



**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,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

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/2014/33

25 April 2014

Dear Partners,

I am pleased to announce the release of the *UNESCO's 2013 Annual Report* covering UNESCO's activities throughout the past year. This publication is available [under this link](#).

I also wish to share with you the *Annual Report of the National Commissions for UNESCO*. For the first time ever in the history of the Organization such a report is released on the activities of the National Commissions for UNESCO. It provides an overview of the main achievements of 120 National Commissions carried out in 2013, and highlights success stories. It is available [under this link](#).

Moreover, a few days ago, you received an invitation, co-signed by the President of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and myself, to participate in the **Second International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO** to be held in Yamoussoukro (Côte d'Ivoire), on 30 and 31 July 2014. The theme of the Forum - "**Access to water for all in Africa**" – falls within UNESCO's priorities and follows the International Year of Water Cooperation for which UNESCO was the leading agency in 2013.

Organized by the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee in close cooperation with UNESCO Secretariat, with the support of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, the Forum will bring together NGOs official partners of the Organization, and the participation of any other partner involved in this topic, as well as representatives of Member States, is possible subject to prior registration on the website of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee (www.ong-unesco.org).

The success of this Forum depends on the involvement and commitment of all NGOs in official partnership with the Organization. So I would appeal to you all to inform your representatives of the forum's venue and to spread this information among your national branches and/or other NGOs who may participate in this event. All information and documents are available on UNESCO website and the one of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee (www.ong-unesco.org).

A broad mobilization of our partners will guarantee success for this forum.

15 - 25 June 2014 - 38th session of the World Heritage Committee, Doha (Qatar)

This 38th session is organized by UNESCO and the State of Qatar (Qatar Museums Authority, with the support of the Minister of Foreign Affairs).

The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972). It defines the use of the World Heritage Fund and allocates financial assistance upon requests from States Parties. It has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List. The Committee can also defer its decision and request further information on properties from the States Parties. It examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks States Parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed. It also decides on the inscription or deletion of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

NGOs interested in assisting as an observer should send a formal request to the Secretariat of the World Heritage Convention in advance.

You will find all necessary information on the site of the 38th session:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/38COM/>
Contact: Ms Mechtild Rossler (m.rossler@unesco.org)

2-4 June 2014 - Global Space Application Conference, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris (France)

Co-organized by UNESCO and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) (official partner in consultative status), this international conference will bring together the global satellite-based services stakeholder community, including senior representatives of the major space agencies, industry, governments, academia and NGOs. These leaders will present their results, exchange ideas and roadmaps, and discuss the future opportunities provided by satellite-based applications.

Among the topics I would underline monitoring and understanding climate change, remote-sensing for disaster response, new technologies in communications.

Representatives of NGO partners specialized in scientific fields would certainly be interested in assisting in this conference which provides an excellent opportunity to review cutting-edge satellite-based applications.

For more information, I invite you explore the following website of the conference:
<http://iafastro.org/index.php/events/global-series-conferences/glac-2014>
Contact: Ms Sarah Gaines (s.gaines@unesco.org)

24 June 2014 - Day of action across Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Within the framework of the International Year of Small Island Developing States, this day of action is organized by UNESCO in partnership with the Government of Samoa, the Samoa National Youth Council and the SIDS Youth Network. Youth will undertake local actions in their home countries and upload and share their experiences on internet.

The aim of this event is to raise the visibility of young people as actors for sustainable development in SIDS and to show this is not about rhetoric but taking concrete steps for change. Young people will be encouraged to develop, implement and share their activities through the SIDS Youth network virtual tools (website, Facebook, twitter, etc.), and via their own mailing lists and contacts.

This day of action is part of UNESCO's support to the SIDS Youth Network and the 2014 UN Conference on Small Island Developing States.

I do hope SIDS young people, members of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, will join and contribute to this day of action.

For additional information, I invite you to visit the following site:
<http://sidsyouth.org/>

Contacts: Ms Susan Vize (s.vize@unesco.org); Ms Isabel Inguanzo Ortiz (i.inguanzo-ortiz@unesco.org)

26-28 June 2014 - Scientific Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage from the First World War

This Conference is organized by UNESCO in close cooperation with the Government of Flanders (Belgium) on the occasion of the 100-year anniversary of the First World War. It will bring together high-level politicians and diplomats, as well as the world's leading scientific experts and non-governmental organizations concerned from all over the world, to discuss the naval history of the First World War, the current state of its underwater heritage, and the many dangers that threaten it.

This year 2014 is an opportunity to focus on the extensive underwater cultural heritage from the period 1914-1918 in light of its upcoming protection under the provisions of the 2001 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage.

Other commemorative events are also scheduled on 28 June 2014, at the initiative of UNESCO, such as a "Day of Diving for Peace", the launch of an educational initiative for peace for young people taking place between 2014 and 2018 and the call for all ships to use a signal commemoration.

You will find more detail on this conference and the other commemorative events in the following website:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/underwater-cultural-heritage/world-war-i/meeting-in-bruges-2014/>

Contact: Ms Ulrike Guerin (u.guerin@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

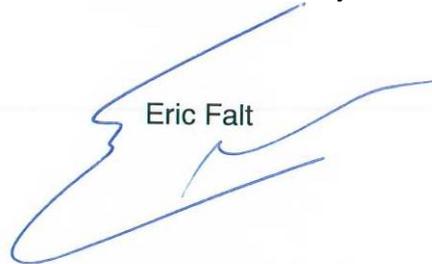
- The publication *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development* is available at the following address: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002270/227025e.pdf>. It offers a new look at recent evolutions in media freedom, pluralism, independence and the safety of journalists.

- The publication *Les îles de demain – Renforcer la résilience dans un monde en mutation* is available in French at the following address: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002245/224512f.pdf>. This book was published in English in November 2013 (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002245/224512e.pdf>) and falls within the framework of the International Year of Small Island Developing States.

Finally, I am pleased to announce the admission of a new UNESCO partner: the **Réseau des Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale (RAPAC)**, based in Gabon, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status). By clicking on its name, you will be redirected to its website for more information. I welcome this organization and am happy to extend even further our network of partners.

Before concluding, I wish to inform you that UNESCO will participate again this year in the European Night of Museums on Saturday 17 May 2014 from 8:00 p.m. Do not hesitate to visit the Headquarters which will open its doors to the public on this occasion.

Yours sincerely,


Eric Falt