



27 September 2011

Dear UNAI Friends,

It's been a very busy few weeks for UNAI since our last issue.

Last month, in Seoul, the 2011 *United Nations Academic Impact Forum, New Partners for Change: the UN and the World Academic Community* provided the opportunity to share the Korean experience in development and education.

Also in Seoul, on 12 August, at the invitation of the Korean Council for University Education (KCUE), we had the first ever face-to-face meeting of the UNAI Hubs. Our new website was launched during the Hub meeting. We encourage you to visit the site frequently, as it is regularly updated, and invite you to contribute news about your UNAI activities and events.

<http://outreach.un.org/unai>



*It is clear to me that academic institutions around the world place significant importance on supporting the United Nations. The question now is: how do we translate these deepening ties into life-saving and life-improving progress for the world's people?*



*You believe in intellectual social responsibility – let us call it ISR... And you are seeking to work more closely with the United Nations because you agree that developing a culture of ISR can make our world wiser, safer and more just.*

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Seoul, 10 August 2011.

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *International Day of Peace*, and, to celebrate the occasion, UNAI partnered with Kyung Hee University, whose President introduced the idea of an international day at a triennial meeting of the International Association of University Presidents in 1981.

The coming season promises to be just as active. Here are some highlights.

For the next three months, starting in October, we will be focusing on socially responsible design, with *Design with the Other 90%: Cities*, an exhibition and educational programme presented by Cooper-Hewitt, the National Design Museum, a UNAI member.

A *video contest* is being launched by the Facultad de Ciencias Económicas, Universidad de Buenos Aires. Pre-registration starts on 17 October. And on 18 November, we will be celebrating our first anniversary with a concert organized by the Puglia Center of America, at SUNY Purchase College!

Ramu Damodaran

Nathalie Leroy, Vivian Bernstein, Lilli Schindler, Vikas Sharma

***New Partners for Change: the UN and the World Academic Community, 10-12 August 2011***



Organized by the Korean Council for University Education (KCUE), under the auspices of the Korean Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT), and of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), the 2011 United Nations Academic Impact Forum was opened by KCUE Chair, President Young-Gil Kim of Handong Global University - the UNAI Hub for Capacity-building in higher education systems - who introduced Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Prime Minister Kim and UNESCO Deputy-Director-General Engida made congratulatory remarks, while IAUP President, Michael Adams, President of Fairleigh Dickinson University delivered the keynote address: *Breaking New Snow*.

Over 350 speakers and participants included representatives from KCUE member universities, from UNAI Hubs, members, and partners, international and regional organizations, and government agencies. Presentations and panel discussions focused on the Korean experience of rapid economic development and the role that education plays in the progress of a country. The Forum provided an opportunity for UNAI members and their countries to learn from this experience in the move towards sustainable development.



More on the new UNAI website: Reports on the UNAI Seoul Forum.

## First face-to-face UNAI Hub meeting

Immediately following the Seoul Forum, at the invitation of the Korean Council for University Education, the first ever face-to-face meeting of the UNAI Hubs was held on Friday, 12 August. Eight of the hubs were able to participate.

Presided by Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Kiyo Akasaka, the meeting provided the opportunity to assess progress achieved so far by our global partnership and to discuss next steps.

Each hub presented their activities to date as well as future projects. Some of these have already been reported on in previous issues of the Newsletter, including the e-discussion series; the *Education and Governance for Sustainable Development* conference and the sustainability portal developed by the Black Sea University Network; the LUMS distance-learning project and the tutorials on human rights; *Poor Poverty*, the virtual panel discussion with the University of KwaZulu-Natal; Handong Global University GET programme; and Benedict College's conference in Colombia. Hadassah College presented its inclusive work for young students with a history of failure to allow them to succeed in higher education; J.F. Oberlin University announced a textbook series about the UN; and Escuela Politécnica Javeriana del Ecuador introduced its Viajes Académicos/Academic Travels.

The UNAI new website was officially launched during the meeting. The website was welcomed by all present as a new platform that will facilitate and promote a greater exchange of experiences and ideas among members. Participants committed to sharing information through the new platform, as well as through the hub portals when those are being launched.

The meeting resulted in increased cooperation among the hubs, and the initiation of some joint projects, which will be presented on the website when they are announced.



Student representatives from the hubs attended the closing segment of the hub meeting and committed to support UNAI through their respective ASPIRE (Action by Students to Promote Innovation and Reform through Education) groups.