollar business. They are eaten everywhere around the world – and they are becoming easier and easier to catch. Will modern technology mean the end of tuna – or will it help them survive?

These and other 21st Century programmes can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1io2DT0>

This and previous issues of the UNAI Newsletter can be accessed at academicimpact.un.org

For questions and comments, please write to Hasan Ferdous at ferdous@un.org