



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

The Assistant Director-General
for External Relations and Public Information

To Non-Governmental Organizations,
official partners of UNESCO

12 February 2015

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Dear Partners,

The beginning of this year has already been very rich in events and I know that many of you have been enthusiastic and effective actors in some of them.

You know also that the members of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee elected by the 2014 International Conference of NGOs met for the first time last month under the new Chairperson Martine Levy. I was able to join them on this occasion and expressed the full support of the Secretariat in the fulfilment of their mandate. I am convinced that only by continuing working together, the Committee and the Secretariat will be able to confirm and increase the visibility and the impact of our cooperation.

8-22 April 2015 – 196th session of the Executive Board

As customary and in accordance with Rules, all official non-governmental partners are invited to attend as observers the forthcoming 196th session of the Executive Board.

The provisional agenda and timetable of work for this session will be available soon online. The plenary sessions will start on Monday 13 April in the morning, with the introduction by the Director-General followed by the interventions of the Board members.

I would also like to recall that the Executive Board decided that, during this biennium, the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) would meet once a year, as appropriate. Therefore, I wish to inform you that the NGP Committee will meet at the autumn session to examine items within its purview.

For more information on the Executive Board, please follow this link:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/executive-board/>.

27 February 2015 – Extension of the deadline for submitting nominations to the 2015 UNESCO/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research in Latin America and the Caribbean

The deadline for the submission of candidates for the UNESCO/Juan Bosch Prize for the Promotion of Social Science Research 2015 has been extended to 27 February 2015 at midnight (Paris time).

I wish to remind that the purpose of the Prize is to reward, every two years, the best social science thesis, written by young researchers in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which has made a significant contribution to the promotion of research, in the social sciences.

The Prize was instituted by the Executive Board in 2009 at the initiative of the Government of the Dominican Republic. In creating this Prize, the Member States on the Executive Board recognized the remarkable contribution of Professor Juan Bosch to the study of social and political processes in the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean region.

You will find all information on the Prize and the submission of candidatures following this link: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/events/prizes-and-celebrations/unesco-prizes/juan-bosch-prize/>

Contact: Mr Germán Solinís (premio.juan.bosch@unesco.org)

21 March 2015 - World Water Day

Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. Under the theme 'Water and Sustainable Development', the year 2015 provides an important opportunity to consolidate and build upon the previous World Water Days to highlight water's role in the sustainable development agenda.

This year, the official celebration will take place the day before, on 20 March in New Delhi (India), organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and will be marked by the launching of the 2015 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR) entitled 'Water for a Sustainable World'.

The WWDR - prepared in close collaboration with the 31 members and 35 partners that make up [UN-Water](#) - is produced by the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) - which is hosted and led by UNESCO - and presents a review of the world's water resources.

The success of this Day's celebrations is dependent upon the involvement and the commitment of a broad number of stakeholders, including NGOs. I hope that many NGOs foresee the organization of activities that would contribute to the achievement of the goals of this Day.

You will find more information on the Day following [this link](#).

Contact: Ms Simona Gallese (s.gallese@unesco.org)

8-11 April 2015 - Bioethics training for educators, Cordoba, Argentina

Jointly organized by the Bioethics Programme of UNESCO for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Universidad Católica de Córdoba and the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, this regional seminar-workshop is intended for educators at the graduate and postgraduate levels. Its goal will be to provide methodological tools in bioethics teaching (deliberation, case studies, etc.) and to offer special strategies at different levels.

The course will be a unique opportunity for training and exchange among educators, and will gather outstanding international bioethicists around UNESCO's human rights-based approach to the subject. The course will be in Spanish only.

Educational entities, universities, and organizations promoting bioethics training are invited to support their teaching staff participation. Free-lance teachers interested in the theme are also welcome to apply directly.

I have no doubt that organizations active in the field of science, health and bioethics will be interested in this event, and I encourage you to inform your national branches or national representatives in the region who would be interested to participate.

More information can be found in Spanish [under this link](#).

Contact: Ms Susana Vidal (s.vidal@unesco.org)

13 – 16 April 2015 – 5th HydroEco'2015 International Conference, Vienna, Austria

Specialized NGOs will be certainly interested in this 5th International Multidisciplinary Conference on Hydrology and Ecology: Advances in Monitoring, Predicting and Managing Hydroecological Processes, organized by the Universität für Bodenkultur Wien (Boku), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna with the support of UNESCO, Division of Water Sciences (IHP).

The conference aims to bring together experts from different disciplines such as hydrologists (groundwater, surface water), ecologists, biologists, subsurface microbiologists, environmental biogeochemists, eco-technologists, geomorphologists, hydraulic engineers, forest managers, nature reserve managers, regional and landscape planners, as well as experts from governmental institutions.

More information is available at: <http://web.natur.cuni.cz/hydroeco2015/>

Contact: Mr Philippe Pypaert (p.pypaert@unesco.org)

30 April 2015 – International Jazz Day, Paris, France

As you know, on 30 April each year, this Day brings together nations and communities to celebrate the art of jazz, and to highlight its important role in encouraging dialogue among cultures and civilizations, eradicating discrimination and promoting human dignity.

As in the past three years, UNESCO's official partner in the organization of this Day is the *Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz*. The Institute is leading both the programme and outreach efforts on behalf of UNESCO.

Once more this year, we would like to broaden the geographical scope, diversity and impact of that Day. Therefore I invite you to contribute to the success of this celebration by organizing events in line with your specific interests.

I encourage you to communicate any information on activities your institution is planning to organize for the celebration of this Day to the following address: outreach@jazzday.com. Your input would be included in the official programme of events that is made available on the Day dedicated website at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/jazz-day>.

UNESCO Publications

- *Quality Physical Education* is a new interactive online publication developed by UNESCO in partnership with the European Commission, the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE), International Olympic Committee (IOC), UNDP, UNICEF, UNOSDP and WHO. These guidelines provide a framework to support policymakers (i.e. heads of department or senior officials within ministries) in reshaping physical education policy to accelerate the development of several dimensions of human capital in a unique, comprehensive way. You can download it [under this link](#).
- The publication *The International Status of Education about the Holocaust* is available in English under [this link](#). This study, carried out by UNESCO and the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research, compares for the first time representations of the Holocaust in school textbooks and national curricula. The book highlights evolving practices worldwide and thus provides education stakeholders with comprehensive documentation about current trends in curricula directives and textbook representations of the Holocaust.
- *Fixing the Broken Promise of Education for All*, published by the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and UNICEF, presents the latest statistical evidence from administrative records and household surveys to better identify children who are out of school and the reasons for their exclusion from education. Based on a series of national and regional studies and policy analysis by leading experts, the report explains why better data and cross-sector collaboration are fundamental to the design of effective interventions to overcome the barriers facing out-of-school children and adolescents. This report is available in English at the following address: <http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/oosci-global-report-en.pdf>

Finally, I am pleased to announce the admission to official partnership with UNESCO of **International Student Identity Card**, an organization based in The Netherlands. By clicking on its name, you will be redirected to its website for more information. I welcome them and this opportunity to extend even further our network of partners.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt