



Sharing a Culture of Intellectual Social Responsibility

5 August 2011

Dear UNAI Friends,

We hope this new issue of the Newsletter finds you well, whether you are on summer or winter break.

Our main event this month will be the 2011 United Nations Academic Impact Forum: New Partners for Change: the UN and the World Academic Community, in Seoul. Organized by UNAI Partner the Korean Council for University Education (KCUE), it will be held on Wednesday and Thursday 10 and 11 August.

Benedict College, the UNAI Hub for Human Rights and the University of Calcutta, the Hub for Peace and Conflict Resolution, are also organizing events in August. Read on to find out what these are, along with some recent and upcoming activities which you will be hearing more about in the following issues.



Secretary General

Since I launched it in November, the Academic Impact has grown rapidly and amazingly.
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,
4 August 2011.

Ramu Damodaran
Nathalie Leroy, Vivian Bernstein, Lilli Schindler, Vikas Sharma



New Partners for Change: the UN and the World Academic Community

The 2011 United Nations Academic Impact Forum in Seoul has two goals:

1. Encourage the world academic community to expand its agenda by actively addressing priority issues before the UN and exploring new ideas and initiatives to further the academic community's engagement in the work of the UN;
2. Examine Korean experiences in development and education and share them with developing economies in the context of attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

The Forum will be opened by KCUE Chair and Handong Global University, followed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Korean Prime Minister, UNESCO Deputy Director General Getachew Engida, and IAUP President Michael Adams. The four main sessions will address the following themes:

- Addressing Poverty through Development: Korea's Experience
- Sustainable Development
- Educational Dimensions of Development
- Capacity Building in Higher Education

More than one third of the Forum speakers are affiliated to UNAI, including members and UNAI Hubs representatives. On Friday 12 August, the Forum will be followed by a meeting of the Hub Representative, which will provide an opportunity to assess progress and discuss the way forward for our global partnership.

Human Rights and the Afrodescendant Presence: Resistance and Achievements, 26-27 August 2011

Benedict College, the UNAI Hub on Human Rights, in conjunction with the Muntu-Bantu Foundation, an organization working for the economic and cultural development of people of African descent, is organizing an international Meeting/Dialogue of Africans, and African descendants on the 17th anniversary of the enactment of Law 70, the Law of the Black



Human Rights

Communities in Colombia.

In accordance with the ongoing celebrations of the International Year of People African descent, the theme of the event is: Human Rights and the Afrodescendant Presence: Resistance and Achievements. The event will take place on August 26 and 27, 2011 at the University of Technology of Choco, in the Capital City of Quibdó, State of Chocó, Colombia.

This international meeting/dialogue aims to share the experiences of our African and African Diaspora communities as they travel on the road to freedom, human rights, dignity, and justice. The Muntu-Bantu Foundation will provide attendees with room and board and ground transportation during your stay in Quibdó; however, they must bear the cost of their own international airfare to and from Quibdó. Contact: muntubantu@gmail.com

Global Entrepreneurship Training (GET) in East Africa



83 participants from 10 countries (Benin, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania) completed the GET programme, organized jointly by UNAI Hub for Capacity-building in Higher Education Systems Handong Global University, and St. Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya.

Student Conference at University of Calcutta

The University of Calcutta, UNAI Hub on Peace and Conflict Resolution,



is organizing a Student Conference on the theme: Globalisation and Development: Current Trends. Numerous applications have been received from all over India and 12 speakers have been selected for the conference, which will be held on 18 August.

The University of Calcutta is also planning a Conference on the theme Searching for non-western roots of conflict resolution: Discourses, Norms and Case Studies. The conference is scheduled for the first week of January 2012.

A call for papers is asking for abstracts to be submitted by 31 October 2011. Selected participants would be notified by 15 November 2011. Each participant would be expected to submit the full paper (5000-7000 words). The Institute would arrange for travel and local hospitality for participants in the Conference.

All further queries and submissions should be made to: Shantanu Chakrabarti, Convenor, Academic Committee, Institute of Foreign Policy Studies, University of Calcutta, e-mail: chakrabartishantanu@hotmail.com or ifpscu@gmail.com

Upcoming events:

- The University of Buenos Aires is about to launch a video contest on the theme of sustainability and education, from September 2011 to August 2012. A prize will be awarded to the three best videos, and the 20 best videos will be presented in a video festival, 21-23 November 2012.
- An exhibit and educational programme, "Design with the Other 90%: Cities," is organized with Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum; the exhibition will run from 15 October 2011 to 9 January 2012. The educational programme will involve a number of UNAI institutions.
- Watch this Newsletter for more details on these and other



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Tutorials on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS)

To encourage a sense of commitment to the UN charter and Human Rights among its students, LUMS, the UNAI Hub on Education Opportunity for All, holds tutorials with LUMS media-oriented student societies using the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as a text.

The expectation is that these societies will then spread the message to the student body on a peer-to-peer basis. As a pilot, the editorial board of the LUMS DAILY STUDENT (LDS, an online LUMS publication) was invited this spring by LUMS faculty to a set of 3 tutorial sessions (a total of approximately 7 hours) in which the history, philosophical underpinnings and implementation of the UDHR was discussed in the context of Pakistan and LUMS.

This was the first exposure to the UDHR text for all the students involved. Participants not only engaged with the text academically, but also attempted to relate and compare it to their personal beliefs and convictions. Some interesting and spirited discussions took place during these tutorials, especially on those articles of the UDHR which make conceptual claims not easy to fit into prevailing cultural and traditional norms.

The LDS board agreed that these discussions were valuable and suggested that they be held on a regular basis early in the academic year to orient incoming board members of LDS and other media oriented societies.

