



Give Peace Another Chance

Thirty years ago, Dr. Young Seek Choue, the President of Kyung Hee University, in Seoul, introduced the idea of an international day of peace at a triennial meeting of the International Association of University Presidents in Costa Rica. At the 36th session of the UN General Assembly, in 1981, the delegation of Costa Rica introduced a resolution on an International Day and International Year of Peace. The General Assembly adopted the resolution and the International Day of Peace has been celebrated every year since then.

To mark the 30th anniversary, UNAI partnered with Kyung Hee University (KHU) to organize a virtual symposium: *Give Peace Another Chance*. The symposium was held simultaneously through live streaming video in two locations: at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 14 September at UN Headquarters, which was 8:30am on Thursday, 15 September at the Grand Peace Hall, KHU, in Seoul.

The Symposium started with musical performances by Nashville singer Beth Nielsen Chapman and the New York musical group Khaleidhaphonic, and was opened by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He was followed by KHU President Inwon Choue who, in his address, stated: *Universities these days face a new challenge. They must go beyond the ivory tower to narrow the gap between "destitution and affluence", "alienation and tolerance", and "suffering and compassion". They must also open a new intellectual space for reflective humans while leading the way to deep scholarly pursuit and dialogue with an open universe.*

A round table focused on *Higher Education and Human Dignity*. Panellists included Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations; Ambassador Aftab Seth, educationist, diplomat and writer; Dr. Kim Yer-su, Professor Emeritus, KHU; Under-Secretary-General Francis Deng, Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide; Norhan Basuni, CUNY Baccalaureate Graduate and a witness to the Tahrir Square events; and Ms. Nielsen Chapman.

Following a live Q&A session moderated from Seoul, a musical performance in Seoul concluded the event in both locations with a Dvorak Piano Quartet and *Magnolia Blossom*. Some 500 participants attended the New York event, with large student delegations representing 13 UNAI members from the New York area. KHU had extended an invitation to other Korean UNAI members to participate in the event and students from 19 universities were in attendance, bringing the Seoul attendance to 3,500 participants.





UNAI Participates in the *Social Good Summit*

Three of the presentations given during the *Social Good Summit*, the social media event organized by Mashable and the UN Foundation, were addressed in e-discussions on the UNAI Facebook page last week.

- Students from the East Stroudsburg South High School ASPIRE Group debated the question: "how do you think public media shape images of women and girls?", the discussion was moderated by UNAI intern Michele Vella, from Lehigh University.
- Professor Julian May, from the UNAI Hub on Poverty, the University of KwaZulu-Natal, moderated the e-discussion on *Skype in the Classroom*. As a follow-up to the UNAI Virtual Panel *Poor Poverty* in June, two of the book contributors (from UNAI member institutions The New School and the University of Bath) addressed Professor May's Poverty & Inequality course for the School of Development Studies Master's degree.
- CUNY Baccalaureate Academic Advisor, Rafal Szczurowski moderated the e-discussion on the *Arab Spring*. The discussion revolved around youth engagement in political and social activities after revolutionary events. Participants were asked to share their thoughts on building or rebuilding civil society, social structures, and communities.



Students and the moderators also viewed each presentation and participated live via Twitter. The e-discussions reports are posted on the new UNAI website.

Secretary-General Report on Preventive Diplomacy

This year, the UN peacekeeping budget will total \$8 billion. Consider the savings if we act before conflicts erupt - by deploying political mediation missions, for example, rather than troops... Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon thus underlined the importance of preventive diplomacy in his opening remarks to the 66th session of the General Assembly. His first report on the issue has just been released, and is available on the UN Department of Political Affairs web page: <http://bit.ly/qrkGLz> Some hard copies are also available, contact us if you would like one: academicimpact@un.org

Upcoming events:

- On 4 October, at 1:15pm, UNAI is organizing an event at the UN Bookshop in connection with the release of *Tutu Authorized*, the biography of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Speakers include Cherie Blair and Producer Steve York.



- Organized by Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, the *Design with the Other 90%: Cities* exhibition will run from 15 October 2011 to 9 January 2012 at UN Headquarters. The exhibition, which is open to the public, explores the multidisciplinary, overlapping relationships among urban planning and design, education, social entrepreneurship, climate change, sanitation and water, migration, public health and affordable housing in these communities. To accompany the exhibition, an online open-network database will enable designers, communities and other stakeholders to work together to develop design solutions to these challenges. The dialogue will also continue through educational programmes. For more information: <http://www.cooperhewitt.org/exhibitions/critical-mass>
- The Facultad de Ciencias Económicas, Universidad de Buenos Aires, is organizing a video contest on the theme of sustainability and education. The goal is to develop a UNAI video library offering quality content developed with a multicultural approach, and which is to be made available to higher education institutions worldwide. A pre-selection jury will select the 20 videos that will be screened during a video festival scheduled for March 2013 in Buenos Aires. The Festival Jury will determine the three winners, who will receive a prize. The contest pre-registration starts on 17 October 2011. For more information: www.econ.uba.ar/unai/festival



- On 19 October, from 6 to 9pm, CUNY Baccalaureate is organizing a Symposium on the Arab Spring. For details, and registration, go to <http://cunyba.gc.cuny.edu/blog/cuny-ba-symposium-on-the-arab-spring/>
- On 4 and 5 November, the Antonio Meneghetti Faculty, is organizing the congress *Responsibility and Reciprocity – Social Values for a Sustainable Economy* (www.reciprocidade.org.br). The Congress will be held on the campus of the Antonio Meneghetti Faculty (www.faculdadeam.edu.br) in the city of Restinga Seca, in the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul.
- On 18 November, to celebrate the first anniversary of the UNAI launch, the Puglia Center of America is presenting the *United Academia* concert at Purchase College. For information and reservations, please call (914) 251-6202 or visit the website: www.artscenter.org

Check the UNAI website for additional events, and don't forget to send us information regarding your events!