



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

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

To Non-Governmental Organizations,  
Official partners of UNESCO

Ref. : ERI/MSP/INO/2016/40

29 April 2016

Dear Partners,

As you may be aware, UNESCO has embarked in the **preparation of the Organization's Programme and Budget for 2018-2021 (39 C/5)**, through a series of consultations with Members States and all partners, culminating in the elaboration and submission of the Draft document to the Executive Board at its spring session in 2017.

The contribution of NGOs in the programming cycle of the Organization is a pillar of the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with NGOs which offer a framework to fully involve NGOs official partners in this process.

Therefore, I strongly encourage all of you to actively contribute to the first phase of consultations, by filling in the questionnaire circulated to you last week. It has been designed to solicit the views of Member States, IGOs and NGOs regarding the future programme orientations for UNESCO, building on the Organization's past achievements and taking into account the recent developments at the global level, in particular the adoption of the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

Each NGO is invited to submit a single reply. **All responses should be submitted by 6 May 2016, midnight Paris time.** You could find more information in our website under [this link](#).

I also wish to recall that NGOs will have a second opportunity to contribute collectively to this process at the **2016 International Conference of NGOs** in official partnership, which will be held from **12 to 14 December 2016** and which will be invited to communicate to the Director-General the NGO's views and suggestions about the Draft Programme and Budget.

**21 May 2016 - European Night of Museums at UNESCO, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**

UNESCO is proud to support the European Night of Museums for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year by giving its patronage to the event, and by inviting the public to discover its buildings and art collection.

In opening the doors to its Headquarters in Paris, UNESCO will this year give the public the opportunity to visit the temporary exhibition “Art for Peace”, co-organized by the Permanent Delegation of Belgium to UNESCO and the Permanent Delegation of the People’s Republic of China to UNESCO, partners of the Organization for the 2016 edition of the European Night of Museums.

Showcasing a series of 22 new works by the artist Lin Xiang Xiong, this exhibition will also present an ensemble of contemporary works proposing a cross-cultural perspective between China and Belgium, with Michel Clerbois, Michel François, Alfredo Jaar, Lennep and Joëlle Tuerlinckx for the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Gongkai Pan, Jude Liu, Aiguo Li, Xiangxun Chen and Chevalier Li for China. Lin Xiang Xiong, as well as other artists whose works are exhibited, will be present during this cultural evening.

The public will also be able to discover, or rediscover, the modern architecture of the Organization’s Headquarters – designed by Marcel Breuer, Luigi Nervi and Bernard Zehrfuss – and a part of its rich art collection, including works by Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Alexander Calder, Erró, Alberto Giacometti, Eduardo Chillida, Henry Moore, Rufino Tamayo or Isamu Noguchi, among others.

Visits will take place from 8:00 p.m. until midnight (last admission). Entrance at 7 place de Fontenoy (exit at 125 avenue de Suffren). Free entry, without prior booking.

Contact: Ms Raya Fayad (r.fayad@unesco.org)

## **22 May - 4 June 2016 - 12<sup>th</sup> Festival of Pacific Arts, Guam, United States of America**

The Festival of the Pacific Arts (FOPA) is held every four years since 1972, bringing together artists, practitioners of performing arts and knowledge holders of craftsmanship from around the Pacific region for two weeks of festivity. It is a major regional cultural event and meeting opportunity in the Pacific that unites Pacific peoples, enhance mutual understanding and celebrate its cultural diversity.

During the Festival, the Third Meeting of the Pacific Ministers of Culture will take place on 25 May, providing an opportunity for the cultural authorities in Pacific island states and territories to review the Regional Cultural Strategy (2010-2020) and discuss a regional approach to the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted in 2005.

A Forum on Culture, Arts and Sustainable Development in the Pacific will also be held from 30 May to 1 June. The Forum will bring together practitioners, academics, and partners in heritage and creativity to highlight good practices that demonstrate the contribution of culture and arts to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Pacific.

I have no doubt that many organizations active in the field of arts will be interested in this event, and I encourage you to inform your national branches or representatives in the region who could eventually participate.

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

Contact: Ms Akatsuki Takahashi (a.takahashi@unesco.org)

**30 May - 1 June 2016 - 6<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris, France**

The General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention is the sovereign body of the Convention and meets in ordinary session every two years. The General Assembly gives strategic orientations for the implementation of the Convention and elects the 24 members of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The General Assembly will also examine a revision of some of the operational directives to guide the implementation of the Convention and proceed with accreditation of non-governmental organizations for advisory services to the Committee.

NGOs interested in attending this session as observers may find information on how to register on the dedicated website at the following address: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/6.ga>.

Contact: Ms Elena Constantinou ([e.constantinou@unesco.org](mailto:e.constantinou@unesco.org))

**30 May - 3 June 2016 – 6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the Human Variome Project Consortium (HVP6) UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France**

This biennial meeting will bring together professionals from around the world who address many aspects of human genetics, to explore and share their knowledge on data sharing, interpretation of unknown variants and collaboration between developing and developed countries and much more. It will provide an opportunity for an update on plans and progress for the global collection, curation, interpretation and sharing of genetic variation information. All of these areas involve the development and dissemination of standards and guidelines, ethical frameworks, and education.

On this occasion, the exhibition Positive Exposure will be displayed as a side event of HVP6 meeting. It features young people with genetic diseases from albinism to autism: through photography and video, the exhibition aims to transform public perceptions of people living with genetic, physical and behavioral differences.

All NGO partners are invited to attend both the Opening Ceremony of HVP6 and the official launch of the Positive Exposure's exhibition on Wednesday 1 June at 1:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit <http://hvp6.variome.org/>.

Contact: Mr Casimiro Vizzini ([c.vizzini@unesco.org](mailto:c.vizzini@unesco.org))

## **8 June 2016 -World Oceans Day 2016, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris**

The theme for this year celebration of the World Ocean Day is “Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet”, with a focus on plastic pollution.

8 June has become a symbolic moment to raise awareness on the protection of the oceans and to discuss ways to further develop ocean science communication. By bringing together scientists, decision-makers, civil society and youth, World Oceans Day provides a unique framework for the protection of marine ecosystems.

The programme at UNESCO Headquarters includes thematic round tables, exhibitions and a UNESCO Open Campus for youth, as well as the Roger Revelle Memorial Lecture dedicated to the issue of ocean acidification.

We encourage NGOs to join in the events organized in Paris and all over the world to celebrate World Oceans Day 2016. A dedicated World Oceans Day Web Portal within the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) website will provide NGOs with the opportunity to share their events and attract wider visibility. Please contact Mr Vinicius Lindoso at the address below if you are interested in promoting your event and for more information.

Relevant information on the celebration of World Oceans Day will be available soon on the UNESCO website and on the web portal that will be launched on 8 June 2016.

Contact: Ms Rejane Herve-Smadja (r.herve@unesco.org) and Mr Vinicius Lindoso (v.lindoso@unesco.org)

## **UNESCO Publications**

- The *Power of Sport Values photo book* is a bilingual (English-French) collection of the best 15 entries of UNESCO's photo contest on the power of sport values, selected from over 300 photos submitted by photographers from 76 countries all around the world. Be it in South Sudan, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Bangladesh or Cuba, sport provides joy, helps inclusion, strengthens social mobilization. You can download the study [under this link](#).
- Issue 14 of the *Culture & Development* magazine presents UNESCO Work Plan for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean for the 2016-2021. The issue also includes UNESCO's work in the sphere of culture, the Culture for Development Indicators, the contents of previous issues and a summary of the 2030 Agenda. The English version of this issue, which is available also in Spanish, French and Portuguese, is available at [http://www.lacult.unesco.org/lacult\\_en/docc/CyD\\_14\\_en.pdf](http://www.lacult.unesco.org/lacult_en/docc/CyD_14_en.pdf)

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Finally, I am pleased to announce the admission of three organizations, partners of UNESCO, namely:

- The [West India Committee \(WIC\)](#), an NGO based in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status).
- The [Wildlife Conservation Society \(WCS\)](#), an NGO based in the United States of America, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status); and
- The [W-SMART Association](#), an NGO based in France, admitted to official partnership with UNESCO (consultative status);

By clicking on their names, you will be redirected to their websites for more information. I welcome them and am happy to extend even further our network of partners.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Falt', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom left.

Eric Falt