



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
Объединённых Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للترربية 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

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Dear Partners,

In the field of culture, I would like to take this opportunity to share the outcomes of two recent events:

- ♦ during the the 9th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, organized in Paris from 30 November to 4 December last, 34 new elements were inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, which serves to raise awareness of intangible heritage and provide recognition to communities' traditions and know-how that reflect their cultural diversity. In addition, 3 new elements were inscribed on the List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, which now comprises 38 elements. To discover the lists, please click on [this link](#).
- ♦ 28 cities, from 19 countries, have been designated by the Director-General as new members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, which now comprises 69 cities that have identified culture and creativity as a strategic driver for sustainable urban development. By joining the Network, cities commit to collaborate and develop partnerships with a view to promoting creativity and cultural industries, to share best practices, to strengthen participation in cultural life, and to integrate culture in economic and social development plans. To discover the list of cities, please click on [this link](#).

I also wish to recall that we are fast approaching an important moment in the cooperation between NGOs and UNESCO - the **2014 International Conference of NGOs**, which will be held at UNESCO Headquarters from 15 to 17 December.

Your participation is essential, and I really hope that many of you will participate in this important event. This Conference promises to be a vintage year given the number of registrations already received. I take this opportunity to invite all of you to register in advance in order to ensure that each NGO has its nominative place in the room and draw up the list of representatives authorized to vote to be given to the tellers.

For more information, please consult the following websites:
<http://en.unesco.org/partnerships/non-governmental-organizations> and
<http://www.ong-unesco.org>.

Moving on to important upcoming events, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

19-20 January 2015 – Launching of the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

High level scientists, including Nobel Prize Laureates, government officials, representatives of the private sector and civil society will take part in the launching ceremony for the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies. The Ceremony will celebrate, *inter alia*, the centenary of Einstein's discovery of General Relativity and the millennium of the contribution to the advance of science of light by Arab polymaths. The influence of light-based technologies on human culture will be showcased in artistic image paintings and cultural heritage presentations.

Proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly, the International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies 2015 is a global initiative designed to highlight the key role light and relating technologies play in our daily lives and their importance for our future and for the sustainable development of the society we live in.

UNESCO and its partners will be using the Year to foster education and training worldwide with an emphasis on Africa, in order to ensure more universal access to these technologies. The International Year of Light is being coordinated by UNESCO together with a consortium of partners.

For more information on the International Year, I invite you to browse the website of the Year: <http://en.unesco.org/events/2015-international-year-light-launching>. I am sure scientific NGOs will be particularly interested in the official launching and events organized throughout the year in this regard.

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4-5 February 2015 – Netexplo Forum 2015, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Organized with UNESCO's support, the 2015 Forum will highlight some of the today's most promising global innovators in digital technologies, who are inventing new forms of education, communication, information, solidarity and management around the globe. Their innovations impact on the way the public and private sectors reflect on development, dialogue and diversity, and they influence the elaboration of new strategies and programmes.

The Forum will be an opportunity to discover new and emerging trends in the use of digital technology, as well as to meet the creators of these innovations. For the first time, in order to allow a greater participation, the Forum will mostly take place online and will be broadcasted through the Internet from UNESCO Headquarters. I am confident that many of you will participate physically (4 February morning) or virtually in this event.

For more information, please consult the website of Netexplo: <https://www.netexplo.org/en/event/2015-netexplo-forum>

Contact: Mr Davide Storti (d.storti@unesco.org)

13 February 2015 – World Radio Day

13 February is the World Radio Day — a day to celebrate radio as a means of communication, to improve international cooperation between broadcasters, and to encourage major networks and community radio to promote access to information and freedom of expression on the air. Radio is still the medium reaching the widest audience in the world.

The theme for the fourth edition of World Radio Day is “Youth and Radio”. The ultimate goal of the Day is to increase the participation of young people in radio, not just as listeners but as producers of radio content. The best way to demonstrate this is to invite young producers to devise their own youth-focused radio shows – by youth and for youth.

The 2015 celebration is also a great occasion to raise awareness of the importance of eliminating stereotypes and prejudice in the portrayal of young people in the media, and improving the security of young journalists, especially freelancers and fixers in conflict and disaster zones.

I encourage you to celebrate this Day by planning activities in collaboration with other partners such as National Commissions for UNESCO, national, regional and international broadcasters, other NGOs or foundations, the media and the public. The event should be handed over to young producers and reporters. It should also involve influential young people in your area, from celebrities and media professionals to young leaders and politicians.

For more information on this event, ideas on how to celebrate it as well as the opportunity to register your celebration for the 2015 Day and share your plans with other people with possible interest, please visit: <http://www.worldradioday.net>.

Contact: Ms Mirta Lourenço (m.lourenco@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- Officially launched on the occasion of the *Sommet de la Francophonie* in Dakar on 29 November last, the French version of the *Creative Economy Report* is now available. Co-published by UNESCO and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the United Nations Office for South-South Co-operation, the Report focuses on creative economy at the local level in developing countries and is organized in two volumes: a policy report and a web-documentary that brings to life cases and trends, as well as opportunities and challenges of creative economy on the ground. It can be downloaded following [this link](#).
- The book *Charting the Course of Education and HIV* explores the major debates and provides an overview of how the role of the education sector and approaches to HIV education have evolved, what has been learned, emerging challenges and opportunities, and proposes a way forward for the education sector to contribute to the prevention of new infections, treatment and care, and reduce stigma and discrimination. The book is available in English at the following address: http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?Code_Livre=5022.

- The policy brief *Our global water towers: Ensuring ecosystem services from mountains under climate change* is available in English under [this link](#). It aims to transform scientific information and experience into action by answering local and regional needs for tools to improve adaption to global changes and build capacity to address and meet today's global water challenges.
- The final United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) Global Monitoring and Evaluation Report (GME), entitled *Shaping the Future We Want*, assesses the impact of the Decade on all levels and areas of education and draws out the major lessons that will inform future work. Issues highlighted in the report include the need to align education with sustainable development to ensure that education supports sustainable development objectives, and that sustainable development policymakers provide support for education. The Report is available in English and French at the following address: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002301/230171e.pdf>.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt