



**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/2013/01

7 January 2013

Dear Partners,

At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to express my best wishes for health, success and happiness to all of you.

Before up-dating you on forthcoming events that could be of interest to you, allow me to come back to a major event in the relationship between NGOs and UNESCO, which ended the year 2012 – the International Conference of NGOs, held from 12 to 14 December 2012.

The conference was marked by a large participation, with 129 NGO partners represented, compared to approximately 70 at the last International Conference. It was also characterized by the interest of other NGO observers as well as that of Member States, who for the first time closely followed the collective work of NGOs. Over 300 participants attended the Conference in Paris and many others were connected to the webcast on the UNESCO site.

This conference was of particular importance for NGOs focused on the preliminary proposals of the Director-General on the draft Medium Term Strategy (C/4) and the draft Programme and Budget (C/5). As a result of these proceedings, they adopted a collective contribution to be presented to Member States at the 191st session of the Executive Board.

For the first time, NGOs also conducted the election of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee under the provisions of the new Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with NGOs. Among the 10 organizations elected to the Liaison Committee, are included for the first time NGOs from different regions of the world: this new geographic representativeness of the Committee is in my opinion a crucial element to expanding and strengthening our partnership with NGOs worldwide.

As you are aware, Mr Patrick Gallaud was elected Chairperson of the Conference for a two-year term. I wish to reiterate to him, as well as to the entire new Committee team, the support of the Secretariat, and especially of my Sector, in the fulfilment of his future tasks. We already had the opportunity to meet on 3 January to discuss future activities.

If you are interested in learning more about the conference, the results of the election and the texts approved, please visit this page: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/member-states/single-view/news/international_conference_of_non_governmental_organizations/.
Contact: Ms Sabina Colombo (s.colombo@unesco.org)

13 February 2013 – 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 alike, to promote access to information and freedom of expression on the air.

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.

You can find more information on this event, ideas on how to celebrate it as well as the opportunity to register your celebration for the 2013 Day and share your plans with other people with possible interest at the following address: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/world-radio-day/>.
Contact: Ms Mirta Lourenço (m.lourenco@unesco.org)

14-15 February 2013 – Netexplo Forum 2013, UNESCO Headquarters

Organized with the support of UNESCO, the Forum will highlight some of the most promising global innovators in digital technologies today, who are inventing new forms of education, communication, information, solidarity and management around the globe. Every year, the Netexplo global observatory of digital innovations identifies the latest and most promising projects and experiments on every continent through its international network of more than 200 spotters. The Netexplo Forum thereby recognizes promising digital initiatives worldwide and fosters the emergence of knowledge societies.

I am confident that many of you will participate in this event which is an opportunity to discover new and emerging trends in the use of digital technology.

For more information, please consult the website of Netexplo: <http://www.netexplo.org/>.
Contact: Ms Maria Liouliou (m.liouliou@unesco.org)

UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2013

Each year, UNESCO invites Member States, regional and international organizations, and professional and non-governmental organizations working in the field of journalism and freedom of expression, to nominate candidates for the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize. This year, Helsingin Sanomat Foundation, a Finnish foundation which promotes and supports freedom of expression, sponsors the Prize.

The Prize is intended to honour a person, organization or institution which has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and/or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, especially when achieved in the face of danger. It is intended to reward journalists who have shown dedication in the name of freedom of expression and information, and to give them the international recognition they deserve.

I wish to remind you that the deadline for submission of nomination is set on 15 February 2013. The prize itself will be awarded on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day, on 3 May 2013.

You will find more information on this Prize under this link.
Contact: Ms Sylvie Coudray (s.coudray@unesco.org)

18-22 February 2013 - Second UNESCO Mobile Learning Week, UNESCO Headquarters

The Mobile Learning Week (MLW) aims to explore mobile learning as a unique and significant contribution to achieving the Education for All (EFA) goals. MLW 2013 will focus on three particular EFA goals as they relate to mobile learning:

- improving levels of adult and youth literacy (how mobile technologies can support literacy development and increase reading opportunities);
- improving the quality of education (how mobile technologies can support teachers and their professional development); and
- achieving gender equality in education (how mobile technologies can support equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality for all, in particular for women and girls).

The event will once again include a Walking Gallery, an exhibition space for companies and organizations to showcase recent developments in mobile technologies and mobile learning.

Please do not hesitate to join us during this symposium at UNESCO Headquarters.

For more information, please consult the following web site:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/themes/icts/m4ed/unesco-mobile-learning-week/>.

Contact: Ms Marie-Lise Bourcier (ml.bourcier@unesco.org)

25-27 February 2013 - Towards Knowledge Societies for Peace and Sustainable Development: WSIS+10 Review Meeting, UNESCO Headquarters

Marking the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society, UNESCO, in cooperation with ITU, UNDP and UNCTAD, will host this first WSIS+10 Review meeting, which aim will be to assess progress made in ICT, as well as on-going and future trends which will impact all spheres of societies, and to build a vision for new information/knowledge societies in the framework of the overall WSIS review process towards 2015. It is also envisaged that the Conference will result in post-2015 recommendations in the fields of competence of UNESCO.

We hope that many of you will participate in this meeting, which will not fail to interest many of our partners in the field of communication.

For more information, please consult the following web site:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/flagship-project-activities/towards-knowledge-societies-for-peace-and-sustainable-development/homepage/>

Contact: Ms Mika Yamanaka (m.yamanaka@unesco.org)

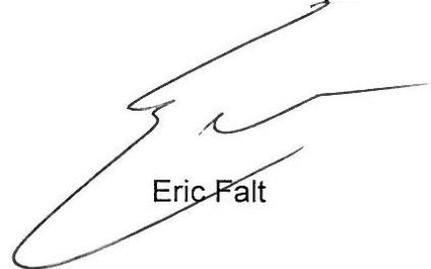
UNESCO Publications

➤ The publication *Global Survey on Internet Privacy and Freedom of Expression* is available at the following address:
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0021/002182/218273e.pdf>

➤ The new edition of *Human Rights: Questions and Answers*, by Leah Levin with cartoons by Plantu, is available at:
http://publishing.unesco.org/details.aspx?Code_Livre=4953.

May the good things of life be yours in abundance throughout this New Year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Falt', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Eric Falt