



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

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
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la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
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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/2013/29

15 March 2013

Dear Partners,

Almost a year has passed since the launch of this monthly letter. I sincerely hope it contributes to keeping you informed of events organized by UNESCO and, especially, that it meets your expectations. I also hope that it will facilitate more and more your active participation in the life of the Organization.

11 April 2013 - Committee on Non-Governmental Partners of the Executive Board

As part of the 191st session of the Executive Board, the Committee on Non-Governmental Partners (NGP) will meet on Thursday 11 April 2013, in Room XI.

This meeting of the 23 Member States of the NGP Committee, which all NGOs are invited to join, will examine statutory issues concerning admissions and reclassifications of partnership with NGOs and relationships with foundations.

It will also give an opportunity to present the conclusions of the International Conference of NGOs held last December, especially with regard to the collective contribution of NGOs to the preparation of drafts C/4 and C/5. It will also and most importantly allow for the presentation to Member States of the new NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee and its strategic orientations for the next two years.

In addition, the Committee will continue its interactive dialogue with NGOs and the Secretariat on specific issues related to UNESCO's programmes and priorities. Thus, a session will be devoted to an open discussion on synergies between UNESCO and NGOs on water cooperation.

With a view to your participation in the meeting, I invite you to consult documents 191 EX/31 and 191 EX/NGP/2, which will be shortly available on www.unesco.int.

I am therefore looking forward to seeing many of you on 11 April during the NGP Committee so that we continue strengthening this dialogue between Member States, NGOs and the Secretariat.

30 April 2013 - International Jazz Day

Spurred by the success of the first celebration in 2012, UNESCO, in partnership with the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz (TMIJ), will sponsor the celebration of the second International Jazz Day in Istanbul, Turkey.

Turkey has an age-old tradition of jazz. Munir Ertegun, the country's first Ambassador to Washington in the 1930s, opened his embassy's parlors to African American jazz musicians, who gathered there to play freely in a time when the socio-historical context was deeply marked by racial segregation. Inspired by this legacy, the Ambassador's sons, Ahmet and Nesuhi, established the United States' first jazz and gospel label in 1947 - Atlantic Records - which was seminal in spreading the beauty of jazz music around the world.

Proclaimed in 2011, this day is dedicated to raising awareness internationally regarding jazz's virtues as an educational tool, as a vehicle for peace, unity, dialogue, and for enhanced cooperation between peoples.

A live streaming concert will be held in the Hagia Irene church in Istanbul – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – and many other initiatives and events will be organized throughout the world.

Save the date and let us know about the initiatives that your organization will hold on the occasion of this day. We will certainly announce them on www.unesco.int.

Feel free to visit the following website to find information on this subject: <http://www.unesco.org/new/fr/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/international-jazz-day-2013/>
Contact: Mr Neil Ford (n.ford@unesco.org)

3 May 2013 - World Press Freedom Day - 20th Anniversary

Every year, 3 May is a date that celebrates the fundamental principles of press freedom; to evaluate press freedom around the world, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

This year, which also celebrates the 20th anniversary of the proclamation of the day by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, UNESCO and the Government of Costa Rica will jointly host the 20th World Day of Press Freedom in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 2 to 4 May 2013, throughout the world on the theme of "Safe to Speak: Securing Freedom of Expression in All Media". Particular emphasis will be placed on the safety of journalists, the issue of impunity and the issue of online security.

The awarding of the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, named in honour of the Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano Isaza, will also take place on this Day. The award honours a person, organization or institution that has made a notable contribution to the defense and/or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, especially if risks were taken.

You can find more information taken from this link:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/freedom-of-expression/press-freedom/unesco-world-press-freedom-prize/>.

You are encouraged to participate in, or organize events contributing to the celebration of this day and to keep us informed about them.

You will find more information on the following website:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/world-press-freedom-day/homepage/>

Contact: Ms Sylvie Coudray (s.coudray@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

➤ The Mali storybook *Les animaux du fleuve* (with CD) is available in French only at the following address:

http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?&Code_Livre=4907&change=F.

➤ The *World Heritage Review n°66 "Small Island Developing States"* is available in English at the following address:

http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?&Code_Livre=4963&change=E.

➤ The publication *The principle of respect for human vulnerability and personal integrity - Report of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC)* is available in English at:

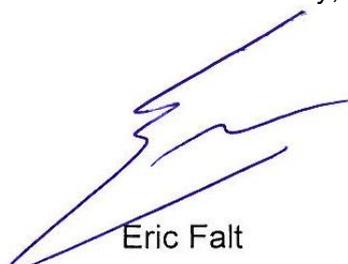
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002194/219494E.pdf>.

Finally, I am pleased to announce the admission of six new official partners of UNESCO, since the last session of the Executive Board:

- **Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)**, an NGO based in Switzerland and Senegal, admitted to consultative status;
- the **International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA)**, an NGO based in Denmark, admitted to consultative status;
- **Rencontres du Viet Nam**, an NGO based in France, admitted to consultative status;
- **Surfrider Foundation Europe**, an NGO based in France, admitted to consultative status;
- **Fundación Celeste**, based in Uruguay, admitted to official relations with UNESCO as a foundation; and
- the **Indian Heritage Cities Network Foundation (IHCN-F)**, based in India, admitted to official relations with UNESCO as a foundation.

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

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt