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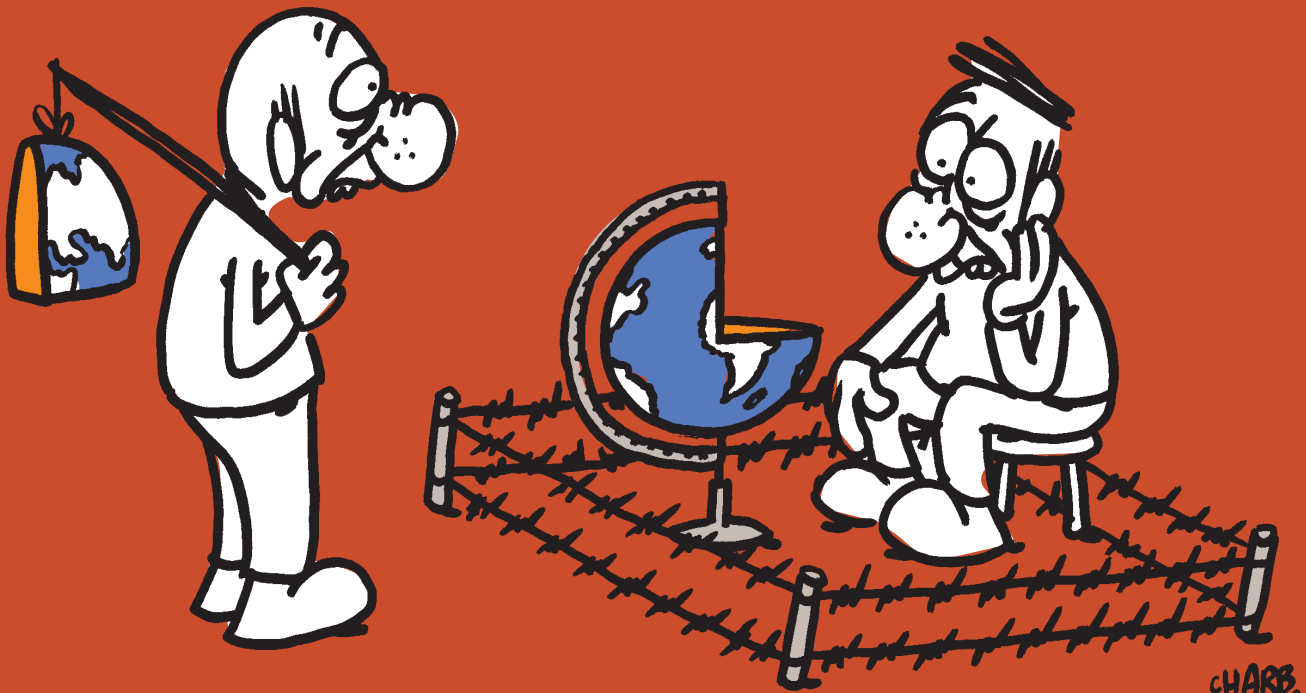
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"poverty is disregard
for human rights"**



Collective intelligence in action

Ethics, racism, poverty, human security, international migration, etc., *SHS Views* regularly delves into all these topics, and issue no. 14 is no exception. There is an assessment of UNESCO's contribution to the fight against poverty (pages 8 to 12); a dossier on international migration (pages 16 to 26); and a presentation of the Organization's programme for social development.

Why UNESCO, and why, within the Organization, the Sector for Social and Human Sciences? What is their niche, their added value, their distinctive contribution? The questions may sometimes be asked maliciously, but they are in fact unavoidable, positive and fruitful.

Only by answering these questions can a precise meaning be given to the strategic concern to ensure the contribution of policy-oriented research to human rights-focused understanding and management of social transformations. The concern is all the more crucial, and all the more delicate, that, even within the extensive scope of UNESCO competence, there are hardly any areas that do not fall within the purview of the social and human sciences.

The fundamentally cross-cutting nature of the social and human sciences can give rise to symmetrical temptations to handle everything or to leave everything to others. Hence the need to establish, rigorously, the role of moderator, facilitator, interface.

Intersectorality within UNESCO, the place of UNESCO within the United Nations system, the role of international organizations within the international system: at each of these levels the issue arises of balancing complexity of thought with efficiency in action.

International migration, which is covered by the dossier of this issue of *SHS Views*, is a case in point. Migration can be understood only as a "total" phenomenon, which touches the economy, work, demographics, culture, development and geopolitics, and operates at the level of whole continents. Yet no one has the practical capacity or legal mandate to deal with its full complexity. It is thus crucial that every action, however small-scale, should be set within an overall perspective that reflects the collective intelligence of all actors.

Emphasizing the rights of migrants by no means exhausts the issue of migration as it concerns the social and human sciences. It is, however, an angle that enables SHS to make its distinctive contribution to the action of the United Nations, while supporting overall consistency. For the best way to scale back the complexity of migration – and thereby make it impossible to manage – is to consider migrants solely as labour power, or as victims of persecution, or the bearers of cultural difference... or as potential criminals. In fact, there is only one respect in which migrants are "all the same": as the bearers of the rights that serve to define their social participation.

Without comprehensive intelligence, interventions by the many competent actors encourages fragmentation, duplication and inefficiency. Conversely, it is when the most complex phenomena are best understood that the multiplicity of contributions can give rise to synergy. This balance is precisely what gives the social and human sciences their two-fold legitimacy. ¶



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Pierre Sané
Assistant Director-General for
Social and Human Sciences

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In a world undergoing great change, the “conscience” aspect of the United Nations, which has been UNESCO’s since its inception, is becoming increasingly important. Among UNESCO’s five priority programmes, **the Ethics of Science and Technology, implemented by the Organization’s Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) aims, through ethical reflection, to guide progress in the life sciences and technological development.** This ethical reflection takes into account the cultural, legal, philosophical and religious heritage of the world’s different communities. Through normative action, awareness-raising and strengthening the capacities of its Member States, UNESCO is striving to fulfil its mandate as the “lead” international organization for ethical issues.

UNESCO Moscow Office and bioethics

Child’s drawing following the Chernobyl disaster, which heavily contaminated Belarus.



© Liliana Popova / J&A

With the help of the UNESCO Office in Moscow, the Republics of Belarus and Moldova are making bioethics issues a priority.

An international seminar entitled “Belarus National Bioethics Committee and activities of local bioethics committees – experience of Central and Eastern Europe”, was held from 6 to 8 June 2006 in Minsk, Belarus.

The seminar was co-organized by the Belarus State University Medical School and School of Economics, with support from the UNESCO Moscow Office, the Belarus National Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Health. Many scientists and bioethics specialists from the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and the Republic of Moldova attended the seminar.

Secretaries-General of the region’s National Commissions for UNESCO and the Acting Director of the UNESCO Office in Moscow also took part in the Seminar. The prime aims of the meeting were to develop national and local bioethics committees, and to support ethics expertise in biomedical research.

Since the nuclear disaster in Chernobyl, Ukraine, twenty years ago, public health is a constant concern in Belarus, and the country is very keen to have more reflection on the various applications of biotechnology, and training in ethical issues.

This seminar therefore provided the ideal occasion to launch two projects, supported by the UNESCO Moscow Office. One project is to establish a National Bioethics Committee and organize training in bioethics for Belarus specialists; and the other is to develop teaching modules and raise the general public’s awareness on bioethics.

Both these projects are the outcome of regional consultations on cooperation development in the fields of ethics and bioethics, which were held in Minsk on 10 and 15 March 2005. Those consultations recommended that national governments and parliaments, relevant ministries and institutions, public organizations and trade unions should assist national initiatives in strengthening education and general awareness on ethics and bioethics issues.

In spring 2006, in the Republic of Moldova, the UNESCO Moscow Office launched a nationwide project for the promotion of knowledge on ethics of science and technology, and for the promotion of discussions on bioethics issues. To this end, and with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education of Moldova, manuals entitled “Elements of Bioethics” have been published for schools (teachers and children). ¶

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International Bioethics Committee

The 13th session of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from 20 to 22 November 2006. This meeting will reflect further on the

Principle of Consent, and the Principle of Social responsibility and health, as set out in the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. The IBC will

examine the progress of its working groups on these issues. ¶

For further information, please see:
www.unesco.org/bioethics

Bioethics and Human Rights – exemplary campaign in Latin America

The Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights was adopted less than a year ago, and one region is leading in the campaign to promote the Declaration – Latin America and the Caribbean.

To mark the end of a year-long awareness-raising campaign on the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, a Regional Conference is scheduled from 18 to 20 October 2006, in Buenos Aires, Argentina to discuss the application of the Declaration in national legislation. Three hundred participants are expected: government representatives, bioethics specialists, human rights experts and civil society actors, as well as representatives of NGOs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

On the agenda: the steps that need to be taken, particularly with regard to legislation, to ensure effective implementation of the Declaration in the countries of the region. The Human Rights Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice of Argentina is co-organizing this Regional Conference with UNESCO. This Conference is the outcome of lengthy preparations on the part of bioethics specialists and national authorities working together through all the various stages, and it is hoped it will lead to specific measures being taken.

Regional concerns

The first stage of the Declaration was the drafting process. For the first time, in fact, regional consultations were organized to discuss the draft being elaborated by the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) and amended by the statutory consultations with the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC).

The consultation with Latin America and the Caribbean in 2004, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, gave rise to the drafting of the “Buenos Aires Letter” addressed to the IBC; it clearly set out the concerns of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Poverty, inequality, exclusion, access to health care, safe drinking water, healthy diet, etc., – for Latin America and the Caribbean, the bioethics debate is not an abstract exercise limited to the medical sphere but concerns all aspects of human life and should respect cultural diversity while guaranteeing the equal sharing of scientific and technological progress.

Whether or not it was because UNESCO’s General Conference took account of those concerns, once the final text had been adopted, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean took over the draft and fleshed out the ideas, with specialists and policy makers working together.

At the end of September 2006, less than a month before the Regional Conference in Buenos Aires, there will be a national confer-

ence in Mexico City, Mexico, to identify Mexico’s priorities with a view to incorporating elements of the Declaration into national policy.

The first meeting in the English-speaking Caribbean was held on 8 and 9 June, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. It was attended by around 40 specialists from eight different countries, who had formulated specific requests, *inter alia* for bioethics courses to be organized and for setting up national bioethics committees.

In May 2006, in Brasilia, Brazil, a National Bioethics Commission was announced – the outcome of a conference (attended by a personal representative of the President of Brazil) promoting the Declaration.

As with all the other conferences, this meeting would probably not have been possible without the active mobilization of Redbioetica, the bioethics network for Latin America and the Caribbean, nor without the creation a year earlier of a UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the University of Brasilia, Brazil.

This is the second UNESCO Chair in Bioethics in Latin America; the first one to be established is at the National University of Buenos Aires, where the Regional Conference will take place towards the end of October. This Conference will mark the culmination of many months of hard work during an exemplary awareness-raising campaign. ¶

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With the poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, bioethics is no abstract exercise.

Ethics education: training and teaching

Article 23.1 of the *Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights* states that ethics education is the best way to promote the principles of the Declaration.

UNESCO's Ethics Education Programme launched in 2004, currently has three activities:

- **Mapping of teaching programmes**

The Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs) already has 108 ethics teaching programmes: 37 cover medical ethics, and 28 cover bioethics. These descriptions – available online – can serve as sources of inspiration to set up or improve ethics teaching at university level. They constitute a basis for analysis and comparison of existing ethics teaching programmes. Mapping of programmes has now been concluded for Central and Eastern Europe.

- **Sampling of programmes**

To increase the number of programme descriptions and survey the situation

of ethics teaching in the Arab States and in Western Asia, Member States have identified experts in ethics teaching who are invited to attend regional meetings to describe the programmes in their respective countries and to discuss these descriptions with colleagues. The next such meeting will take place in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 28 and 29 October 2006, and a further meeting will take place in Muscat, Oman, on 27 and 28 November 2006. Turkey will host the third meeting in the series, possibly in spring 2007, and the fourth meeting, currently being prepared, will be for experts from the Maghreb region. These meetings will provide excellent opportunities to identify where and how improvements need to be made.

- **Training for ethics teachers**

One of the findings of the mapping exercise was the vulnerability of ethics teaching programmes. To expand these programmes and make them more sustainable, a new generation of ethics teachers needs to be trained. With the support of the Israel



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Medical students in Dakar, Senegal.

National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the University of Haifa in Israel, a training module for ethics teachers has been developed. The first training course will take place from 30 October to 3 November 2006 at the UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education (CEPES) in Bucharest, Romania. Fifteen young professionals, mainly from Europe, will be selected to take part in this first training course, with a second course scheduled for 2007 in another region. ¶

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Two Pan-African conferences on bioethics

Last June, at two major conferences, UNESCO was able to gauge the progress made on bioethics-related issues in Africa.

The two conferences were organized jointly in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 5 to 7 June 2006: the 4th Pan-African Conference on Bioethics, and the Second Pan-African Bioethics Days Forum for West and Central Africa – under the umbrella of the Pan-African Bioethics Initiative (PABIN). The overall theme of discussion was “Millennium Development Goals and the ethics of health research in Africa: the progress of bioethics in Africa”.

UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, Pierre Sané, took part in

the opening discussions. He declared that the dual event was clear confirmation of Africa's leap forward with regard to bioethics, underlining how much the African continent, cradle of humanity, can speak out, not only in defence of its people, facing risks of abuse linked to scientific and technological progress, but also in taking an active part in international ethical reflection.

The Pan-African Conference on Bioethics was established in 2001. It enables African specialists to be kept regularly informed of technical and technological research developments in the field of health.

The Second Pan-African Forum on Bioethics

for West and Central Africa concentrated on further developing the work of the Forum's founding meeting, held in 2005 in partnership with UNESCO, in Dakar (see *SHS Newsletter* 10). At that initial session, participants agreed to carry out research, teaching, health care, and the promotion of ethics, bioethics and health policies in Africa – a commitment that could be vouched for, given the large number of conference participants in this second meeting. ¶

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The promotion of human rights as inscribed in UNESCO's Constitution is one of the main assignments of the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS). Within the United Nations reform strategy, which places human rights at the heart of all its programmes, SHS works to encourage and disseminate human rights research; to promote education in human rights; to lead action in the fight against all forms of discrimination at national, regional and international level; to encourage cooperation among all actors and networks; to promote democracy and to further reflection on new forms of violence, notably by drawing up regional plans for human security.

Cities against racism – 4 regional coalitions before 2007

Three new regional networks are being set up between now and autumn 2006. In addition to the European cities network, coordinated by the city of Nuremberg, Germany, for the past two years, the Canadian Coalition (North America region) is moving ahead with a growing number of municipalities stating their intention to sign up to the Coalition.

Preparations are moving ahead for the launching of a regional coalition of African cities at the end of September, a coalition for Latin America and the Caribbean at the end of October, and this summer saw the launch of the Coalition for the Asia Pacific region.

A regional conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 3 and 4 August for an inclusive urban society brought together several municipalities. The conference provided the occasion for the official launching of a regional network for cities against racism and discrimination. The event was attended by Apirak Kosayodhin, Governor of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, Pierre Sané, who both stressed the importance of residents' participation in all aspects of urban life – economic, social, cultural and political – irrespective of their cultural backgrounds.

Regional specificities

Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam were among the countries whose municipalities sent representatives to the Conference to help finalize the project.

Also taking part in the event were National Commissions for UNESCO, national commissions for human rights, many NGOs and associations such as the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre, and United Cities and Local Governments (CGLU).

In addition to the joint commitment to fight racism guided by the Ten-Point Plan of Action, and taking account of regional specificities, the first cities to sign up to the Coalition have set themselves the task of mobilizing other municipalities in their region.

In Asia and the Pacific, as in other world regions, problems still remain with some regional policies having difficulty in recognizing racism issues and discriminatory phenomena, which are mainly linked to heritage and traditions, to migration and the instability of urbanization processes.

Over the summer of 2006, in two other regions of the world, experts have been meeting to finalize their ten-point plans of action, to reflect the realities of life in those regions.

In its efforts to get rid of discriminatory behaviour and fear of the “other”, the European Coalition of Cities against Racism held its annual meeting on 15 and 16 June in Madrid, Spain. Municipal responsibilities and action in education and the law were on the agenda as well as preparation for the 2007 conference to be held in Nuremberg. ¶

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Bangkok, Thailand, was the venue for launching the Asia and the Pacific Coalition of Cities.

2nd Human Rights Forum in Nantes



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The second session of the Human Rights Forum, held in Nantes, France, from 10 to 13 July 2006, was dedicated to the memory of Peter Benenson, founder of Amnesty International, and Rosa Parks, one of the first civil rights activists in the United States. High attendance at the Forum – around 1,000 people from 80 different countries – showed the success of this international meeting where UNESCO organized three workshops: Discrimination, Globalization and Responsibilities.

Discrimination

At 3 p.m. on 12 July in Room 200 of the Conference Centre in Nantes, Mamounata Cissé, Pascale Coton, Mary Margaret Fonow, Suzanne Franzway, Wassila Ltaief, Valentine Moghadam, Jo Morris, Shauna Olney, Nora Wintour and Michal Schwartz were on the rostrum to speak about the socio-economic rights of women and union leadership. The round table was organized by UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector with the French Confederation of Christian Workers (CFTC). There were three aims: to analyse the role of international legal instruments and human rights instruments with regard to the protection and development of women's rights; to examine the role played by women in trade unions; and to build a research network to improve women's rights in the workplace. Each speaker, whether researcher or union activist, contributed to the three-hour debate. After reaching general

agreement that the situation had deteriorated for women with regard to their rights and working conditions, the round table session was over but a research network had been created.

Globalization

On 12 July in Room 800, a round table organized by UNESCO and the International Organization of the Francophonie, examined links between the implementation of cultural rights and the safeguarding of cultural diversity. Keynote speaker Professor Rodolfo Stavenhagen, emphasized the continual discrepancy between international norms and their implementation, explaining that this was due to the complexity of cultural rights. He went on to open the debate on the concept of cultural citizenship as a possible answer to the challenges posed by a multicultural world. Emmanuel Decaux chaired the debate with Taïeb Baccouche, Meyer Bisch and Amsatou Sow-Sidibe, before opening the discussion to the public. Issues discussed were: cultural rights and diversity in the Arab States, the Fribourg Declaration, the principles of international law applied to cultural rights, respect for the linguistic rights of minorities and the relation between collective and individual aspects of cultural rights.

Responsibilities

A round table was held in Room 450 on the last day of the Forum, 13 July. In view of the mounting racist and discriminatory attitudes witnessed all over the world, the discussion was on the experience of municipalities that

have signed up to the regional coalitions against racism (see page 8). On the rostrum were mayors or their representatives of the cities of Dresden, Germany; Durban, South Africa; Nantes, France; Madrid, Spain; and Montevideo, Uruguay, as well as the programme specialist from UNESCO's Section for the Fight against Discrimination and Racism. The round table was attended by about 60 people who had come to take part in the discussions organized by the Secretariat of the International Coalition, the European Coalition, UNESCO and Greater Nantes. The message was clear: the issue must be given top priority. Immediate attention must be paid to the need to change people's attitudes; there must be cooperation among all concerned; and there must be local policies to facilitate the integration of immigrants in cities. There was general agreement that the fight against discrimination urgently needs to be pursued at city level. ¶

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The fight against extreme poverty: an intersectoral challenge

Poverty is not an inevitability. In its effort to fight poverty, UNESCO has mobilized all programme Sectors to work towards the first of the Millennium Development Goals as defined by the United Nations: the eradication of extreme poverty. While the Organization's Member States have yet to decide how this cross-cutting programme should continue, *SHS Views* takes stock of the programme's first five years.

A child dies every three seconds; 1.2 billion people are directly affected; and every year there are 25 million more victims. We are not talking about war here, or natural disasters. This terrifying phenomenon is extreme poverty – living on less than a dollar a day – the daily struggle for one in every five people in the world. Poverty prevents them from developing their full potential and from realizing their plans. When there is so much wealth in the world, and humanity is on the verge of discovering the secrets of life itself, how can there still be this incapacity to ensure the well-being of so many? The concept runs counter to UNESCO's reasoning: to place its trust in the human mind. Faced with such an intolerable waste of humanity, the Organization embarked on an intersectoral research-action programme in 2001, coordinated by the Social and Human Sciences Sector, to contribute to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and in particular to the realization of Goal No. 1: halving extreme poverty by 2015. The UNESCO programme developed into 31 projects, involving almost 400 professionals. This initial programme will be wound up next year with the end of the five-year 2002-2007 budgetary exercise.

Overall assessment of the programme –including the direct impact the projects had in the field– is positive: 80 different publications; the integration of the recommendations of some projects into certain countries' national policies (one of the recommendations is to tackle issues of poverty in human rights terms); and other partners taking over successful projects.

But that is clearly not the end of the exercise. In September and October 2006, there will be meetings with UNESCO Member States on the one hand to present the results of the first five years of activities, and on the other hand,

to decide on the strategy to be continued through to 2015 that will best develop the potential of the results achieved so far.

Promoting cultures and people

One of the most noticeable projects is “the Sahara of cultures and people”. The aim is to fight poverty with development of sustainable tourism, through promotion of the tangible and intangible heritage of the Sahara. “The route of the Ksour” thus helps to create tourist activities around the cultural and natural heritage of the oases of the Sahara, and combats the effects of desertification through job creation. This project is supported by UNDP, UNEP, the Deserts of the World foundation and the Algerian Government, with the recent addition of two petroleum companies. This pilot project helps raise awareness, train, restore built heritage, revive musical heritage and traditional skills of building adobe structures, water management and energy saving. It was held up as an example – at a round table in Algiers organized for World Environment Day– that should be expanded to encompass all the oases in the Maghreb. “Saharan Meetings” at UNESCO, organized in spring 2006 in Paris, helped publicize the project and strengthen the network of partners in the “Sahara of cultures and people” project. Several thousand visitors came to see the exhibition of photographs devoted to the project, and took part in the various events organized at UNESCO Headquarters.

Promoting local knowledge

Another pilot project is “Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS), which aims to enhance recognition of the central role knowledge plays in sustainable development with regard to the protection of ecosystems and

20% of the world's population consume 90% of the world's resources

Source: UNDP



Community learning centres have been set up in Cambodia.

me poverty

biodiversity. LINKS works on the principle that the practices and values of local communities, together with scientific approaches, can respond to the challenges of governance when it comes to biodiversity.

The aim is therefore to encourage communities to become involved in decision-making, as was the case with the biosphere reserve of Bosawas in Nicaragua, or developing the knowledge of the Mayanga on water resources, which enabled them to start a dialogue with the State. LINKS also places great importance on conservation and the passing on of traditional knowledge from one generation to the next. To do this, LINKS uses New Information and Communication Technologies (NICTs). It produces interactive CD-ROMs like the one developed to promote the Pacific islanders' indigenous knowledge of the sea – “The Canoe is the People: Indigenous Navigation in the Pacific”.

Easing access to NICTs

In a similar vein, the “Innovative Applications of Communication and Information Technologies for poverty reduction and attaining the Millennium Development Goals” enables communities who benefit from the project to come out of isolation. Poor people and marginalized youth in the village of Tansen in Nepal, were able to swap memories, ideas and plans through making their own programmes for local cable television. Thus, new voices are heard and positive models emerge in new public spaces, influencing views about caste and poverty. In the village of Budikote in India, this pilot project brought about change and developed the relation between “knowledge” and “power” among the groups, and the geographically and socio-economically marginalized villages are now linked to information exchange networks.

Here too, local government is now more aware of the concerns and problems aired through the local media.

Giving a future to young people

The “Youth PATH” project has recently been launched. It aims to eradicate poverty in the Caribbean by enabling young people between the ages of 15 and 25 to use innovative tools in the fields of tourism and heritage. In the rural communities of ten Caribbean countries where there is a high rate of unemployment among young people, and where cultural and natural heritage abounds, this project is already helping

150 young people who have been trained in tourist management and in the protection of cultural and natural heritage.

Several sites have been restored and good quality hotels have been constructed to lodge the growing number of tourists. The young people have also identified various aspects of the tourist industry where new business opportunities could be developed.

22% of the world's population do not have access to safe drinking water

Source : UNDP



© P. Viegi / WHO

The right to safe drinking water, to peace and development. In Africa, UNESCO launched a wide-ranging debate to discuss poverty in terms of human rights.

Improving the integration of migrants

Poverty reduction also means helping migrants' integration into urban areas. Hence, within the framework of its intersectoral programme, UNESCO also has a project with women and young migrants in China and Mongolia (see pages 22-23). When they leave the very poor rural areas for the “El Dorado” of the cities, where they make up a workforce that is in great demand, these migrants often find themselves in extremely poor circumstances and yet they are the producers of such wealth. The “Together With Migrants” project aims to ease their integration by helping them learn about their rights and the basic services to which they may have access. The project also helps to raise the awareness of the authorities about the plight of migrants and it has made considerable progress through linking action on the ground with research, raising awareness among the general public and producing policy recommendations.

Combating human trafficking

“Promoting government responses adapted to local culture to combat the trafficking of women and children” is a project that conducts research on the factors, which combined with poverty, lead to human trafficking in West and

Southern Africa. Based on the findings of this research, the project organizes training workshops and awareness-raising campaigns adapted to local cultures.

The aim is to help policy makers, NGOs, community leaders and the media develop more effective responses to combat this contemporary form of slavery (see pages 20-21). In 2006, a publication came out, entitled: *Poverty, Gender and Human Trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa: Rethinking Best Practices in Migration Management*. It describes the interconnectedness of human trafficking with gender and poverty in sub-Saharan Africa, based on a critical analysis of migration processes from a human rights perspective.



➔ Job creation

Another non-formal education project contributes not only to the eradication of extreme poverty but also to stem the flow of people leaving rural areas for the cities. This project, carried out in the villages of Roka and Preah Dak in Cambodia, ensures access to basic education for young children and adults, combined with literacy and training in basket-weaving. Initially conceived as a project for out-of-school girls, the project now reaches a major part of the population. In Preah Dak, the setting up of a community learning centre managed to convince the whole area to transform its drinks business into a basket-weaving enterprise. And in Roka, professional training for young boys and girls has enabled them to cope with orders for 1000 to 2000 baskets per month. In each of these villages, rather than working alone at home, people now prefer to work in the community learning centres where knowledge is shared, and so they can improve the quality of their products, strengthen the producers' network and develop distribution outlets.

Supporting sustainable ecotourism

The project "Development of Cultural and Eco-tourism in the Mountainous Regions of Central Asia and the Himalayas" has helped isolated communities develop by benefiting from their natural and cultural resources through ecotourism, while ensuring both the environmental and cultural heritage is protected for future generations. This project also helps eradicate extreme poverty and reduce the numbers of people migrating to the cities. It is a project frequently cited in the press. The 2004 edition of the *Lonely Planet guide for Central Asia* and the 2005 *Silk Roads Trail Blazer Guide* as well as the August 2005 issue of *National Geographic Adventure*, all refer to this project. It also received the 2005 Responsible Tourism Prize and the 2005 Global Vision Award for Community Outreach, awarded by the American *Travel + Leisure* magazine.

Strengthening human security

Since the fight against poverty also means working for human security, UNESCO's intersectoral programme has engaged in a wide-ranging international debate on the human rights-based approach to tackling poverty (read the interview with Monique Ilboudo). In Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal, African policy makers and intellectuals are invited to reinvest in the development of the African continent, in particular by reviewing the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) from a human rights perspective. A Forum was set up involving researchers, civil society and government institutions. This has now been extended through the creation of national follow-up committees, which function as autonomous discussion forums, thus helping to highlight the notion that the fight against poverty is not a financial exercise but in fact a matter of respect for human integrity. ¶

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In sub-Saharan Africa, one person in every three is hungry.

Source: UNDP



In South Asia, UNESCO helps girls become future actors of social transformations.

Goal No. 1

Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1 Between 1990 and 2015 reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day

Indicators

- 1. Proportion of the population with less than a dollar a day in purchasing power parity (World Bank)
- 2. Poverty gap ratio (incidence of poverty x degree of poverty) (World Bank)
- 3. Share of poorest quintile in national income or consumption (World Bank)

Target 2 Reduce by half the proportion of people suffering from hunger between 1990 and 2015

Indicators

- 4. Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age (UNICEF)
- 5. Proportion of the population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption (FAO)

Monique Ilboudo: “poverty is disregard for human rights”

Burkina Faso’s Minister for the Promotion of Human Rights calls for a change in the approach to the fight against poverty as the year 2006 brings to a close the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006). Monique Ilboudo, who trained as a lawyer, says: “until economic, social and cultural rights are given the same recognition as political and civil rights, it will be very difficult to overcome poverty”.

What do you think is the significance of Burkina Faso’s Ministry for the Promotion of Human Rights?

This Ministry only came into being in June 2002. Perhaps it was planned with a view to speeding up the democratization process and establishing a civic culture so that a maximum number of the people of Burkina Faso could access their rights and carry out their civic duties. But before that can happen, before rights can be claimed, people need to be taught about them.

UNESCO is developing a project – concentrating particularly on West Africa – called “The human rights-based approach to poverty”, to contribute to the eradication of poverty in the region. What do you think of this approach?

You know, even before this project was set up, we had already started moving in that direction in Burkina Faso. On several occasions – in my country’s Economic and Social Council (CES) and in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) – I have had the opportunity of putting forward the view that if we do not tackle poverty from that angle, it will be difficult to deal with the issue. Because in fact if we consider that people have rights – and consequently duties – it obliges every single person to take responsibility. It also obliges the development actors – both at national as well as international level – to respect the dignity of the “creditors” of those rights, and to acknowledge that there are “debtors” who owe them those rights. This can be done through changing attitudes and restoring dignity to the very poor by no longer considering them to be incapable, and by making accountable those who can and who must change the situation.

To what extent do you think the UNESCO project is helping Burkina Faso find the key to this issue?

It does at least help us go deeper into the question. And there we have another demand that is answered: to be able to reflect and put forward alternative routes to find a way out of poverty. Not just waiting to be handed solutions and then being blamed when they don’t work out. This programme gives us the opportunity to develop endogenous thinking. As this is a subregional programme, we have been able to integrate Burkina Faso’s views with those of Benin, Mali, Niger and Senegal at a meeting where all these countries were represented. Our five countries were able to convey their respective understanding and ideas on the matter. But it looks as though it is going to be a fairly lengthy process. Getting the concept of poverty as a violation of human rights accepted is certainly difficult, but I am sure it will allow our countries to move ahead more rapidly.

Why do you think it will help African countries move ahead more rapidly if they acknowledge that poverty is a human rights issue?

First of all, because it will help identify the “debtors”. Second, because if States have named the fight against poverty as the no. 1 Millennium Development Goal, an evaluation cannot be carried out every five or ten years without asking why those goals have not yet been reached. Third – and this is the most important point – because a human rights-based approach to poverty protects people’s dignity. And in this fight against poverty, dignity is of paramount importance. Instead of bowing their heads and being resigned to their lot, people feel they are full members of society, able to take an active part in their country’s development. The fight against poverty should not be seen as a charitable or philanthropic venture. Victims of poverty are people with rights that are already written into our Constitution, in the United Nations Charter and in many →

Interview



→ international conventions. The only question we should be asking is: how should those rights be met? Until it is acknowledged that we have the right to development, and that economic, social and cultural rights are on a par with civil and political rights, we still have a long way to go.

How do you confront your detractors who put forward the idea that what is needed is not reflection but action, when it comes to poverty eradication?

Simply by saying that you can't put one foot in front of the other without first thinking. Reflection before action saves precious time. The issue of people's well-being is not only an economic issue. Freedom, dignity and citizen accountability are all determining factors. If you treat people as though they are incapable, they themselves will feel unable to reach for certain goals. So in fact if we were to agree that poverty is a human rights issue, then we could tackle the accountability aspect in another way. For instance, if every individual felt that solidarity was a right for the other and an obligation for himself or herself, the world would fast become a different place. It is therefore fundamental to change the way the fight against poverty is approached.

If Burkina Faso chose to increase its commitment to tackling poverty through a human rights-based approach, would it have the means to carry out such a policy?

Burkina Faso is part of the international system. In the region of West Africa, countries have signed agreements enabling them to benefit from public aid systems. These agreements set out strategies for the fight against poverty. So it is not always easy to go it alone. But what we are asking for is justice and respect for the commitments undertaken. Take the example of cotton: our country sells its cotton at such a low price that those working in the fields do not receive even a decent wage. Why?

➔ BIOGRAPHY

Monique Ilboudo was born in Burkina Faso. She holds a doctorate in law and taught private law at the University of Ouagadougou. Ms Ilboudo was a member of the Higher Council of Information from 1995 to 2000, before becoming Secretary of State for the Promotion of Human Rights, and later, in June 2002, taking up her current position as Minister for the Promotion of Human Rights. She is an active human rights campaigner, particularly women's rights. Monique Ilboudou is an author whose work in French is considered an essential part of African literature; in 1992 she was awarded the national *Grand Prix* for her novel *Le Mal de Peau* (*Éditions le Serpent à plumes*, 2001) and she has just published *Droit de cité, être femme au Burkina Faso* (*Éditions du Remue-ménage*, 2006).

Because some countries – those that have imposed free trade through the World Trade Organization (wto) – subsidize their own cotton producers. It is unfair. Then those same States come round the other way to “help” us fight poverty – do they take us all for fools? For all those reasons our reflections on the subject must be shared as widely as possible. If there were more of us who thought the human rights-based approach feasible, it would change our development policies. Some of our priorities would be brought forward. For some years now, people have been talking about *sustainable human development*. It is when development policies and action come full circle: they start and finish with the very people concerned. It is certainly difficult, but not impossible.

Would it not be quicker to retain current development structures but try to improve them?

I don't think so. Whenever new public policy is drafted, this is the approach that should be planned. Every single person should be helped to understand that development is a human rights issue. In Burkina Faso, we are trying to set up a committee which will have the specific task of developing this reflection, beginning with the production of material for researchers and journalists. In parallel, we also want to include this approach in teaching modules with both the formal school system and the informal education centres. In Burkina Faso, the August 1983 revolution helped us understand the importance of education in citizenship and human rights; we consider citizen involvement to be a determining factor. It is citizen pressure that has contributed to our country's progress along the path to democracy.

How do you think you can bring these concerns to international attention?

If only the view that poverty should be tackled through human rights were more widely shared nationally, as well as in the other countries of West Africa engaged in this process, then we could take this reflection and debate a little further, since it is primarily for our countries that this issue is so essential. If we manage to get the States of West Africa to agree to this approach, then we will be able to speed up the process. With a human rights-based approach to poverty we would be obliged to review all our policies, all our programmes, and everything that has to do with a country's development, to make respect for human rights a priority. It would require that everything be undertaken with a view to those rights being met at every level. In fact, that is why some people find the human rights-based approach rather frightening. People do not always want to be reminded of their obligations towards others with whom they would perhaps prefer to sympathize or even pity. But I do want to stress that as individuals and as States, it is above all dignity we need. We are not a charity case. ¶

Interview by Chifa Tekaya

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.” This conviction, inscribed in the Preamble to UNESCO’s Constitution, confers on the Organization the function of intellectual, ethical and strategic watch. The Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) is endeavouring to strengthen this function through the promotion of the Organization’s role as international forum and laboratory of ideas. With the publication and dissemination of prospective studies, supporting research and the teaching of philosophy, organizing World Philosophy Day and lectures to encourage dialogue between civilizations, UNESCO hopes thus to contribute to a more informed awareness of the human sciences and of **philosophical reflection as a “school for freedom”** without which there can be neither understanding nor mutual respect.

World Philosophy Day 2006

Since 2002, Philosophy Day has been celebrated each year on the third Thursday in November and last year Philosophy Day was inscribed on the list of International Days – an idea that was first mooted by the Kingdom of Morocco. So Morocco will host the 2006 key philosophy event, while from Beijing to Mexico, Dar es Salaam to Dakar and Paris, World Philosophy Day will be celebrated in more than 80 countries on every continent.

Since it began in 2002, Philosophy Day has had a large following both with the international intellectual community as well as the general public.

Each year, the third Thursday in November has become an occasion to bring together a growing number of participants in a variety of activities from academic lectures to philosophical debates on contemporary challenges, and philosophy café discussions with the general public.

Last year, inscribing Philosophy in the calendar of World Days made the 2005 event an occasion to remember. In Chile a special programme was organized (see *SHS Newsletter* 10) and a publication of the Day’s proceedings is scheduled for this autumn.

In 2006 the special celebration of World Philosophy Day will take place in the country which initially put forward the suggestion that the Day should become “International Philosophy Day” – Morocco. Other philosophy events will be celebrated all



Philosophy Day is when everyone can enter the debate as at this Philosophy Café organized in 2004.

over the world from Beijing to Mexico, Dar es Salaam to Paris.

In Morocco, philosophers and the general public will be able to discuss subjects as varied as “Philosophy and the modern condition”, “Philosophy, cultural diversity and communication”, “Modernity and women’s position in society”, “Philosophy and impediments to an alliance of cultures”, “Philosophy: teaching, discussion, translation”, and “Philosophy and the North-South Dialogue: the obstacles and the future”.

Other events will be organized alongside the round tables, with a Philosophy café discussing “Philosophy today” and “What can philosophy do in the Arab-Mediterranean world?” There will also be a seminar organized in cooperation with the Collège

international de philosophie, on “The philosophical interpretations of Ibn Khaldun”.

Interregional dialogue

Among the philosophers invited to take part in this event are: Arjun Appadurai, Ali Benmakhlof, Jean-Godefroy Bidima, Tanella Boni, Bruno Clément, André Comte-Sponville, Umberto Eco, Fatmah Haddad, Ioanna Kuçuradi, Sé mou Pathé Gueye, Abada Laroui, Alain de Libera, Gabriel Martinez-Gros, Mohamed Mesbahi, Edgar Morin, Ben Salem Himmich, Elias Sanbar, Michel Serres, Fathi Triki, Gianni Vattimo and Maria Jesus Viguera.

Additional events in celebration of World Philosophy Day 2006 in Morocco will be two full days on 17 and 18 November devoted to Interregional Philosophical Dialogue: Asia and the Arab world. This seminar will



→ enable thinkers and philosophers of these two regions to exchange views and will, in fact, be a continuation of two previous sessions that took place in Paris in November 2004 and in Seoul in November 2005.

In an interview last spring with the Moroccan newspaper *Manara*, Morocco's Minister of Culture, Mohamed Achâari, said that celebrating International Philosophy Day "will restore philosophy to its rightful place among the other disciplines. It will also be an occasion to honour academics, writers and defenders of free thinking, particularly in the Arab world". According to Mohamed Achâari,



Book fair at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, 2005.

"this grand return of philosophy to the intellectual scene is proof of profound educational reform".

Apart from the invitation to everyone to "philosophize" together, the celebration of International Philosophy Day is to promote philosophy teaching throughout the world and encourage critical and independent thought, and hence work towards a better understanding of the world in order to promote tolerance and peace.

Resolution 37 adopted by the UNESCO General Conference in October 2005, instituted International Philosophy Day, and emphasized the importance of the beneficial influence philosophy could have in many countries where this discipline has been dropped from school curricula, and in other countries where philosophy holds a precarious position.

By encouraging the exercise of reflective, critical thought and reason, UNESCO is also fulfilling its role as catalyst of ideas, forum for discussions and reflection, and encouraging the questioning, critical function of philosophy alongside the other social and human sciences. ¶

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Modernity and the historian's perspective

An accidental guest at the International Symposium held in May 2006, at UNESCO in Paris, might easily have confused it with a debate on current globalization issues.

Interdependent economic markets, the global proliferation of political and cultural traditions, and the uniform ways in which geographically distant people dress, speak, eat and structure their family relations – these were the pervading themes of the discussion.

And yet people had gathered at UNESCO Headquarters to ponder over the interconnectedness and interdependence of global changes that began far earlier than our lifetimes – at the turn of the eighteenth century.

A book by British historian Christopher A. Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914*, and its recent French translation, set the parameters of the debate. Bayly takes an alternative view on the origins of modernity and argues that modernity is less a triumph of Western values and ideologies and more a product of the hybridization of cultures and civilizations from various regions around the world.

This theory sparked a lively debate ranging from disagreement on the regional "drivers" of change and their role in shaping the modern world, to a discussion on the meaning of "the modern world", the place and the time of its birth.

As the debate drew to a close, the one truth to have been uncovered seemed the impossibility of tackling all the issues that had been raised during the day's discussions. Long after the Symposium, conversations continued outside the meeting room – confirming the participants' great interest in the issue of modernity.

The key questions posed: "How was the modern world born?" and "What were the circumstances that ensured European hegemony in the world?" are certain to remain issues of productive academic and popular debate for many years to come. ¶

Report by Irakli Khodeli

Programme at UNESCO Headquarters

At the request of the Organization's partners, several events are scheduled to take place from 13 to 17 November next, at UNESCO House in Paris.

From 13 to 16 November 2006, there will be a seminar organized within the framework of events celebrating "A century with Levinas", and in cooperation with the Association for the Celebration of the Centenary of Emmanuel Levinas. The seminar title: "Levinas and Blanchot: thinking difference". (Contact: Eric Hoppenot, Eric.Hoppenot@paris.iufm.fr)

On 15 and 16 November 2006, there will be another seminar: "Philosophy as an

educational and cultural practice: a new citizenship" organized by a French steering committee. For several years now, this steering committee has been in charge of organizing annual meetings in the field of "New philosophical practices". It brings together teachers, academics and associations, with backing from the SCEREN/CNDP network. This year's seminar will tackle the issue of new philosophical practices, particularly the teaching of philosophy to children. (Contact: Oscar Brennifer, alcolfrib@club-internet.fr) There will also be exhibitions at UNESCO Headquarters.

Portuguese-speaking world: new link-up for the human sciences

“Humaniredes” – the network of human sciences in Portuguese launched last year on the initiative of UNESCO should soon become operational. The network already has several members in Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Macao, Mozambique, Portugal, and Sao Tome and Principe.

In the framework of its “Multilinguism in the Cyberworld” project, Brazil’s University of Campinas put forward the proposal for the network to be expanded to include the

Portuguese-speaking countries of Africa and Asia – to which the Ministry of Culture of Brazil agreed. So these countries may now benefit from this national project, which provides equipment for multimedia centres that have been selected by a Special Commission. All Portuguese-speaking faculties of arts and human sciences wishing to join the network and to present their application to become part of this project, called “Pontos de Cultura”, are invited to indicate their interest as soon as possible. Offers of equipment, expertise or training methodology from companies and Member States are also welcomed. ¶

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Emblem of the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries.

Meetings in Rio and Paris on the “Paths to Dignity”

The basic assumption of both meetings was that a contemporary approach to the concept of human dignity implies the revival of the sphere of knowledge formerly called “humanities”.

To reflect on the notion of human dignity against the background of current scientific progress and globalization is among the challenges of the “Paths to Dignity” proposal launched in the framework of the 60th anniversary of UNESCO and of “Pathways of Thought”. With this in mind, two meetings were held last June at the confluence of the sciences and the humanities on the one hand,¹ and of modern and traditional cultures and knowledge on the other.²

How should we cope with the challenges that continue to arise at the boundaries separating “humanities” from “natural and exact sciences”? Must there be a “cognitive turnaround” to replace the human in its universal context, without yielding to anthropocentrism? Do the issues raised by globalization and human diversity call for a new, more global approach to science?

Will new information technologies lead to greater sharing of humanist knowledge, and hence to the prevalence of the production of relations over relations of production? Are we moving towards genuine recognition amongst distant cultures? Is dignity essentially in how we see ourselves through others?

Many participants identified a need for philosophical reflection on what the sciences appear to disregard: the adverse effects of technologies that are now a part of our daily lives. Biophysicist Henri Atlan said he preferred “the scientific uncertainty that encumbers us today to the absolute power and arrogance that formerly characterized knowledge”, and yet he also acknowledged a lack of “benchmarks and convictions for thinking about the scientific and technical issues of today”. Historian Maurice Aymard and philosopher Immacolata Vasallo Lopes considered ideas for reorganizing the social sciences, while Ronaldo Mourao and Trinh Xuan Thuan, basing their argument on theories and discoveries in astrophysics, advanced the idea of an “ecologization of sciences”.

Anthropologist Michèle Therrien offered a model for partnership between student and

studied communities, while Antonio Garcia Gutierrez pointed to ways through which entire populations can speak out and be heard, redeeming their knowledge and narratives through self-publishing, reclaiming the value of the spoken word, or rediscovering a philosophy of preservation and caring for later generations. Anthropologist Philippe Descola emphasized the value of difference for truly understanding oneself. The narratives of Amerindian poet Scott Momaday, (1969 Pulitzer Prize winner and UNESCO Artist for Peace) illustrated philosopher Hannah Arendt’s assertion from an earlier time: “everything can be taken from a human being but his dignity”. ¶

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1. International Seminar organized with the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (ICPHS) and the *Biblioteca Nacional* Foundation of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 1 and 2 June 2006.
2. “First Nations, Art, Recognition and Dignity”, conference-debate organized with the *École des hautes études en sciences sociales*, UNESCO, Paris, 22 June 2006.

A new era for international migration

Dossier



191

The official number of international migrants in 2005 was 191 million

48.6%

Almost half of all international migrants are women

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 UNESCO's International
 Migrations programme:
www.unesco.org/migration

High-Level Dialogue
 on International Migration
 and Development:
www.un.org/esa/population/hldmigration

In his address to the General Assembly on 6 June 2006, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that history shows how migration improves not only the lot of those who leave their countries but it also helps the whole of humankind to progress. The Secretary-General was presenting his preliminary report in preparation for the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, scheduled to take place at the UN in September. Given UNESCO's fields of competence, it has a major role to play. The Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) is responsible for implementing the Organization's programme on international migration and as such it helps policy makers understand the transformations of the contemporary world so that respect for basic rights is incorporated into policies. Whatever the age, sex, country of origin, reason for leaving, the journey involved or the person's status on arrival, a migrant is first and foremost a human being who should be shown respect as should any other human being and who has the right to protection under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

United Nations: migrants are a benefit to the State, not a burden.

The message has doubtless never been quite so clear, nor has it ever been quite so necessary to put a stop to just anything being said about migration, and most important of all, to prevent the worst happening: men and women injured or killed as they try to cross a frontier; men and women in insecure housing and employment without official recognition or respect for their basic rights; thousands of women and children traded like goods, sold to the highest bidder; and entire communities victims of racist discrimination, etc.

In his address to the General Assembly announcing the High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in New York on 14 and 15 September 2006, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan spoke of something people tend to forget: that international migration is likely to be with us for as long as human societies continue to develop. Migration should not be stopped, but it should be better managed with increased cooperation among all parties concerned and a better overall understanding of the phenomenon.

That is the challenge waiting for every UN Specialized Agency, every government, every NGO, every specialist and even every member of civil society to take up and start facing the facts.

The UN General Assembly High-Level Dialogue in September will indeed provide the opportunity to review the 2005 report of the World Commission for International Migration which shows that migration flows are beneficial not only to migrants' countries of origin but also to receiving countries.

Even prejudice cannot withstand the proof of hard facts. For example, which are the main receiving countries? The United States (20% of the world's migrants), the Russian Federation (7.6%), Germany (4.2%), Ukraine (4%) and India (3.6%).

From which countries do most of the migrants come? From China (35 million people), India (20 million) and the Philippines (7 million).

Is migration on the increase? Yes, into the United States and the Russian Federation, but everywhere else in the world there has been a decrease in migration over the past thirty years.

Does this concern just a handful of countries? According to this same UN report, in 1970, migrants formed 10% of the population in 48 countries, whereas in 2000 that was the percentage of migrants in 70 countries.

What is the overall percentage of migrants in the world? 3%.

These few statistics confirm the analysis upheld for several years now by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which although acting outside the United Nations system is nonetheless a dependable partner.

The IOM's *World Migration Report 2005*, concludes that in fact "many concerns that surround migration, such as loss of jobs, lower wages, increased welfare costs and the belief that migration is spiralling out of control, are not only exaggerated or unfounded, but contrary to evidence".

All available data point to the fact that migration is not a burden but a benefit. So can we build on this benefit and draft better policies? What is the role of non-State actors in the migration process? To what extent should States cooperate in managing migration flows? Should there be an ad hoc institution such as a World Forum to coordinate the efforts of all actors involved?

Questions like these will be on the agenda of the UN High-Level Dialogue, and UNESCO's expertise will be called upon. Although there is no single specialized agency responsible for migration issues within the United Nations system – responsibility is shared among various institutions – given UNESCO's specific fields of competence, the Organization constantly finds itself at the heart of the debate. →



Opposite:
Fleeing extreme poverty, at times risking their lives, hundreds of migrants are arrested each year in their search for a better life.

Above:
Bronze sculpture, unveiled on 1 December 2000 at UN Headquarters in New York, honours the contribution of Irish immigrants to many countries.

Ryszard Cholewinski

Specialist in
International Law.
Member of OIM

➔ With education for all, cultural diversity, knowledge-sharing and best practices; the fight against poverty, racism and discrimination; upholding public policies that take into account the social transformations changing the face of today's world, and so on, how could it be otherwise?

The Social and Human Sciences Sector is responsible for implementing the programme on international migration. Its aim is to promote respect for migrants' rights and to contribute to the social integration of migrants. To carry this out, the Sector is following five main lines of action:

- increasing the protection of migrants through participation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), as well as several NGOs, in an international campaign to encourage States to adhere to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;

- improving national policies of the sending, transit and receiving countries, through promoting research and providing training for policy makers so that there is better management of the impact that migration has on societies;

- promoting the value of and respect for cultural diversity in multi-cultural societies and improving the balance between policies that favour diversity and those that favour social integration, by developing initiatives that advocate consideration of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (1992), and the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity;

- supporting capacity-building, permanence and effectiveness of migrants' networks as a means of promoting intellectual contribution – as against the current brain drain – through the use of new information and communication technologies;

- contributing to the global fight against human trafficking and the exploitation of migrants.

Some examples of the above can be found in this Dossier.

“Migration should take place within the framework of international law. In international law there is the principle of *non-refoulement* whereby a person cannot be sent back to a country where his/her life or freedom may be threatened. The right to respect for family life can also constrain migration policies and the expulsion of migrants. Migrants cannot be detained arbitrarily or prevented from leaving the country of employment through the confiscation of their passports, which unfortunately is a common practice. Migrant workers are entitled to decent work conditions on the basis of equality with nationals. In the current context of heightened security, it is important to underline that these human rights principles remain relevant and applicable.”



Above:
Following the 1840s potato famine, millions of Irish left from Queenstown for the United States; Dr O'Connor examines emigrants c.1930.

Opposite:
Determination drives thousands to get through frontiers any way they can.

Benefits of the Convention on Migrant Workers' Rights

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted in 1990 by the United Nations General Assembly, represents the most comprehensive treaty protecting migrants' rights.

It came into force on 1 July 2003, with the twenty ratifications needed for its application. To date, the Convention has been ratified by 34 of the 192 Member States of the United Nations. This number of ratifications is a significant improvement on the Convention's earlier state of acceptance and is indicative of the treaty's progress which can be more fully appreciated if we take a look at its background. The adoption of the Convention in 1990 was the outcome of a lengthy process that had begun in the 1940s with the adoption by the International Labour Organization (ILO) of new worldwide

standards for the protection of migrants' rights. Although it took 13 years for the Convention to enter into force, ratifications have increased since 2003 in great part thanks to the efforts of UNESCO.

Through its Social and Human Sciences programme, the Organization endeavours to remove the obstacles hindering ratification by investigating the reasons behind States' reluctance to adhere to the Convention. Some States are unaware of the Convention's existence, while for others, migration is a relatively new phenomenon. But there are still some States that see ratification of the treaty as representing national expense they cannot afford. When States see immigration primarily in a negative light, and not as anything positive, then granting rights to migrants is clearly not a priority, and even less of one when the migrants are undocumented. The Convention stipulates

that all migrants, whatever their legal status, have the right to a minimal degree of protection which includes, for example, access to emergency health care and fair legal treatment. Some States have no desire to see international agreements interfere with their migration policies, which they consider to be a purely national issue. Economic instability and high unemployment are also factors that prompt States to give preference to nationals over foreign workers. But respect for migrants' rights is a central feature of any migration policy and constitutes the basis on which they can be integrated into host societies. Promoting ratification of the Convention by as many countries as possible is therefore one of UNESCO's priorities. ¶

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300%

In 2005, migrants sent remittances of US\$150 billion to their home countries = three times international development aid.

10

Main employing countries for migrants in 2005: Canada, France, Germany, India, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States.



➔ States Parties to the Convention

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belize, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay. ¶

UNESCO fights modern slavery

Latest available figures from US State Department (2004) indicate 600,000 to 800,000 women and children are victims of trafficking each year.

Human trafficking is no new phenomenon, but in the context of globalization it has taken on new proportions. It results from factors rooted in poverty, inequality and discrimination, with women and children the main victims of this age-old form of trafficking. It is a demand-driven, global business with a huge market for cheap, docile labour.

Human trafficking is a multi-faceted phenomenon. First, because of the “push” factors rooted in poverty, inequality and discrimination, resulting in survival strategies that expose the most marginalized to all forms of abuse; second, because it involves multiple stakeholders at both institutional and commercial level, and it is abetted by insufficient policies, corruption and a lack of trained personnel to prevent it; and third, because this trade in human life represents a profitable market: the annual figure is estimated at around US\$10 billion.

For those involved in combating human trafficking, the main difficulty is lack of reliable information. UNESCO’s Sectors for Social and

Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information, at Headquarters and in the field, are combining their efforts to tackle the issue.

In Asia, the Organization is working on data analysis and prevention of trafficking in the Greater Mekong subregion (see page 21). In Africa, UNESCO is focusing on an analysis of the root causes that lead to human trafficking, and helping governments and communities to build or strengthen national prevention campaigns. Particular attention is paid to traffickers’ manipulation of cultural practices and beliefs (child fostering, voodoo practices, and prejudices regarding HIV and AIDS). Six papers with country-specific analysis of human trafficking are being drafted. They will put forward policy recommendations for Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Lesotho, Mozambique and South Africa.

In the Balkans, UNESCO is supporting the co-production and exchange – among twelve South-East European public service broadcasters – of investigative documentaries and TV news stories on the trafficking of women and girls; thus also enhancing professionalism, cooperation and dialogue among journalists in the region. ¶

For more information, please contact:

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Website: www.unesco.org/shs/humantrafficking

2/3

Unofficial statistics put two-thirds of all human trafficking as intra-regional: East Asia-Pacific and Europe-Eurasia.

Mali TV relays UNESCO message

A far cry from the usual formal conference centre, the UNESCO Office in Bamako opted to launch the “Fight against human trafficking in West Africa” project by taking part in and helping finance a children’s television programme.

The programme “Us Children” was recorded on 15 June and broadcast the following day, to mark Children’s Day in Africa. The whole programme was devoted to violence and child trafficking with the aim of raising children’s awareness about human trafficking.

During the programme, boys and girls

from Community Support Centres in various Bamako neighbourhoods enacted sketches and sang songs they themselves had written in their respective languages, to tell each other and the television audience about the different methods used by traffickers to attract and exploit their young victims. Most of the children in these community centres are street children, some of whom had fallen victim to traffickers, so their performance was all the more convincing. The show ended with a parody of a TV news programme on trafficking issues. Following the broadcast,



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Programme Coordinator in the UNESCO Bamako Office, Vincent Seck, reiterated the Organization’s unconditional support for all anti-trafficking initiatives.

The programme gave the UNESCO project high visibility and showed the importance of the Organization’s awareness-raising activities in this field.

The “Us Children” programme, broadcast nationwide, is the most popular Mali TV programme for children. ¶

For more information, please contact:
Ali Daou, a.daou@unesco.org,
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An exemplary project in the Greater Mekong region

Over the past ten years, the research the UNESCO Office in Bangkok has conducted on human trafficking in the Greater Mekong region makes the Organization the lead UN Agency in the field.

Poverty, lack of citizenship, lack of land tenure and political repression, are all risk factors for minorities in the region, particularly women and young girls, making them vulnerable to trafficking.

Through an ongoing review of statements on trafficking, the Bangkok Office is trying to find out the exact number of victims. It is also conducting research into the structure and patterns of local trafficking, using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to conduct social research and develop an epidemiological approach, linking trafficking with HIV/AIDS and drug-use in the region.

The Office also analyses issues of structural vulnerability to trafficking, e.g. lack of citizenship, which is the single greatest risk factor for young people in northern Thailand. With residence and travel restrictions imposed on them, the further young minority people travel from their communities, the more vulnerable they become.

In an effort to resolve the issue of highland legal status and with support from the Government of the United Kingdom, the Bangkok Office is conducting a survey – the largest ever carried out – with the Royal Thai Government, NGOs and highland communities, of 12,813

highland households in three provinces, to determine the relationship of legal status with access to social services and to migration and occupation choices. The findings will inform outreach programmes in eight languages to promote citizenship and birth registration.

As part of its prevention work, UNESCO has been funded by the Asian Development Bank to develop, test and disseminate a series of radio programmes and audiotapes among highland minorities. Working with radio stations in China, Thailand, Lao PDR and Cambodia, these programmes are broadcast in minority languages. Funding from the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will enable similar programmes to be produced for Lao migrants. ¶

For more information, please contact:

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www.unescobkk.org/



Opposite:
Traffickers try to get a young girl past a frontier in Africa, in 2001.

Above:
Commercial enterprise: millions of men, women and children were victims of the slave trade, exchanged for goods and then sold to work the land in the Americas.

Nicola Piper
Senior Research
Fellow
University
of Singapore

“In the Asia Pacific region, there have been some attempts to develop regional policies. The IOM organized three ministerial meetings – in Colombo, Manila and Bali – on economic migration. The first two meetings involved only sending countries but the last meeting was also attended by a few destination countries. The aim is to develop common approaches to exporting labour. The current situation in terms of migrants’ rights remains unsatisfactory. For example, freedom of association is not always guaranteed and there are contract violations (especially non- or under-payment of wages). A major problem here is that many migrants work in sectors where local workers are not protected either, hence the UN Convention has little relevance.”

Migration museums help integration

October 2006 will see the official launching of a UNESCO-IOM pilot project on the history of immigration at a meeting in Rome of experts from countries that have museums on the history of migration and others with plans to open such museums.

For many countries immigration is nothing new. Successive waves of migrants have contributed to the society, culture and economy of their receiving countries. All too often though, people tend to ignore that side of the story of migration and if we want to be able to sustain the integration of migrants and their children, then we need to make it known.

Now that cultural diversity is seen as both a priority and a challenge for receiving countries, UNESCO and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have decided to work together to encourage exchange of information and experiences on the history of migration and migrants' memories, particularly by helping destination countries build and develop museums on migration.

There is a growing interest in migration museums. In addition to the obvious example of Ellis Island in the United States, seven other countries have already created this kind of museum: Australia, Canada,

France, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands and Switzerland. These are not simply museums, but meeting places, places that illustrate the journey from the country of origin to the country of destination, and the passing on of memories from one generation to the next. The aim of these museums is clear – to help mould a multi-faceted identity that is both individual yet shared.

Apart from helping us in our duty to remember, the main aim of these initiatives is to help along the integration process of immigrants by acknowledging the rich and varied contribution that different waves of immigration have brought into their receiving countries, and by raising awareness among non-migrants of the important, positive aspects of immigration.

The first stage of the UNESCO-IOM project will be a meeting of experts and representatives of around ten receiving countries, to foster exchange of information and experience. The meeting will take place in October 2006, in Rome, Italy.

With the backing of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, the meeting will set up a network of specialists from countries with existing museums on migration and from countries that are exploring the idea of opening similar museums. Participants will include major immigrant community representatives and education specialists since schools have an important role to play on integration.

Following the meeting, UNESCO's and IOM's respective websites will open up a virtual space. ¶

For more information, please contact:

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Antoine Pecoud, a.pecoud@unesco.org, tel.: + 33 1 45 68 43 31

45%

In 2004, 45% of all direct foreign investment in China was sent by the 30 to 40 million Chinese emigrants.

+8

Eight billion dollars was the contribution of immigrants to the United States national revenue in 1997.



3000 people took part in the 2006 "Together with Migrants" Festival.

Together With Migrants

The 2006 "Together With Migrants" Festival, from 14 to 18 June, was co-organized by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) and the UNESCO Office in Beijing. This event comes under the poverty eradication programme and forms part of the project on public awareness-raising and support for migrants, which first began in 2002 (see pp. 8-12). Each year the "Together With Migrants" festival provides an excellent opportunity for interaction among migrants, urban specialists, intellectuals, artists, policy makers, NGOs and UN Organizations. This week-long Festival attracted no less than 3000 people who discussed

topics such as HIV/AIDS prevention, the protection of legal rights, social policy options, social integration, the education of migrants' children and the impact of art on migration issues. Several film shows and an art exhibition also helped in raising public awareness with regard to the everyday life of migrants. The next "Together With Migrants" event will take place in autumn 2006 in Beijing – an international conference which will focus on policy recommendations. ¶

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Changes in Central Asia

For centuries, Central Asia has witnessed a constant flow of people across its territories, and migration is continuing, changing the demographic landscape of the region. With the end of the Soviet Union, millions of migrants, especially ethnic Slavs and Germans, left Central Asia to return to their ancestral homelands. International migration continues to shape the economic, social and political dynamics of the region.

Today's "caravans" of migrants along the Silk Road, are mostly labourers travelling from poorer to more wealthy countries in search of work. While Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have become sending, or "pushing" countries, Kazakhstan is still the second "pulling" country in the region after the Russian Federation. With its rapid economic and social development and strategic geopolitical location between Russia, China and the rest of Central Asia, Kazakhstan finds itself in a unique position as a sending and a receiving country, as well as a transit country for migrants seeking work elsewhere.

The UNESCO Cluster Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is in Almaty, Kazakhstan. One of the Office's main activities is to contribute to changing the negative perceptions people have of migrants, by raising awareness with the authorities and the migrants themselves with regard to the human rights of migrants, and through promotion of the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Convention has already been ratified by two States in the region: Kyrgyzstan (2003) and Tajikistan (2002).

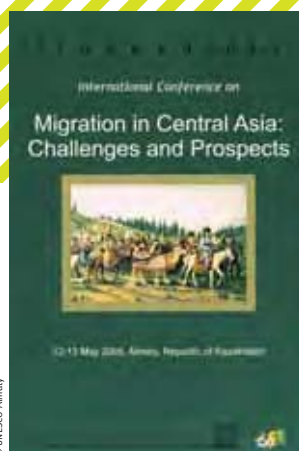
In May 2005, the Almaty Office organized an International Conference, "Scenarios for the Future of International Migration in Central Asia". The proceedings of the Conference have just been published in English and Russian, together with four studies on migration in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

With the aim of identifying cooperation possibilities with the various players involved

in migration issues, this Conference underlined how migrants' rights are systematically violated, owing to general ignorance of those rights, and to cultural and language barriers.

In follow-up to the research and recommendations presented at the Conference of policy makers with regional and international experts, a strategy paper on migration in Central Asia will soon be published with a view to helping governments in the region harmonize their policies, improve their understanding of the issue and manage migration using a more realistic, human approach. ¶

For more information, please contact:
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The proceedings of the Almaty Conference comprise four new studies on Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

- 10 to 30%

represents the loss in skilled labour for developing countries – the brain drain

Respect for diversity – a challenge for democracy

One of the great challenges faced by multi-ethnic and multicultural societies is to reconcile democracy and human rights with respect for diversity.

In its programme on international migrations, UNESCO is setting up a project called "Democratic governance in multicultural and multi-ethnic societies". It focuses on democracy-building in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan where there is both ethnic and linguistic diversity.

The assumption is that a peaceful transition to a market economy and democracy presupposes a balance between social cohesion and group autonomy, which reduces the

possibility of interethnic tensions or conflict. For example, multilingual policies based on human rights can foster social integration and should therefore be a key component of democratization in multilingual societies.

This project aims to help the Kyrgyz Republic find suitable legislation, public policy strategies and administrative structures that will guarantee equal ethnic participation within a democratic framework. Thanks to cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Switzerland, policy makers, legislators, representatives of public and non-governmental organizations, from Kyrgyzstan, were

introduced to the democratic management of ethnic and cultural diversity, and training activities have been set up through the UNESCO Chair in Democracy in Multi-Ethnic and Multicultural Society, which was established in 2001 at the Academy of Management in Bishkek. ¶

For more information, please contact:
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ID cards for UNESCO networks

○ ID_UNITWIN/UNESCO

NAME: UNITWIN/UNESCO network on forced migration

ESTABLISHED: 1998

SECRETARIAT: The Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

COUNTRIES INVOLVED: An-Najah National University, Palestinian Territories; Yarmouk University, Jordan; Hassan II University, Morocco; University of the Western Cape, South Africa; University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: With partner institutions, collects and compares worldwide data on research, teaching, training and publications on refugees and forced migration.

○ ID_CEENOM

NAME: Central and Eastern European Network on Migration Research (CEENOM)

ESTABLISHED: 1998

SECRETARIAT: Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation.

COUNTRIES INVOLVED: Azerbaijan, Armenia, Czech Republic, Belarus, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: Sheds light on the main obstacles preventing countries of the network from signing the UN Convention on Migrant Workers' Rights.

○ ID_APMRN

NAME: The Asia Pacific Migration Research Network (APMRN)

ESTABLISHED: 1995

SECRETARIAT: Wollongong University, Australia.

COUNTRIES INVOLVED: Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Fiji, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam.

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: Develops an international, interdisciplinary research network on social and political aspects of international migration and ethno-cultural diversity as major factors of social transformation in the Asia-Pacific region.

11%

Pakistan is the world's largest receiving country with over a million refugees.

Khadija Elmadmad

Professor of Law
UNESCO Chair in Migration and Human Rights
University Hassan II,
Casablanca, Morocco.

“Europe asks North African and sub-Saharan countries to contain the flow of migration and fight against illegal immigration. North African countries are torn between their traditions of hospitality towards their Southern neighbours and concerns about security. Laws to restrict the entry of foreigners and to punish illegal immigration have been passed, and in this region illegal migrants are often expelled. But States find it difficult to operate border controls and the illegal migrants are so determined that the fight against illegal immigration has had pretty limited results.”

“Building research capabilities is an essential activity. With funding from UNESCO, the Ford Foundation and UNDP, our network has carried out numerous research projects, produced several publications and every two years we organize conferences. There have already been seven: in Manila, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Fiji, Singapore and Seoul. The next conference is scheduled in Fujian, China, in May 2007. Many of APMRN's research centres have developed to such an extent that they now feature experienced migration researchers and policy advocates who are consulted by governments and international organizations. Our network takes part in a range of international meetings and we plan to expand our cooperation with NGOs in the years to come.”

Robyn Iredale

Geographer
APMRN Manager

Further reading

“Managing migration: whither the missing regime?”

Migration Without Borders series
Ghosh, Bimal
19 pp., UNESCO, Paris, 2005. SHS/2005/MWB/4

“The Frontiers of mobility”, *Migration Without Borders* series
Withol de Wenden, Catherine
12 pp., Paris, UNESCO, 2004.

SHS/2004/MWB/10

“International Migration”,

International Social Science Journal, no. 165

Crowley, John (Ed.)
487 pp., Blackwell Publishing/UNESCO, 2000. 0020-8701.

The integration of migrants: contemporary challenges and implications

Hugo, G.J., 40 pp., UNESCO, 2003. SHS/SRP/MIG/2003/PI/H/1

“Strangers in Foreign Lands. Diversity, Vulnerability and the Rights of Migrants”

de Varennes, Fernand
38 pp., UNESCO, 2003. (in English only)
SHS/SRP/MIG/2003/PI/H/2

“Migration, Human Rights and the United Nations”

Pécoud, Antoine and de Guchteneire, Paul
Global Migration Perspectives no. 3
Global Commission on International Migration, 2004. [pdf]:
www.gcim.org/en/ir_gmp.html



AFRICA

Burkina Faso: migration et droits des travailleurs, 1897-2003
Pacere, Tinga Frédéric
(in French only)

262 pp., Paris, UNESCO/Karthala, 2004. ISBN: 92-3-203943-5; 2-84586-517-1

Migration de travail et protection des droits humains en Afrique (Gabon, Niger, Cameroon, Benin)

Sall, Babacar
72 pp., UNESCO, Paris, 2005. SHS/2005/MC/8

État-nation et migrations en Afrique de l'Ouest: le défi de la mondialisation

(in French only)
Fall, Papa Demba
23 pp., UNESCO, Paris, 2004. SHS/2004/MWB/2

Migration internationale et droits des travailleurs au Sénégal

Fall, Papa Demba
49 pp., UNESCO, Paris, 2003. SHS/2003/MC/5
(in French only)

“The Rights of migrant workers and members of their families:

Nigeria”, Country Reports series
Adedokun, Olaide A.
32 pp., Paris, UNESCO, 2003. SHS/203/MC/7

“Les Migrants et leurs droits au Maghreb”
(Country Reports on the ratification of the UN Convention on Migrants series, available in French only.)

137 pp., 2004. UNESCO, SHS/2004/MC/4

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

A New relationship between close neighbors: migration and free trade between the u.s. and Mexico

(also available in Spanish)
Verduzco Igartúa, Gustavo
19 pp., Paris, UNESCO, 2005. SHS/2005/PI/10

ASIA

“Migration in Central Asia: Challenges and Prospects”. Proceedings of International Conference, 12-13 May 2005. Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan
Kennedy, Laura; Haque, Anjum R.; Fernandez, Paz (eds.)
199 pp., UNESCO, Almaty, 2005.

“Rural labour migration in China: challenges for policies”

MOST Policy Papers, series MOST-2, no. 10
Zhan Shaohua
(also available in French and Spanish)
38 pp., Paris, UNESCO, 2005. SHS/2005/WS/25

Together with Migrants: A UNESCO Project for Poverty Reduction

240 pp., UNESCO, Beijing, 2004.

Identification of the obstacles to the signing and ratification of the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers: the Asia-Pacific Perspective
Iredale, Robyn;
Piper, Nicola
68 pp., Paris, UNESCO, 2003. SHS/2003/MC/1

“Promoting a Process to Encourage Ratification of the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Family: Bangladesh, Korea and New Zealand”

Robyn Iredale, Abrar Chowdhury, Hae-Woo Yang & Choi Hyeun Mo and Paul Spoonley.
APMRN Working Paper no. 17. 2006.

http://apmrn.anu.edu.au/publications/index.html

“Identification of the obstacles to the signing and ratification of the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers: China”

Iredale, Robyn
Paris, UNESCO, 2003. 68 pp., APMRN Working Paper no. 16, SHS/2003/MC/1

EUROPE

“The Protection of the rights of migrant workers in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the cis and perspectives of joining the 1990 UN Convention”

Country reports on the ratification of the UN Convention on Migrants
Zayonchkovskaya, Zhanna
156 pp., Paris, UNESCO, 2004. SHS/2004/MC/6

“Labour migration in Eastern Europe and Central Asia: current issues and next political steps”

Country reports series
Patzwaldt, Katja
16 pp., Paris, UNESCO, 2004. SHS/2004/MC/3

TOOLS

International Journal on Multicultural Societies

Accessible free of charge on UNESCO's website, the *International Journal on Multicultural Societies* (IJMS) provides a platform for international, interdisciplinary and policy-related social science research in the fields of migration, multiculturalism, and minority rights. Since its creation in 1998, the IJMS has tackled the public management of religious diversity in Europe and Russia; the rights of linguistic minorities; territorially based ethnic movements; multicultural policies in

colonial and post-colonial societies; multilingualism on the Internet; the links between research and policy in the Netherlands, Belgium, Morocco and China; and the impact of national identities on attitudes towards migrants. Forthcoming title: “Democracy and power-sharing in multinational States”. In 2007, a selection of articles from the IJMS will be reproduced in a publication entitled: *Democracy and human rights in multicultural societies*. ¶

For more information see the IJMS website: www.unesco.org/shs/ijms



TOOLS

Information kit on the UN Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers

In order for people to gain a better understanding of the UN Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers, UNESCO has designed an information kit. The kit provides the text of the Convention, answers questions to which it may give rise, gives statistics and a

glossary of terms. It is aimed at the general public (NGOs, associations, policy makers, etc.), and is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian, with a Korean translation scheduled for September 2006. ¶

Copies of the information kit are available from: **Paul de Guchteneire**, pdeguchteneire@unesco.org, tel.: + 33 1 45 68 38 50



International migration, urban development, local populations keen to become involved in drawing up public policies, etc. **Today's world keeps changing.** Through its support for social science research and its efforts to share the findings with as many people as possible, **UNESCO contributes to a better understanding of current trends on the part of the international community,** thus helping to improve countries' responses to the challenges posed by change. In UNESCO it is **the Social and Human Sciences Sector (SHS) which is responsible for coordinating the only United Nations programme on management of social transformations** (the MOST Programme). It strives to strengthen the links between researchers and, in the broadest sense of the term, the policy-making community.

A programme of Forums to help social development

Facilitate the holding of regular, regional meetings of Social Development Ministers, and open up a political dialogue that takes account of research findings – these are the two inseparable elements of the only United Nations programme focusing on social policy: Management of Social Transformations (MOST), carried out by UNESCO.

Exchanging experiences and expertise proves extremely useful when it encompasses a whole region. That was the reasoning behind UNESCO's 2001 initiative to hold a Forum of Latin American Ministers for Social Development within the framework of the MOST programme.

The Forum has now become an annual event with three main objectives:

- to provide a space for the coordination of joint regional strategies on social policy;
- to formulate national policies in an attempt to strengthen democratic cohesion and governance in the region; and
- to encourage dialogue, exchange of good practices and the formulation of lateral cooperation projects.

The success of this first Forum soon sparked interest in regions outside Latin America.

In November 2004, the Government of the Republic of South Africa hosted the first meeting of the Forum of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Less than two years later, in January 2006, the Government of Mali organized the first Forum of Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (see *SHS Views* No. 13).

The most recent in the series is the South Asian States Forum, whose inaugural meeting was held in Pakistan, in May 2006 (see p.27).

And finally, in Morocco, an Arab States Forum of Ministers for Social Development is being scheduled for the end of 2006.

Regional specificities

The decision to adopt a regional framework is a practical one, which also meets basic considerations. While it is universally accepted that social science research should inform public action to a greater degree, in practice the priorities vary enormously. Although these priorities are in no way homogeneous, different regions can arrive at a consensus on matters of urgency. So it was after lengthy discussions at regional level, that the thematic priorities for the MOST programme were set according to the specificities of each world region:

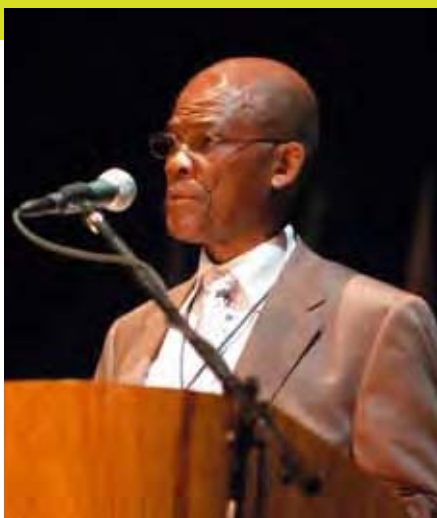
- Latin America and the Caribbean – the fight against poverty
- Africa – regional integration processes
- Arab States – the role of the State in social development
- Asia-Pacific – human security
- Europe – ageing
- Small Developing Island States – sustainable social development

The MOST programme's objective is to create research networks that will concentrate on the above themes and bring new, rigorous and useful knowledge to these different spheres. The Forums of Ministers will facilitate consideration of this research and open up a real space for synergy among UNESCO's various activities, and thus between research and public action at all levels.



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Guinean Minister Mariama Aribot and Pakistan Minister Daniyal Aziz, at the round table organized for the closing session of the Buenos Aires Forum.



Zola S. Skweyiya,
Minister for Social
Development,
South Africa,
is the current
Chairperson
of the MOST
programme's
Intergovernmental
Council.

Extending the “Buenos Aires process”

Closing the gap between research and public action is therefore a new way of ensuring the link-up between UNESCO's intellectual action and international development demands.

This new approach was put to the test in a workshop organized under the umbrella of the MOST programme at the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus, which was held in Argentina and Uruguay in February 2006 (see *SHS Newsletter* nos. 11 and 12).

Attending the workshop were Ministers from seven countries (Brazil, Guinea, Mali, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal and Sudan), researchers in charge of the regional social science networks in Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as several members of the MOST programme's Scientific Advisory Committee.

Participants were pleased with this workshop and stressed its importance, while underlining the problems that MOST still needs to tackle: the different time-frames of research and action; the long-established distrust between researchers and policy makers in several countries; and the lack of appropriate opportunities for discussion.

The final Declaration of the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus and its consensus on the challenges to be taken up, was what gave the “Buenos Aires process” its full meaning.

Through the link they can provide between research and action, regional Forums of Ministers for Social Development constitute an essential element of this new system. ¶

For more information, please contact:

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The text of the final Declaration of the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus is accessible online: www.unesco.org/shs/ifsp/declaration

↳ Verbatim

“We thus state our conviction that better use of rigorous social science can lead to more effective policies and outcomes. Such use requires strengthening linkages between the social sciences and policies for social and economic development. For the knowledge that the social sciences seek is precisely the knowledge that policy needs. The world needs new forms of interaction between social scientists and policy actors – and innovative spaces to make them possible.” ¶

Extract from the Declaration of the International Forum on the Social Science – Policy Nexus, Buenos Aires, 24 February 2006.

***** First Regional Forum of Ministers of South Asian States

In cooperation with the Government of Pakistan and with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO's MOST programme recently organized the First Regional Forum for Ministers of Social Development, in Bhurban, Pakistan.

Drawing inspiration from the experiences of comparable Forums in other regions of the world, representatives of UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences Sector organized the two-day meeting on 26 and 27 May. The Chairperson and Secretary-General of the ECOWAS Forum, Djibril Tangara, Mali Minister

for Social Development, also attended the meeting (see *SHS Views* no. 13). Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka all took part in this first session of the Forum, and Bhutan, Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Thailand conveyed their interest and their intention of joining in the Forum at a later date. Participants were invited to discuss “Public Accountability Mechanisms in the Improvement of Social Sector Service Delivery in Asia”; a joint Declaration was adopted, setting an agenda of policies and agreeing that the space for dialogue should become permanent with the aim of

improving discussions and exchange to foster the effectiveness of social policies.

In this Declaration – to which all Asian States may adhere – the Ministers present at the Forum agreed to promote policies that integrate all aspects of human development; to fight against poverty (through those policies); and to strive for greater solidarity through the strengthening of regional and interregional networks.

It was decided to have an annual, rotating Chair, entrusted to Pakistan for 2006-2007, with “Public accountability” as the focus for the

year. The venue and date of the next Forum of Ministers of South Asian States was also settled; it will be held in India, in 2007.

The Chairperson of the Forum expressed his interest in making the initiative even more international in scope, by proposing that in cooperation with UNESCO, the first Interregional Forum of Ministers for Social Development should be organized in parallel. ¶

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tel.: + 33 1 45 68 39 20.

World Urban Forum 3 a success

Participation of over 10,000 in the third session of the World Urban Forum – held last June in Vancouver, Canada – confirms strong public interest in UNESCO’s “humanizing urbanization” projects.

UNESCO was keen to publicize all its activities on urban issues at the 3rd session of the World Urban Forum (WUF), so the team from Headquarters had taken a whole stock of publications to Vancouver. By the end of the session there were virtually no UNESCO publications left – that surely indicates success.

In all, more than 10,000 people from 150 countries – urban specialists, students, NGOs and policy makers – travelled to Vancouver to discuss our changing cities and exchange ideas and experiences.

A large number of participants visited the UNESCO Stand and took part in the various events organized, thanks in great part to the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, which mobilized local networks, and the strengthened cooperation with UN-Habitat and its daily Conference bulletin which advertised events at the Stand, and the Organization’s intersectoral cooperation and commitment.



Above:
Debate on “World Heritage cities” at the UNESCO Stand

Below:
Pierre Sané at the closing session of the Forum, Vancouver.



Informal debates on “Decade of Education for Sustainable Development”, “World Heritage Cities” and “Inclusion of Women in Local Democracy” attracted a wide audience, with the networking sessions attracting even larger numbers.

“Growing Up In Cities”

The session “Creating better cities for and with youth”, coordinated by David Driskell, who holds the UNESCO Chair “Growing Up In Cities” (GUIC), at Cornell University, U.S.A. – was an opportunity to present the grass-roots activities carried out by the GUIC teams. Many participants – some from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Iran – asked for GUIC activities to be developed in their countries.

The networking session called “Urban Policies and the Right to the City: towards good governance and local democracy” also met with success, bringing together many personalities among whom were the National Secretary of Urban Programmes, at the Ministry of Cities, Brazil; the Mayor of Montreal, and the Mayor of Belize City, who represented the Commonwealth Local Government Forum.

The workshop on the International Coalition of Cities against Racism brought together city planners, councillors, researchers and NGOs from Canada, Europe, and Africa, to discuss ways to improve democratic governance of municipalities by supporting pluralism of ideas and promoting diversity.

Next session in Nanjing

In his speech at the closing session, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, Pierre Sané, said “as a forum, the WUF is about networking, learning and sharing, and therefore has no real ‘closure’ but will continue when delegates return home to turn words into action”. To judge by the applause his remarks received, it is hoped that the commitment of those attending will continue and that through their efforts, progress will have been made to humanize urbanization when the next session of the World Urban Forum meets in Nanjing, China, in 2008. ¶

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Read the WUF3 report online: www.iisd.ca/ymb/wuf3/

Urban research – a seminar to interpret new trends

Urban research helps us understand the development of societies' links with the city. Delving further into this research should help us increase our knowledge of the urban sociology/development of public policy connection, as well as the traditional authority/social science research correlation.

For a long time now, peripheral urban areas have attracted the attention of many specialists, who for the past 30 years have in the main concentrated on the processes that produce insecure housing. Researchers, experts and local authorities have now refocused on a new phenomenon: the re-engagement of city centres.

One of the reasons for such interest is the need to move beyond the city centre/periphery opposition, which no longer seems very relevant given contemporary urban phenomena.

There also seems to be renewed interest in expertise and research that strives to set up policies for action against exclusion and urban violence, and for public safety and social cohesion; but these issues have yet to be clearly delineated.

Through re-injecting life into city centres that were being abandoned, most urban operations over the past few years have had the effect of inflating property prices and ground rents; public policy on city centres has thus altered the way the areas are used, the social practices that take place there, and even the perception residents may have about them.

There have been a few specific concepts such as gentrification, redesigning or even turning central areas into museums; the latter concept has often been when a particular city district or monument is designated a World Heritage site. And there have also been totally new approaches such as the pilot project carried out in the old city centre of Quito, Ecuador, during the first phase of UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme, which started off the "social sustainability" approach to historical city centres.

All of the above is steering urban research specialists towards city centres in an effort once again to try on the one hand, to understand all aspects involved in these issues, and on the other, to place them as integrating elements in the overall urban picture.

With the aim of taking stock of these new trends, and with support from the MOST Programme, in June 2006 the Research and Development Institute, France's National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Paris-III University held a seminar in Paris to exchange French and Latin American experiences.

At the heart of the debate were two issues in particular: "Can the whole interest of city centres be reduced to their heritage value?" and "Can one talk about city centres without mentioning urban morphology?"

With examples from Buenos Aires, Bogota, Cartagena, Merida, Mexico, Recife, São Paulo, Santiago and Xochimilco, case studies showed the transformations that central areas have undergone. These changes have enabled more thorough and larger scale intervention policies to be introduced, as well as the instruments covered by urban policies in each country.

In particular, the studies showed how knowledge of the social sciences can help us understand the complexity that city centres are up against with "metropolization" and global networks, i.e. we no longer know who the main actors and beneficiaries are, nor how to cope with social segregation in the city.

At the seminar's closing session, a round table opened a debate on the role of cooperation and of experts as political actors, on the use of research in problem solving and on the consequences of professional mediation in technology, social science, politics and the economy.

One certainty emerged from the debate: the city centre is a definitively polymorphous term that varies according to physical scale, development policies and different social conceptions. Despite that, city centres everywhere are always substrata of urban life, places that project cultural images and presuppositions of what it means to live in the city, reflecting the metaphorical condition of the city and the symbolic potential of an urban utopia. ¶

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New approaches, such as the one on "social sustainability" of historical city centres, were launched in Quito, Ecuador, during the 1st phase of the MOST programme.

Urban policies and the right to the city – a reference work on the Net



At the June 2006 World Urban Forum in Vancouver (see p.28), the right to the city and citizenship was debated at length. The same topic is covered in a new, online publication.*

Over the past 60 years, the human rights originally affirmed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) have gradually become recognized, expanded,

and incorporated into the ordinary lives of individuals and social groups, thus expressing the needs, questions and claims of our times.

However, many of the international community's human rights specialists think that despite the profound socio-economic, political and territorial changes that have taken place in the past 60 years, respect for human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – could still be improved. They argue that some of these rights should be more firmly anchored on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, such as the right to development, the right to safe drinking water, the right to a clean environment and also the 'right to the city', which would basically consist of the right of all city dwellers to participate in and enjoy urban life with all the services

and advantages it has to offer, as well as taking an active part in the management of cities.

Encouraging initiatives are being taken in various parts of the world, but as yet there is no consolidated international approach to inclusive urban legislation and governance, hence the joint efforts of UN-HABITAT, UNESCO and the International Social Science Council (ISSC) in launching international comparative research to forge consensus among all key city actors, on the constituent elements of public policy and legislation that combine urban development with social equity and justice.

As part of their research, a group of international UN-HABITAT/UNESCO experts discussed interconnections between social exclusion and spatial segregation in two public workshops, in 2005. The proceedings of the two workshops on the concept of the right to the city and citizenship have just been published in the "Human Settlements and Socio-Cultural Environment" collection. This publication is now accessible from UNESCO's Social and Human Sciences website, thus putting the concept of the right to the city within everyone's reach. ¶

For more information, please contact:

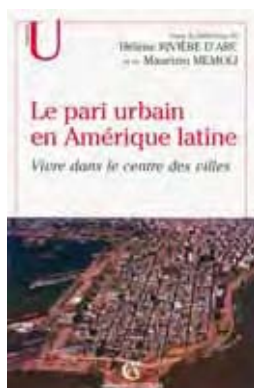
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* Click on www.unesco.org/shs/urban/rttc to download no. 57 of the "Human Settlements and Socio-Cultural Environment" collection on the Right to the City.

Back to the city centre

In an attempt to make cities more attractive, nowadays many of the larger Latin American municipalities are taking on a gamble in trying to get people to move back into city centres.

Giving cities back their past, appealing to the middle classes, financial renewal, social programmes – these are just some of the various schemes going the rounds on both sides of the Atlantic and every city has its own adaptation. From North to South, from Mexico to Buenos Aires and Santiago, these ideas engender a whole range of reforms and changes in the urban landscape, which attempt to mask or single out the effects of globalization. This publication is co-edited by Hélène Rivière d'Arc and Maurizio



Memoli. A group of authors continue the "El Tiempo de las Ciudades, Habitar la Ciudad" (The time for cities, living in the city), seminar discussions which took place in November 2003 at the Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo, Uruguay, with the Architecture and Humanities Faculties of the Universidad de la República and the Transplatina Association, Paris, the Paris School of Architecture of La Villette, and the Research and Documentation Centre for Latin America (CREDAL-CNRS-Sorbonne Nouvelle University), with support from UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme. ¶

Le pari urbain en Amérique latine: vivre dans le centre des villes

("The urban gamble in Latin America: living in city centres" – published in French only)
Armand Colin 2006, 224 pp, ISBN 2-200-34672-7

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In poor districts some words hurt



Housing estates, *bassi*, *bidonvilles*, *favelas*, poor districts, ghettos, slums, etc. – from Brazil through the United States, the Arab world, Turkey, the United Kingdom and France, the 4th volume of *Les mots de la ville* (City Words), concentrates on the way vocabulary plays a part in urban stigmatization.

It is quite usual for a word referring to a particular urban area to include the people who live there. So what should we think of words that designate the outskirts of towns and cities

where the poorest sections of society are housed? Whether direct, biased, cruel or euphemisms, urban stigmatization does indeed often refer to areas where there is poverty and degradation, areas looked upon with worry and concern by better-off members of society, reform movements and health inspectors.

Les mots de la stigmatisation urbaine (Urban vocabulary and stigmatization), edited by Jean-Charles Depaule, is a collection of work by several different authors. It shows how social or spatial class is often dictated by the words used to describe them. The authors point out several lexical features that have come to enrich what might be termed a form of urban rhetoric, vocal illustrations of political and social aspects. For several years UNESCO's Management of Social Transformations (MOST) programme has been supporting research in this field and publishing the findings.

Les mots de la ville collection forms part of an international comparative research programme that helps us understand the social dynamics of urban life through researching the language system, and particularly noting the conflicts of interest when there is new administrative nomenclature.

Les mots de la stigmatisation urbaine (published in French only)
Series: *Les mots de la ville* – vol.IV
Edited by Jean-Charles Depaule
278 pp. 29,00 €
UNESCO Publishing / Maison des sciences de l'homme, Paris, 2006.
ISBN 92-3-204011-4

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International Social Science Journal
(French edition)
UNESCO / Erès, 20 €

Issue 187 – March 2006
Cultural Diversity and Biodiversity
The relation between cultural diversity and biodiversity, often reduced to some vague

analogy, takes on quite another meaning when the biodiversity that has been produced by human action over time, is looked at as a manifestation of cultures in all their diversity.

Issue 188 – June 2006
Remembering Slavery

We are all more or less direct or indirect heirs of the Atlantic slave trade, which structured the modern world economy, although far removed from the millions of people who suffered under slavery or who benefited from it. What does coming to terms with this heritage mean today?

The main section of Issue 188 attempts to establish a link between understanding the past and the challenges of remembering in the present, and to open up the debate on a future where the memory of slavery can collectively help us understand one another. In the second section, Issue 188 also deals with the pitfalls of intellectual property with regard to microbiology. ¶

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Le feu domestiqué: Usages et pratiques dans l'architecture mondiale
by Renaud Lieberherr
UNESCO, 2006,
SHS-2006/WS/07

Fire has become an emblem of man and his habitat. It is intimately linked with the family group – the hearth. The placement of fire in the home and the arrangement of the space around it varies a great deal, depending on the climate, the fuel available, and

particularly on the culture. In this book (published in French only) the author brings together analyses of the symbolism of fire with architectural structures of hearths. This unusual work shows how fire is a source of spatial identity, placing human beings within a structured space. *Le feu domestiqué*, a four-part study by sociologist Renaud Lieberherr, is illustrated with several sketches and notes on the use

of fire in homes all over the world, as well as specific studies carried out in Algeria, Greenland, Japan and Switzerland. ¶

Le feu domestiqué is no. 54 in the *Human Settlements and Socio-Cultural Environment series*. It is available free of charge.

For more information or to request a copy of this publication, please contact:
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Africa and the 21st century



The UNESCO Office in Dakar, Senegal, has just produced a publication of debates and discussions compiled from the Third Encounter for Representatives of

UNESCO Chairs and Institutes in West and Central Africa working on Human Rights, Democracy and a Culture of Peace. The week-long series of meetings was organized in Libreville, Gabon, in February 2005. *Les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels en Afrique au XXI^e siècle* presents a graphic description of social, economic and cultural rights in 21st century Africa.

There are countries in transition to democracy all over the world and sub-Saharan Africa is no exception, especially when it is facing the growing demand of populations for better living conditions, for their cultural, social and economic rights and for the so-called “solidarity” rights such as the right to development and peace.

The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights gives priority to these rights over other rights deemed to be more “classical”, such as civil and political rights. African legislation is slowly making progress in this field.

This publication provides the analysis and reflections of human rights specialists, researchers and representatives of the UNESCO Chairs and Institutes who attended the February 2005 meeting in Libreville. It also reproduces the proposals put forward by African intellectuals for the continent’s progress towards democracy. ¶

Les droits économiques, sociaux et culturels en Afrique au XXI^e siècle
296 pp. €20
Editions Panafrik/Silex/nouvelles du Sud, 2006-08 01
ISBN: 2-912 717-10-8.

For more information, please contact:
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SEPTEMBER

31 August-1 September: Jury meeting, UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the promotion of tolerance and non-violence. UNESCO, Paris. (s.lazarev@unesco.org)

5 September: 60-minute meeting: “Bioethics”. UNESCO, Paris. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

14-15 September: 2nd Experts’ meeting on Global Ethics Observatory database (legislation section). UNESCO, Paris. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

14-15 September: United Nations General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. United Nations, New York, U.S.A. (a.pecoud@unesco.org)

18-24 September: Launch of African Coalition of Cities Against Racism at “Africities 2006”. Nairobi, Kenya. (m.scarone@unesco.org)

21 September: Award ceremony of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education, on the occasion of International Peace Day. UNESCO, Paris. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

21 September: International Peace Day. Bujumbura, Burundi. (y.mataturu@unesco.org)

21-22 September: National Conference on the application of the Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights. Mexico City, Mexico. (a.saada@unesco.org)

OCTOBER

15-16 October: International Conference on Migration issues. Beijing, China. (g.domenach-chich@unesco.org)

17 October: Celebration of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. UNESCO, Paris. (c.tekaya@unesco.org)

19-20 October: Regional Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Conference on the application of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights. Buenos Aires, Argentina. (a.saada@unesco.org)

26-27 October: Seminar: Legal and Ethical Framework for Space Exploration. UNESCO, Paris. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

26-27 October: Regional Conference: Launching of the Coalition of Cities Against Racism in Latin America and the Caribbean. Montevideo, Uruguay. (m.scarone@unesco.org)

28-29 October: Regional meeting of experts on Ethics Teaching. Teheran, Iran. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

30 October-4 November: Ethics Teachers Training Course. Bucharest, Romania. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

NOVEMBER

9-10 November: 6th Meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee on Bioethics. UNESCO, Paris. (s.colombo@unesco.org)

9-10 November: Meeting of the International Jury for the UNESCO Prize for Human Rights Education (2006). UNESCO, Paris. (i.zoubenko@unesco.org)

13-17 November: Celebration of World Philosophy Day at UNESCO, Paris. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

15-16 November: Celebration of World Philosophy Day in Morocco. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

16 November: Conference on Transitional Justice and the Duty to Remember. Bujumbura, Burundi. (y.mataturu@unesco.org)

16 November: Celebration of World Philosophy Day in China. Beijing, China. (g.domenach-chich@unesco.org)

16 November: Award Ceremony for the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence. UNESCO, Paris. (s.lazarev@unesco.org)

17-18 November: Interregional Philosophical Dialogue: Asia and the Arab world. Morocco. (m.goucha@unesco.org)

20-22 November: 13th session of the International Bioethics Committee. UNESCO, Paris. (s.colombo@unesco.org)

27-28 November: Regional meeting of experts on Ethics Teaching. Muscat, Oman. (h.tenhave@unesco.org)

29-30 November: Conference “Towards a Multiage Society: The Cultural Dimension of Age Policies.” Brussels, Belgium. (c.golden@unesco.org)

DECEMBER

4 December: Training session on human rights and the human rights-based approach for the UNESCO Bangkok Office. Thailand, Bangkok. (k.tararas@unesco.org)

10 December: Celebration of World Human Rights Day: Book launch: *UNESCO Studies on Human Rights*, UNESCO, Paris. (v.volodine@unesco.org)

10 December: Awareness-raising seminar for policy makers on the worldwide programme for the promotion of human rights education in schools. Bujumbura, Burundi. (y.mataturu@unesco.org)

11-12 December: 2nd Forum of UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environment. UNESCO, Paris. (b.colin@unesco.org)