



**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/2013/39

10 April 2013

Dear Partners,

The Committee on Non-Governmental Partners of the Executive Board is just around the corner as it will take place on Thursday 11 April (from 10:00 a.m. in Room XI at UNESCO Headquarters). I very much hope that, this time again, many of you will be able to attend.

I take this opportunity to inform you that the Draft Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2021 (37 C/4) and the Draft Programme and Budget 2014-2017 (37 C/5) proposed by the Director-General are already on line following the above links. Other linguistic versions are available at:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/general-conference/all-documents/>.

Our website <http://www.unesco.int>

I would like to remind you that, in order to increase the visibility of our cooperation, a space especially devoted to NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO is available on our web site www.unesco.int dedicated to UNESCO Member States. Please refer to the heading *NGOs News* of its home page. Under this section, NGOs can post some of their activities, publications or any other event.

Your continued contribution is essential to fuel this site. You will find herewith, once again, the 'Events' form allowing you to give us information you would like to share. Please send this form, once completed, to the Section for Non-Governmental Organizations (email: ngo@unesco.org).

**14-16 May 2013 – Second International Drought Initiative (IDI) meeting,
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran**

Launched by the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Ministry of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the International Drought Initiative (IDI) acts as a platform for networking between international entities active in the field of drought. It will bring together experts and highly skilled professionals to debate openly drought issues.

The main purpose of this meeting is to finalize the IDI road map and to determine its future activities and action plan. It will also allow exchanging of information on lessons learnt and improving responsiveness towards droughts.

I encourage NGOs interested in drought management to contact the organizers in order to attend this meeting.

For more information, please consult: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/water/ihp/ihp-vii-themes/impacts-of-global-changes/>
Contact: Mr Shahram Khorasanizadeh (email: sh.khorasani@rcuwm.org.ir)

18 May 2013 – European Night of Museums at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

For the fifth consecutive year, UNESCO is participating in the European Night of Museums, organized by the French Ministry of Culture. UNESCO Headquarters will open its doors to the public and give place of honour to the Republic of Korea, the Organization's partner for the 2013 edition.

The tour will begin with the presentation of a selection of Korean artworks from UNESCO's collections, giving the visitor the unique occasion to see works that are usually not accessible to the general public. The visitor will then have the chance to discover the modern architecture of the Organization's Headquarters as well as part of its art collection.

Guided tours will take place from 8:00 p.m. until midnight (last admission), free of charge and without registration. So do not hesitate to come and visit our Headquarters on this occasion.

Contact: Ms Tania Fernandez Toledo (email: t.fernandez-toledo@unesco.org)

27-29 May 2013 - 8th Ordinary Session of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), Bratislava, Slovakia

During this session, COMEST will discuss current and emerging ethical challenges in relation to the development of science and technology – such as ethics and climate change and science ethics – and advise UNESCO and its Member States on these issues.

The session will focus on four domains:

- i) ethics and climate change;
- ii) science ethics;
- iii) ethics of nanotechnology and converging technologies;
- iv) ethical approaches to science, technology and innovation for development.

After this Ordinary Session, a follow-up conference on ethical challenges of science and technology, in conjunction with the Slovak National Commission for UNESCO, will take place on 30 and 31 May 2013 in Bratislava.

For more information, please visit the following website:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/global-environmental-change/comest/>
Contact: Mr John Crowley (email: j.crowley@unesco.org)

17-27 June 2013 - 37th session of the World Heritage Committee, Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia

This 37th session is organized by UNESCO and the National Commission of Cambodia with the support of the Office of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia.

The World Heritage Committee is responsible for the implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972). It has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List, examines reports on the state of conservation of inscribed properties and asks States Parties to take action when properties are not being properly managed.

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

Contact: Ms Mechtild Rossler (email: m.rossler@unesco.org)
World Heritage Website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/35/>
Website of the 37th session: <http://www.whc37cambodia2013.kh/>

UNESCO Publications

- *2012 UNESCO Annual Report* is available in English and French on UNESCO's website (www.unesco.org). The Annual Report is a strategic advocacy tool and promotional work for the Organization. It highlights the full range of our action throughout the previous year. It will be launched during the 191st session of the UNESCO Executive Board.
- *UNESCO Science for Peace and Sustainable Development* is available in English only at the following address: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002197/219756E.pdf>.
- *Gender perspectives in case studies across continents* is the first e-book of the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender. It brings together case studies on decentralization, violence, women's political participation, education and labor from Latin America, Europe and Africa. You can access the document [here](#).

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt