

To Non-Governmental Organizations,
official partners of UNESCO

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31 May 2015

Dear Partners,

As you are aware, two important events for the network of NGO partners are fast approaching.

You have already received the invitation to the **fourth International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO**, on the theme *“The Role of Women in Fighting Poverty”*, which will take place at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 29 and 30 June 2015. I sincerely hope that your organization will be able to participate in this Forum, which falls within UNESCO Global Priority “Gender Equality”: the Forum will provide the audience the opportunity to listen to many testimonies of field actions and to showcase NGOs’ innovative and concrete projects to fight against all forms of poverty.

Moreover, you will soon receive the invitation to the **Fifth Forum** that will be held in Beijing in China on 27 and 28 July next, for the first time in Asia, on the theme *“Rapprochement of Cultures: One Humanity beyond Diversity”*. Despite the relatively short notice, I strongly count on your presence on this occasion and on your willingness to mobilize your national branches and partners in the region.

Do not hesitate to visit the website of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee (www.ong-unesco.org/en/) to register for both events and get additional information.

16-19 July 2015 - Special Academic Session on the Safety of Journalists – Berlin, Germany

Organized on the occasion of the 10th Global Communication Association (GCA) Conference, this Special Session is the first in a series of dedicated workshops aiming to strengthen cooperation with academia in line with the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and to establish an academic research agenda on journalists’ safety. Different aspects of journalists’ safety and issue of impunity will be discussed on this occasion.

As the UN agency with a specific mandate to defend freedom of expression and press freedom, UNESCO actively promotes the safety of journalists and those who produce journalism. UNESCO has championed the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity which is the first concerted effort

within the UN system to address these issues via a multi-stakeholder and holistic approach.

You may wish to disseminate to the interested public within your organization the information about this Special Session which is available under [this link](#).

Contact: Mr Ming Kuok Lim (mk.lim@unesco.org)

16-17 July 2015 - 9th Session of the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC), UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

This 9th session will be mainly devoted to examining the work done by the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC) in the 2014-2015 biennium: the elaboration of the principle of the sharing of benefits as set out in Article 15 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (2005), and the update of the IBC's reflection on the human genome and human rights. IGBC Member States will also be invited to discuss critical bioethical issues that could be suggested to the IBC for consideration when defining its Work Programme for 2016-2017.

The IGBC was created in 1998, comprising 36 Member States elected by the General Conference of UNESCO, whose representatives meet at least once every two years to examine the advice and recommendations of the IBC.

I know many of you follow the work of this Committee. You will find more information on this 9th session and on IGBC under [this link](#).

Contact: Mr Tee Wee Ang (ibc@unesco.org)

12 August 2015 – International Youth Day

This Day will bring youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrate the potential of youth as partners in today's global society.

12 August was first designated International Youth Day by the UN General Assembly in 1999, and serves as an annual celebration of the role of young women and men as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth.

Thematic discussions and information campaigns will take place across the world, to engage both Member States and the general public to understand the needs of young people, to implement policies to help them overcome the challenges they face, and to encourage young people into the decision-making process. These objectives of the International Youth Day 2015 will also be addressed during the 9th UNESCO Youth Forum, taking place in the autumn of 2015. I will provide you with information on the Youth Forum shortly.

Within this framework, I encourage our NGO partners to organize activities closely involving youth. 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 on the UNESCO Youth Programme, I invite you to visit [this link](#).

Contact: M. Alexander Schischlik (youth@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- The book *Agree to differ* presents an overview of research and related activities which aim at the rapprochement of peoples and cultures. It bears testimony to the urgency of addressing contemporary challenges through intercultural and interreligious dialogue in order to deepen understanding and cooperation for peace. This landmark publication concerning the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022) was officially launched during the 3rd World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue held in May 2015 in Baku, Azerbaijan. It is available in English under [this link](#). Co-published with Tudor Rose, it is also available in Open Access under the Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 IGO.
- The just published book *Rethinking Education. Towards a global common good?* proposes that we consider education and knowledge as global common goods, in order to reconcile the purpose and organization of education as a collective societal endeavour in a complex world. This book is intended as a call for dialogue and is inspired by a humanistic vision of education and development, based on respect for life and human dignity, equal rights, social justice, cultural diversity, international solidarity and shared responsibility for a sustainable future. Available in English and French, you can consult this publication under this [link](#).
- Published under the UNESCO series *Education on the Move*, the book *Unleashing the Potential. Transforming Technical and Vocational Education and Training* (TVET) takes stock of contextual demands and recent policy trends in the field from around the world. An integrated analytical approach is proposed through which economic growth, social equity and sustainability perspectives can be strategically combined so as to address contemporary policy concerns such as youth unemployment, gender disparities and climate change. You may consult this publication in English only on the following website: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002330/233030e.pdf>.

Finally, I am pleased to announce the admission of a new NGO partner of UNESCO, namely:

- [Alliance of European Cultural Cities](#), an NGO based in France, 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 them and am happy to extend even further our network of partners.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt