

United Nations Academic Impact Newsletter

April 27, 2011 issue



Dear UNAI Friends,

Our first Newsletter was sent out just about two weeks ago. It was welcome by the membership, and we immediately received a number of new announcements to be shared. You will find these listed under upcoming events.

We are also very pleased to see the outcome of our first global initiative, the e-discussion series. On Thursday, 28 April, during the Global Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review, the results of the Facebook e-discussion "Building a future for today's youth: Improving access to education." The UNAI team is most grateful to the Moderators and Rapporteur, Iveth Yanez, Yara Hilal Jurdi, Julian May, Ramesh Pokharel, and Rekha Datta for their tremendous support to this project.

Read about another joint initiative UNAI is undertaking with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA): our student video campaign.

We continue to welcome your input and suggestions which we invite you to send to academicimpact@un.org

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UNAI e-discussion series, 16 Feb.-15 March 2011

Rapporteur:

Ms. Rekha Datta, Monmouth University, United States

Moderators:

- Ms. Iveth Yanez, Escuela Politecnica Javeriana del Ecuador
- Ms. Yara Hilal Jurdi, Modern University of Business and Science (MUBS), Lebanon
- Mr. Julian May, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- Mr. Ramesh Pokharel, Kyushu University, Japan

The e-discussion series was conducted on the UNAI Facebook page. Each e-discussion lasted for one week, at the end of which Moderators produced a report which have been consolidated into one global report by the Rapporteur.

On 28 April, during the Global Preparatory Meeting for the Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the outcome of the e-discussion series will be discussed. Following an overall presentation by the Rapporteur, regional moderators will participate in an interactive discussion by videoconference with ECOSOC members. Policy recommendations proposed in the report will inform the report of the Secretary-General to the ECOSOC.

The consolidated report summarized the recommendations as follows: "The discussions concluded that educational policies should enact more rigorous standards in schools to ensure that money goes towards raising the "quality" of education and not just the "quantity" of education. Nonetheless, it was agreed that since scenarios and problems vary between regions, resource and personnel constraints and the necessity of adapting western education methods to local needs and realities, countries and even sectors of a society, standard models are not the most appropriate solutions. Therefore, developing a needs-based model that can be exploited within a wide range of differing educational policy context is required."

"Soon, you will be the leader of tomorrow. Be prepared about how you can contribute as the world leaders and global citizens of tomorrow. You are citizens of this global community, where each and every one of you has to work together, try to resolve all of these issues which are interconnected. Try to have broader, comprehensive views... be a proud global citizen". UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to students, April 21, 2011

UNAI AND OTHER EVENTS AT UNHQ

• Getting the Facts Right

Wednesday May 4, 2011, 3pm

This Panel Discussion event will promote the launch of the 2007 edition of the *United Nations Yearbook*, and showcase the first-ever e-book version of the *Yearbook*. Panelists will look at the main events of 2007, and draw lessons for the present.

• Can Literature Effect Change?

Thursday May 5, 2011, 3pm

Four distinguished writers will debate this issue in a symposium organized as part of the *Unlearning Intolerance* series, which will be moderated by film maker Muriel Peters.

• Discuss Genocide Prevention with John Prendergast and Francis Deng

Friday May 20, 2011, 10am-4pm

Morning (10am-12pm): Mr. John Prendergast, founder of *The Enough Project*, and a world-renowned human rights activist, and Mr. Francis Deng, the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, will engage the audience in a dialogue on genocide prevention from the legal, political, social and human rights perspectives.

Afternoon: (1-4pm): Workshop for educators led by the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme and Facing History and Ourselves.

The event will serve to illuminate individuals' responsibility to act in the face of human rights violations, using examples from Germany under Nazism. Educators will discuss ways to encourage students to reflect on their own actions and behaviours and become human rights defenders.

Venue: Conference Room 2, North Lawn Building. Register at: Holocaustremembrance@un.org



The **Education For All student video campaign** is a joint initiative UNAI is undertaking with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It will be conducted using the Facebook platform.

Students from around the world are invited to submit two-minute videos on the theme "Educational Opportunity For All". The best videos will be selected by a panel of experts and will be presented at the opening of the Economic and Social Council High-level meeting on Education, which will take place in Geneva in July 2011. Deadline for submission of videos is 15 May 2011.

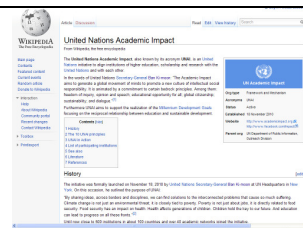
For full terms and conditions, please see:

http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=211026802258393

UNAI ON WIKIPEDIA

Putting the slogan "Sharing a Culture of Intellectual Social Responsibility" into action, UNAI published an article on **Wikipedia**, presenting facts and figures about the initiative. Translations into the other official UN languages will follow soon.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Academic_Impact



SOME UPCOMING EVENTS and NEWS FROM UNAI MEMBERS

- Award ceremony **Puglia's Italy Award of Excellence in America**, John Calandra Institute, New York, May 4, 2011, 6:30pm
- Towards Europe 2020 with the Millennium Goals**, organized on the occasion of Europe Day, by Istituto Europeo Pegaso Onlus, Rome, May 9, 2011
- International forum on vocational education**, organized by the National Association of Vocational Education of China (NAVEC), Shanghai, May 10-11, 2011. The two-day program will provide a formal forum and an informal interactive discussion to facilitate exchange, creative thinking and further collaboration in vocational education field between education experts, colleges, international education organizations, companies and other partners. Up to 400 participants from Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, France, the United Kingdom and the United States are expected to participate.
- International conference on **Life after graduation: The Role of Graduate Employment and Tracking Systems for Continuous Curricula Development and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education**, organized by the UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES) and "Lucian Blaga" University of Sibiu and the UNESCO Chair in Quality Management of Higher Education and Lifelong Learning of Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu: (Romania): Sibiu, 19-21 May 2011. <http://conferences.ulbsibiu.ro/unescocepes/en/>

- As a follow-up to its 18 April UNAI teleconference, the Psychology Department at King's College, Wilkes-Barre, PA (USA) just launched a **blog on Global Stress and Health**: globalstresshealth.blogspot.com



And don't forget that regular updates are posted on our Facebook page. www.facebook.com/ImpactUN. Become a friend, and use your own Facebook page to announce your UNAI membership. Thank you!