

UPEACE

NEWSFLASH

FEBRUARY-
MARCH, 2011



UPEACE Model United Nations Conference 2011

The theme for this year was: "Rising to Respond"

From 3-5 March, 2011 the University for Peace opened its 9th annual Model United Nations Conference (UPMUNC) at the Rodrigo Carazo Odio Campus, in Ciudad Colón.

Around 130 participants were involved in the event, representing countries, international organizations or non-governmental organizations, acting as media representatives, or serving as conference organizers.

The theme for this year's conference was "Rising to Respond." UPMUNC 2011 aimed to deal with some of the concerns that threaten the contemporary world, with the hope that the timely political action at the international level can help the world be a better place in the future.

This conference is entirely a student-led initiative, while UPEACE provides academic and administrative support.

UPMUNC is an endeavor to provide a common platform for people from all over the globe to discuss current international affairs and how action can be taken on key global issues. The conference enables participants to become part of the decision making process, while hoping to find ideas and solutions where, thus far, the United Nations has been unable to do so.

This event was possible due to the support of UPEACE, its students and staff, and some governments, including The Netherlands, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, and the United States of America.

The opening diplomatic reception was hosted by the British Embassy while the

closing diplomatic reception was hosted by the Embassy of the Netherlands.

The opening speech was delivered by H. E. Tadeu Valadares, Ambassador of Brazil to Costa Rica; the topic was "Brazil, the U. N. and Multilateralism".

Also present at the opening were John J. Maresca, Rector of UPEACE, Dr. Victor Valle, Associate Vice-Rector, Prof. Mihir Kanade, Director of the UPEACE Human Rights Centre and Mohit Pant, MA International Peace Studies Candidate 2011 and President of the Board of Directors for UPMUNC 2011. 130 participants were involved in the event, representing countries, international organizations or non-governmental organizations, acting as media representatives, or serving as conference organizers.



Photo by Wiktor Zaremba

UPEACE accepting Undergraduate Students with University of California Berkeley Programme

The University for Peace (UPEACE) will admit well-qualified advanced undergraduate students for its joint summer programme with the University of California at Berkeley (UCB) on: "Human Security and Peacebuilding... problems without passports", which will be conducted from 12 June to 15 July 2011 at the main UPEACE campus in Costa Rica.

This will be the first time UPEACE has accepted students who are still undergraduates, reflecting an institutional decision which will affect the University's policies across-the-board.

"This is in keeping with our mandate to reach out "to humanity" and also reflects modern thinking about education, which is increasingly related more to preparation and accomplishment than to progression through traditional grade levels", said John J. Maresca, Rector of UPEACE.

This summer programme on "problems without passports" continues UPEACE's pioneering role in bringing education for peace to the world through visionary

new approaches and with leading educational partners.

"We look forward with great anticipation to launching the Summer Peace Institute and to building partnership ties between UPEACE and the University of California, Berkeley. Bringing together students from throughout the Americas, as well as Asia and Europe, promises an exciting learning experience for one and all", said Dr. Jerry Sanders, Chair of Peace and Conflict Studies from University of California at Berkeley.

The course will include a "Peacebuilding Practice", period that will give the international student body the opportunity to interact with governmental and non-governmental institutions in Costa Rica on case study issues.

The Summer Peace Institute consists of a five-week course which will bring together a diverse international group of advanced undergraduates and graduate students from the Global North and South for the purposes of inquiry and dialogue on current world issues related to human security.

For more information and for applications for this programme please visit: www.upeace.org/academic/berkeley.cfm, contact seminar@upeace.org or call (+506) 2205-9000.

UPEACE in the NEWS

- [Especialista en "felicidad" brindará charlas en Costa Rica](#)
La Nación (Costa Rica)
20 January, 2011.

- [La Felicidad depende de la actitud que tomemos ante la vida](#)
La Nación (Costa Rica)
24 January, 2011.

- [Se unieron a la limpieza](#)
Al Día (Costa Rica)
17 february, 2011.

- [Why Obama is Placing his Hopes on El Salvador](#)
Times Magazine (International)
21 March, 2011



Job Opening

Please note that the position of **Assistant Professor** at the Department of International Law and Human Rights has been opened for internal and external competition.

Instructions for applying to this position can be found at jobs/ job description is available [here](#).

UPEACE Institute a success

The UPEACE Institute was held from 17 January to 4 February with eighteen interesting short courses, including: Sports and Peace, Peace Building and Post-War Reconstruction of Japan: Okinawa and Hiroshima, Role of Films and Related Arts in Peace Education, Gender and Human Trafficking, Arms Control and Disarmament Today, and several others.

In addition to the regular UPEACE students taking elective courses in their MA programmes, another 35 participants joined the courses, representing a total of sixteen countries from Africa, the Americas, and Europe.

The Institute attracted members from the United Nations, OAS, UNDP Brazil, Fabretto Children's Foundation from Nicaragua, and Universidad del Valle in Guatemala, as well as a number of UPEACE alumni. UPEACE staff members, both academic and non-academic, also participated in the Institute courses.

This year, for the first time, several participants received financial support through a joint scholarship offered by UPEACE and the Organization of American States. Thanks to this scholarship, participants from across the Americas were able to attend the UPEACE Institute



Recognition for UPEACE Fire Brigade

From 14-17 January 2011, by invitation of the Costa Rican Ministry of environment, Energy and telecommunications (MINAET), campus staff participated for the third consecutive year in the "Fourth Forest Fire Brigade mobilization Exercise Costa Rica 2011" in Agua Caliente de Cartago.

The core of the training was to study best practices to control, prevent, and put out forest fires and similar events. Exercise objectives include demonstration of abilities and skills in managing equipment and tools for fire control, promoting teamwork and self-sufficiency.

19 brigades participated, including Police and INS-Firefighters. According to the reports our colleagues performed excellently in the training and receive commendable comments from the coordinators.

Congratulations on your successful participation!



Family Day

On Sunday, 6 February 2011, UPEACE Staff Family Day was held at the recreational park at the Rodrigo Carazo Campus of the University for Peace. The underlying and inspiring concept for Family Day was non-violent communication, within families and among peoples.

All ingredients for a great celebration came together: close to 200 people, including staff members and their relatives (parents, spouses, children and grand-children); nice weather, creative and playful activities, and tasteful meals and refreshments. Magic and mime shows provided enjoyment to all, especially the children.

The event demonstrated the high sense of belonging and commitment of all staff members in the UPEACE community. Many colleagues made this unforgettable day possible, for which we are truly grateful.



UPEACE Students collected 4 tons of trash in creek cleaning

On Sunday, 13 February 2011, 24 students from MA Programme in Environmental Security and Peace, in collaboration with the Security Committee of El Rodeo, gathered for cleaning and collecting trash in the El Rodeo area.

The activity was conducted within the framework of the course: "Disaster Risk Reduction at the local Level".

Students collected 4 tons of material, including tires, chairs, plastic and others.

UPEACER 's in Action

“Volunteering is who I am, it goes beyond immediate results and ignites something more fundamental and unseen within. I am grateful for those whose voluntary efforts helped to mold me.” Rawle Small



Rawle Small
Guyana
MA in Gender and Peacebuilding
2009
Funder of the Social Development
Network

Rawle Small: Volunteer is who I am

The Bantu of Africa have a term, Ubuntu, which, when translated into English, is equated to the word humaneness. In this sense, volunteering is Ubuntu, it's a lived experience for me. The Xhosa saying, "Umuntu ngumuntu ngabanye abantu" (i.e. a person is a person through other person) highlights an undeniable interdependence among human beings and our environments, and it is vital for our continued existence.

In 2008/09 I had the opportunity to attend UPEACE in Costa Rica as part of the MA in Gender and Peacebuilding. UPEACE encourages its students to take part in community service and other voluntary efforts, so I decided to volunteer in a community named La Carpio, as well as at a juvenile detention centre. Meeting and working along with youth, combined with my experience of cultural and academic life at UPEACE, helped to enrich my appreciation of the collective spirit that is humanity.

In a sense, this is what volunteerism is about, understanding that we are all one and we must demonstrate this in our various capacities as we live, work and play. Studying at UPEACE and having the opportunity to volunteer as part of my academic experience was one of many platforms that cultivated in me a deep sense of appreciation for life, for humanity and our faith in each other.

While studying, I began to feel like I had come full circle, because some years before I volunteered at the Drop-In-Centre for Street Children in Georgetown as a mentor for a young man also named Rawle. Every weekend he would spend time with my family and me. Eventually, Rawle's friends began accompanying him and gradually I began to observe many of the children being more attentive and responsive to my efforts. In Rawle, I saw me, just as I would later see myself in my volunteer partners in Costa Rica.

Volunteerism has no face. If we all lend a hand, eventually that hand will come back to us in some way, shape, form or fashion.

Rawle Small recently completed research that explored historical and contemporary volunteerism in Guyana and analyzed the feasibility of establishing a national volunteer support platform. He currently serves as an advisory member of the National Youth Policy committee, the Guyana Volunteer Support Platform Consultative Group. He founded an NGO called the Social Development Network that will soon launch a social entrepreneurial program providing inter-alia voluntary opportunities for young persons and support to other groups.

To continue this work, to fulfil our mission, and to grow as an institution of higher education, UPEACE needs your support. We invite you to join our cause. Donate [here](#)



Nick Marks and the HPI

Nick Marks, recognised expert in the field of well-being research, visited UPEACE from 24-26 January 2011 to hold a 3-day seminar on "A Happier Way of Life," insights from the science of well-being and their potential personal and policy applications.

Nick was the lead author of the New Economic Foundation's (nef) innovative Happy Planet Index (HPI), a global index of human well-being and environmental impact. He was an advisor to the UK Government Office for Science's Foresight project on "mental capital and well-being," published in October 2008, which included the creation of "the five ways to well-being."

He devised, together with others at the centre for well-being, the model and methodology behind nef's report on National Accounts of Well-being, which gained extensive media coverage when launched in January 2009.



Photo by Gerardo Romero



Photo: From Left to right, John Maresca, Rector of UPEACE, Marieke Van Schik, Managing Director PCL, Jean Bosco Butera, Director UPEACE Africa Programme .

UPEACE Receives annual grant from the Nationale Postcode Loterij

On 9 February 2011, UPEACE was awarded a grant of 500,000 Euros by the Nationale Postcode Loterij of the Netherlands, at its annual "Goed Geld Gala" in Laren, Netherlands. UPEACE has benefitted from grants from the [Nationale Postcode Loterij](#) for the last five years.

"We are delighted and deeply grateful for this continuing support from the Nationale Postcode Loterij," said John Maresca, UPEACE Rector. "These funds will enable many students from developing countries to continue their studies, which would not have been possible without such funding support. It is important to prepare leaders for these developing societies, who are convinced that peace is essential. The Nationale Postcode Loterij has made a key contribution to this important effort".

The Gala event brought together representatives from the organizations that benefit from the support of the Nationale Postcode Loterij, including UNICEF, WWF, Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, Natuurmonumenten and De Vogelbescherming, and many other organizations active in human rights and environmental activities.

The Gala was held in the Singer Museum in Laren, Netherlands, and was addressed by Her Royal Highness Princess Máxima of the Netherlands, who was guest of honor.

The Lottery, which is the largest charity lottery in the Netherlands, contributes 50 percent of its annual profits to carefully selected aid organizations and charities concerned with bettering the lives of people with protecting the world's natural environment. UPEACE was among more than 80 organizations which received support.

Since 1989, the Lottery has been raising funds to support organisations working for a fairer, greener world, and currently supports 75 nongovernmental organizations. Since its founding, the lottery has dispensed more than 3 billion euros to its beneficiaries.

The University for Peace is extremely grateful to the Dutch Postcode Lottery for this substantial support.

For more information on UPEACE and the Postcode Lottery working together press [here](#)



UPEACE signs a MOU with UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

On 10 February 2011 in Delft, The Netherlands, John J. Maresca Rector of University for Peace and Prof. András Szöllösi-Nagy, Rector of UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The collaboration will combine both organizations expertise and knowledge on water and conflict resolution.

The two institutions will develop a complementary research agenda on water and peace, an exchange of teachers in relevant postgraduate programmes, and the joint supervision of research students on projects of mutual interest.

A joint lecture series will allow for further integration of the specialisations of UNESCO-IHE (water) and UPEACE (conflict resolution), from which the students of both institutions will benefit.

Based in the Netherlands and established in 2003, UNESCO-IHE continues the work that started in 1957 when IHE first offered a postgraduate diploma course in hydraulic engineering to practicing professionals from developing countries. The Institute is mandated by UNESCO to provide training, education and capacity building services to member states, with an

emphasis on developing countries and countries in transition. UNESCO-IHE is instrumental in strengthening universities and research centres in increasing knowledge and skills of professionals working in the water sector.

Photo by UNESCO - IHE
From left to right Prof. András Szöllösi-Nagy,
Rector of UNESCO-IHE and John J. Maresca
Rector of University for Peace



The Nippon Foundation/ CANPAN Northeastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund

The damage wrought by the massive earthquake that struck Northeastern Japan on March 11 has been devastating.

Estimates already place those dead and missing in the thousands. At the moment, there is little that untrained volunteers can do to help on the ground. What we all can do right now, however, is to help raise funds to support both the relief organizations currently working in the affected areas, and the extensive reconstruction work that will follow.

Our friends at the Nippon Foundation in Tokyo, one of our most valued partners, have created a fund to support the humanitarian recovery effort which is going on.

The [Nippon Foundation](#) is a very responsible organization and can all be confident that funds will be well used in the enormous and challenging task of relieving human suffering and rebuilding the lives of the people who have suffered from this disaster.

If you are willing to donate, you can do so at the following website:
http://members.canpan.info/kikin/products/detail.php?product_id=1080

Earthquake in Japan,
Donate Now





Photo by Izahorsky

“Young and educated peoples, in every continent, are searching for answers and opportunities which hold more promise than their parents experienced in their lifetimes”.

John J. Maresca
UPEACE
Rector



UPEACE Launches its first Online Master's Degree

Starting in September 2011

As part of its Distance Education Programme, the University for Peace (UPEACE) has launched a new Online Master of Arts Programme in Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World, beginning in September 2011.

“For years, UPEACE has struggle with the daunting challenge laid down in its mandate from the United Nations General assembly: to offer education for peace to “humanity”. Now, thanks to the multiple miracles of digital communications, UPEACE is offering its programs on-line, making them accessible to anyone in the world who can use a computer”, said John J. Maresca, Rector of UPEACE.

“Students are keen to absorb new approaches and ideas, and have a remarkable capacity to digest them, they are sophisticated, rapid learners because they have the direct personal experience of quick transfer of thought”, he added.

This online Master's combines online content and class interaction with at least one face-to-face component, drawing on UPEACE's core values, knowledge, skills, and competencies.

“People of any age, with a moderate level of education and access to a computer, can follow these courses. With this step, UPEACE has truly become ‘The world's University’.” he said.

The programme enables a broad group of learners to undertake a comprehensive study of the major challenges to peace in the twenty-first century and to understand the central issues of peace studies through a holistic approach, integrating the perspectives of related academic disciplines.

The new programme will enhance student skills, and strengthen their capabilities to observe, critically analyze, reflect on, and create knowledge in the field of peace and conflict studies.

The online MA programme is comprised of a total of 42 credits,

consisting of a 36-credit course load, distributed in 15 courses, and a 6-credit research project.

The programme is intended to engage adult learners who are unable to attend face-to-face programmes or who prefer to interact online, at their own pace and timing.

For admissions requirements and applications please visit www.upeace.org/elearning/ or call (506) 2205-9097.

ONLINE COURSE

Peace Education, Theory and Practice

18 April to 10 June 2011



Duration: 9 Weeks

Limited Admissions

First-come, first-served

Professors: Toh Swee-Hin
and Virginia Cawagas

Cost: For Academic Credits US\$950

Non-credit US\$750

3 Credits Course



University for Peace
Universidad para la Paz



For more information visit:
www.upeace.org/elearning/
admissions@elearning.upeace.org
+506 2205 9077 / +506 2205 9000

General Description:

Worldwide, the vital role of education in transcending conflicts and violence in all its forms, and in building a multi-dimensional culture of peace has been increasingly recognized by a wide range of policy-makers, analysts, advocates, and practitioners. For peace to effectively emerge from conditions of violence and for this peace to be sustained, appropriate strategies of peace education will need to be envisioned and implemented. This course seeks to provide a critical overview of key ideas, concepts and analytical perspectives on peace education that have been manifested in diverse institutional, community, and grassroots initiatives and programs in both North and South contexts. More specifically, through a facilitative process, learners will see how education for various dimensions of a culture of peace, including disarmament and nonviolence, local and global justice, human rights, intercultural understanding, sustainable futures and cultivating inner peace, can be synergized and integrated into the urgent challenge of building a peaceful, just and sustainable world.



Dr. Robert G. Muller (1923-2010), playing his harmonica.

Legacies of Peace in Memory of Robert Muller

On Friday 11 March 2011, at the Church Center of the United Nations, a Memorial Tribute was held for Dr. Robert G. Muller, former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Chancellor Emeritus of UPEACE, who passed away on 21 September 2010 at the age of 83.

The memorial was organized by The World Association of Former United Nations Interns and

Fellows (WAFUNIF), which was founded by Dr. Muller after he completed his internship at the UN, launching his life long career path there.

Dr. Christine Oatis, Career Officer, represented UPEACE at the ceremony.

"I attended this inspiring tribute and brought a UPEACE 30th anniversary history book to give to his widow, Barbara Muller. She placed it on the table in front of the speakers' podium for the ceremony. Mrs. Muller was very glad to have a representative from UPEACE at the memorial service", said Oatis.

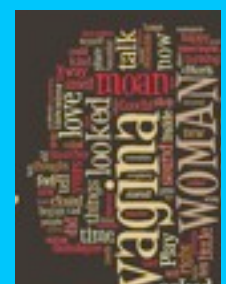
"Robert Muller also was known as 'The Profit of Hope' and his legacy, as the cofounder of UPEACE headquartered in Costa Rica along with Former President Rodrigo Carazo, is an amazing dream come true".

See programme of the ceremony [here](#)

V-Day UPEACE 2011: The Vagina Monologues

On 17-18 February 22 UPEACE students presented "**The Vagina Monologues**" an award-winning play based on V-Day Founder and playwright by Eve Ensler's to raise awareness (and funds) to help stop violence against women.

The proceedings of both activities benefited AMES (Asociación de Mujeres en Salud), a women's health organization in San José in addition this year's Spotlight cause was Women and Girls of Haiti.



1st APRIL

Come and join us for a (k)night of medieval revelry at European and Middle Eastern night! Enjoy medieval games, delicious food and cultural performances as we celebrate our European and Middle Eastern cultures.

- Prove your strength in a medieval tug-of war.
- Enjoy a succulent hog-roast-
- Learn a baroque dance
- Savour delicacies from the region
- Medieval fancy dress optional

Tickets: 2000 colones in advance, 3000 on the door

Middle
East &
European
1st April
6:30 onwards
Night
Tickets: 2.000 colones
Medieval theme | fancy dress optional

UPEACE at the Human Rights Council

The Vice Chair of the UPEACE Council, Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, currently represents UPEACE in its Permanent Observer roll in the UN's Human Rights Council.

Ambassador Sahnoun a world figure of our time, is one of the principal authors of the UN's "Responsibility to Protect," invoked most recently in the Security Councils resolution 7081 on protecting civilians in Libya.

His personal story is the story of the evolution much of the Arab world, from colonies the West, through revolutions and home-grown dictators, to the beginnings of democratic societies.

Mohamed has been a prestigious representative for UPEACE, during the recent debates about North Africa in the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, in the presence of Hillary Clinton and many other world leaders.



Mohamed Sahnoun

Nationality: Algeria

Current Position within UPEACE

- Vice Chair of the UPEACE Council and Advisor on the Africa Programme

Contact Info>>

University for Peace

P.O Box 138-6100

Ciudad Colón, Costa Rica

Ph. +506-2205-9000

Fax. +506-2249-1929

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UPEACE
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.UPEACE.ORG