



**The Assistant Director-General
for External Relations and Public Information**

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**To Non-Governmental Organizations,
Official partners of UNESCO**

Ref.: ERI/NCS/NGO/2013/66

10 June 2013

Dear Partners,

I should like to start this letter by emphasizing and appreciating our mutual cooperation with the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee.

Indeed, just a few days ago, I met with Mr Patrick Gallaud, the Committee's Chairperson, who shared with me progress in the preparation of international fora scheduled for 2013 and 2014. I am glad to see the NGO community mobilized in this new dynamic on priority themes for the Organization, whether at Headquarters in Paris next September or later - we very much hope – in Asia and then in Africa and in Eastern Europe. I leave to Mr Gallaud and the Liaison Committee to provide you with more information about these fora. Nevertheless, I take this opportunity to invite all NGOs, including those who are far from Paris, to express their interest and actively participate in the organization and success of these events.

The General Conference of UNESCO

For your information, particularly of our new partners, I wish to continue this monthly letter with a presentation of the General Conference of UNESCO.

As you know, the General Conference is the UNESCO's primary decision-making body. It consists of the representatives of the 195 Member States of the Organization. It meets every two years to determine the policies and main lines of work of the Organization. Non-Member States, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and foundations are also invited to attend as observers.

This year, the General Conference will be preceded by the 8th UNESCO Youth Forum from 29 to 31 October 2013. The 37th session of the General Conference will be held from 5 to 20 November 2013. It will consider and adopt the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy for 2014-2021 and the Programme and Budget for 2014-2017. It will elect the members of the Executive Board and appoint the next Director-General of UNESCO (on 12 November 2013).

In cooperation with the Liaison Committee, we are contemplating the organization of an information seminar (webcast live for those of you who are far from our Headquarters) next September, in order to inform you of the functioning of the Conference, its main issues and challenges, and to guide you facilitating your active participation in this important moment in the life of our Organization.

All details on the functioning of the General Conference, including the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure are contained in the Basic Texts and available under [this link](#).

I shall, of course, get back to you on these events later in the course of the year.

Until 25 August 2013 - Travelling exhibit: “Imagining the Balkans, Identities and Memory in the long 19th century”, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Coordinated by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe, Venice, Italy, with the support and participation of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the exhibit was inaugurated on 8 April 2013. This exhibition is a collective project of 12 national history museums of the region seeking to foster intercultural dialogue and reflection upon shared identities and memories, through visual artifacts that demonstrate the gradual transformation of traditional societies.

This travelling exhibit is organized by the National Museum of Slovenia until 25 August 2013. Then it will move to the Historical Museum of Serbia in Belgrade, from 8 September to 6 November 2013, then in Romania until the end of December 2013. Finally, it will travel to other countries from South-East Europe in 2014-2015.

Those of you who will be in this region this summer may have the opportunity to visit this exhibition. If you want more information, I invite you to follow this link: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/venice/resources-services/host-facilities/special-events/imagining-the-balkans/>.

Contact: Mr Anthony Krause (a.krause@unesco.org)

Until 31 July 2013 – Sub-regional exhibition “Our Common Heritage: Exploring World Heritage Sites of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam”, Siem Reap, Cambodia

This exhibition is one of the nine sub-regional exhibitions aiming at “Revitalising World Heritage Site related Museums in Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam”. The photo exhibition and thematic texts highlights the rich and extensive interconnections between World Heritage sites and the lives of people in the ancient kingdoms of the region, but also the role of Southeast Asia in the World General History.

Developed by the Preah Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum, the panels centre on the theme of the historical context and discovery of the “274 Buddhist statues from Banteay Kdei in Angkor”.

This exhibition is organized at the Preah Norodom Sihanouk-Angkor Museum in Siem Reap, Cambodia, until 31 July 2013.

Some of you traveling this summer in this region will be able to visit this exhibition. You will find more information on this sub-regional exhibition on the [dedicated page](#) of UNESCO website.

Contact: Ms Nao Hayashi (N.Hayashi@unesco.org)

12 August 2013 – International Youth Day

As every year since 2000, this Day will be celebrated on 12 August. This year, it coincides with the launch of the 2013 World Youth Report, both of which will focus on the theme of “Youth Migration and Development”.

I encourage all NGOs to coordinate activities involving youth within the framework of this Day. Please feel free to send us information on any activity you intend to coordinate and we shall publish it on our website www.unesco.int.

For more information related to the celebration of this Day, in particular examples of creative activities:

<http://social.un.org/index/Youth/InternationalYouthDay.aspx>.

Contact: Ms Moufida Goucha (youth@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- *African World Heritage - A Remarkable Diversity* is an English/French publication. The Africa continent is a rich depository of natural and cultural history: this is probably why there is still much to discover on this continent. You can find more information on this book at the following address:
http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?&Code_Livre=4959&change=E.
- *World Heritage - Sharing Best Practices - No. 67* is now available. This magazine provides feature articles on sites of cultural and natural World Heritage. More information at the following address:
http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?&Code_Livre=4984&change=E.
- The publication *Knowledge Management for Culture and Development* is now available. It is part of a series of publications issued to showcase the knowledge generated by the Joint Programmes of the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F), implemented under the Culture and Development Thematic Window. It is available at:
<http://www.unesco.org/culture/mdgf/pdf/knowledge-management/>.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt