

UPEACE NEWS FLASH

UPEACE NEWS FLASH, April 2011



The voice of UPEACE resonates in Seoul

By Olive Kim / Student [Asia Pacific Center](#)

Spring, the season of revival, has arrived upon every continent. Similarly, this March, UPEACE finally reached the Asia-Pacific as a token of hope to the young generations in the region.

Especially with the recent rise in democratization throughout the world, lengthy is the to-do list of the United Nations, including building, keeping, and maintaining peace in the world. And of course, Asia Pacific is no exception with its busy agenda on the restructuring of transitional regimes.

As one of many countries born with the help of the United Nations, Korea has made great progress to arrive now at the stage where pending issues must be resolved in earnest. Marginalization between the two Koreas is even visible from the sky, showing the North's

sheer darkness while the South beams out LEDs day and night. This very aspect alone reassures us that the foundational starting point must be the eradication of poverty so as to take the next steps in bolstering progress related to peace.

Furthermore, if we are to effectively deal with harmonizing the disconnected issues across sectors, it is critical to recognize that the key to linking the integration of conflicting interests is embedded in the Asia Pacific's capability to develop a bridge that allows for the free flow of people and ideas in terms of educational roles, which would gradually yet radically transform old paradigms where rights have dominated over responsibility. The hope of Asia will thereby arise at this very point to open the hearts of

many, over each continent, through specific measures in various forms of Official Development Assistance (ODA) efforts.

The encouraging visit of Dr. [Flor Cubero](#) and Dr. [Amr Abdalla](#) from Costa Rica this April was indeed enlightening for us to expand our scope beyond the region. Insightful approaches toward seemingly dormant, yet challenging issues in Central America were a useful combination to study while we were to cope with hot issues arising all over the Middle East at the same time. We are so grateful to jumpstart the semester with such tangible academic exchanges, and the impact was imprinted on our hearts so strongly so as to evolve into developing forms of interchangeable communication at various levels.

Official inauguration of the Costa Rican Network of monitoring stations for climate change

By Mariela Solis

On Thursday, 7 April 2011, UPEACE held an official ceremony on campus to inaugurate the Network of Monitoring Stations for Climate Change.

The main purpose of the network is to have the latest technology and enable the country to better prepare for implementing solutions to climate change and its effects, such as floods, drought, landslides and other phenomena associated with climate change as a result of global warming.

UPEACE has one station, and there are five others in different locations across Costa Rica. The station incorporates state-of-the-art technology being implemented by the National Institute of Meteorology, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and the sponsorship of the Costa Rican Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications.

The ceremony featured speeches from Mr. Andrei Bourrouet, Vice-Minister of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications, Mr. Juan Carlos Fallas, Director of the National Institute of Meteorology, Ms. Luiza Carvalho, UNDP and UN System Representative in Costa Rica, and Dr. Victor Valle, UPEACE representative.

“The stations have been established as part of a UNDP sponsored project on the relationship between climate change and the hydric system in Costa Rica. There are six stations, three in the national parks, one in EARTH University and in the UPEACE campus”

Dr. Victor Valle / Associate -Vice Rector

Other members of the Costa Rican cabinet, university professors, high-school students from Ciudad Colón and other interested parties attended the ceremony, which was covered by local media.

The ceremony was organized by the Costa Rican government and UNDP, and was made possible with the valuable support of many UPEACE staff members, who did a very commendable job in coordinating the event.

Please see a link to the automatic weather station posted on <http://www.imn.ac.cr/especial/estacionUPaz.html>

Photos by Gerardo Romero

At the ceremony, Dr. Victor Valle, UPEACE Associate Vice-Rector, Ms. Luiza Carvalho, UNDP AND UN System Representative in Costa Rica, Juan Carlos Fallas, Director of the National Institute of Meteorology, Mr. Andrei Bourrouet, Vice-Minister of Environment, Energy and Telecommunication.





Angela Willis, UPEACE MA Candidate, 2011, from the national volleyball team, was Godmother at the ceremony.
Photos by Adriana Monge



UPEACE supports tree-planting Project in La Sabana Park

By Mariela Solis

On 28 April, La Sabana welcomed 550 new trees as part of the implementation of the tree planting project in San Jose’s metropolitan park.

The plan has been developed with the financial support of Scotiabank, the Costa Rican Institute of Sports and Recreation (ICODER) and the National Biodiversity Institute (INBio), who carries out the technical side of the project, in addition to the support of 14 non-governmental organizations, including UPEACE.

UPEACE has provided a space on campus for the establishment of green areas that provide a significant number of the trees to be planted for the next ten years of the project in La Sabana. This is performed under the agreement signed in 1999 between UPEACE and the Compañia Nacional de Fuerza y Luz (CNFL).

The long-term plan of the project is to eliminate the non-native tree species, which today make up about 70% of the forest, and replace them with native fruit

and flowering trees to attract a vast variety of local wildlife.

Distinguished guests present at the symbolic ceremony of tree planting included Luis Liberman and Alfio Piva, Vice-Presidents of Costa Rica. Additionally, Angela Willis, UPEACE MA candidate, 2011 and her sister Verania, both from the national volleyball team, were the Godmothers at the ceremony.

The project is still in its planning phase, and officials say it could take six to ten years before any change is visible.

Pura Vida Run for Peace Health, Fun, Peace, Run!

By Mariela Solis

On Saturday, 7 May 2011, the “Pura Vida Run for Peace” will be held, a 7k run/walk from Ciudad Colon to University for Peace in El Rodeo, organized by Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars at UPEACE.

“We’re planning this event to raise funds for Polio Plus and Red Cross Costa Rica; we wanted an international and local cause. It is a 7k from Ciudad Colon to the University, with the support of some local sponsors,” said Heidi Resetarits, student of the Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development (RMSED) Masters Programme and one of the organizers of the event.

“Besides raising funds for charity, our goal is to bring health, fun and unity to the town of Ciudad Colon and the students of UPEACE,” stressed Heidi.



UPEACE welcomes the new cohort of ALP students

By Nabil Ramires

On 7 April 2011, the Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) received the fifth cohort of students from the Asia Leaders Programme (ALP) for their formal orientation.

The fifth group of the ALP programme is composed of 30 students representing 12 countries across Asia. All thirty students have been awarded full scholarships by [The Nippon Foundation](#) (TNF) to complete their graduate studies with the UN-Mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) and AdMU.

The 19-month journey began with a two-day orientation that involved speakers and delegates from the three partner institutions of the Programme: AdMU, TNF, and UPEACE.

The ALP scholars will remain in the Philippines until August 2011. During their stay, the students will take classes in advanced academic English through the Ateneo Language Learning Center.

Upon completing these courses, they will specialize in various fields of expertise in Costa Rica until March 2011, after which they will return to Manila to undertake

specialized classes with a focus on the Asian region.

ALP was designed for Asian professionals to strengthen their participation as practitioners in the fields of international peace and cooperation.

For further information see:

http://www.upeace.org/academic/spec_masters/alp.cfm

or contact Nabil D. Ramirez,

ALP Project Director:

nramirez@upeace.org

The fifth group of ALP programme is composed of 30 students representing 12 countries across Asia.



Photo by Nabil Ramires



Photo by Gerardo Romero

Student's LIFE

(**European and Middle East Night**)

On Friday, 1 April 2011, the European & Middle East community invited UPEACE friends and family to share in a very special evening. The event started at 6:30pm and included lively dances and music. Dinner included a buffet with different types of dishes from all over Europe and the Middle East.

Tribute to Marina Bakhnova

By Mirian Vilela

On Friday 29 April, we held a memorial ceremony here at the University for Peace campus to remember Marina, to express our sorrow for her passing away, and to celebrate her life.

When a dear friend or family member departs, it often makes us evaluate... assess... think about what we are doing with our own lives... how we are relating with our loved ones and others... and whether we are fulfilling the purpose of our life. This is what happened in many of our minds and hearts during this past week as we were grieving the loss of Marina, our dear friend and colleague.

We want to express our sorrow for this loss; Marina passed away last Friday, 22 April 2011. She was at home early in the morning. At the same time, we want to celebrate her life and beauty. We want to express gratitude for having had the opportunity to know her and to learn so many things from her. It seems that many things emerge, or shine more clearly as our dear ones go - as if she had to leave so that her purpose in life could be seen or perceived more strongly.

Marina's first encounter with the Earth Charter Initiative was during an Earth Charter consultation that Rustem Khairov organized in Moscow in 1996. She was there and always helped the foreigners understand the discussion with her translation. She has been our bridge between the Russian speaking world and its culture and the others involved in the Earth Charter Initiative.

My first impression of her was, and has continued to be all these years, related to her elegance and sense of care for others. Throughout all this time there seemed to be a constant in her life: a unique mixture of sophistication and modesty. She made me think this week that if we want to make the world a beautiful place we need to start with oneself; taking care of one's self and being beautiful inside-out.

On behalf of all of those in the Earth Charter Initiative, ECI Council members, affiliates, colleagues and friends, we want to express our deep gratitude to Marina for everything she has done for us as human beings and for her unique contribution to the goals of the Initiative. Especially, we want to thank her for reminding us that the essence of the human being lies in a deep connection with other human beings and the larger living world.

The Earth Charter Team and Council Members



Marina Bakhnova was Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia at Earth Charter International Initiative.



UPEACERS in Action: Angola: learning from people resilience

By Ana Claudia Menezes

Just before graduation from the Gender and Peace Building Masters Programme in 2008, I began working for the charity [Christian Aid](#), based in London. As a programme officer and gender focal point for the Angola programme, I travel to Angola a couple of times a year – I write these lines one day before my next trip!

It has been a special and important moment in my personal and professional life. Christian Aid works in 45 countries, and in Angola, the charity supports civil society and faith based organisations in three main areas: accountable governance, citizenship and human rights; HIV; and sustainable livelihoods with a focus on climate change adaptation.

Within this work, I can link my experience in communication and information (I have a BA in Journalism from my native Brazil) with one of the subjects I have become most passionate about: gender. It is a task with many challenges – Angola is a country rich in mineral resources, but its population remains poor.

The peace agreement that brought to an end decades of civil war in April 2002, did not represent peace for all the people. The gender impacts of the war are still very present in people's lives. Violence against women is rampant. Landmines remain a threat in many provinces of the country. Unemployment rates are high, although the country is experiencing a complex reconstruction boom – how can luxury live side-by-side with so much poverty?

But the resilient spirit of the Angolan people is what inspires and encourages me most in this work. Besides, being in Angola is like being at home. The country is warm (in all aspects), it is great to be able to speak Portuguese and learn about an important chapter of Brazil's history.



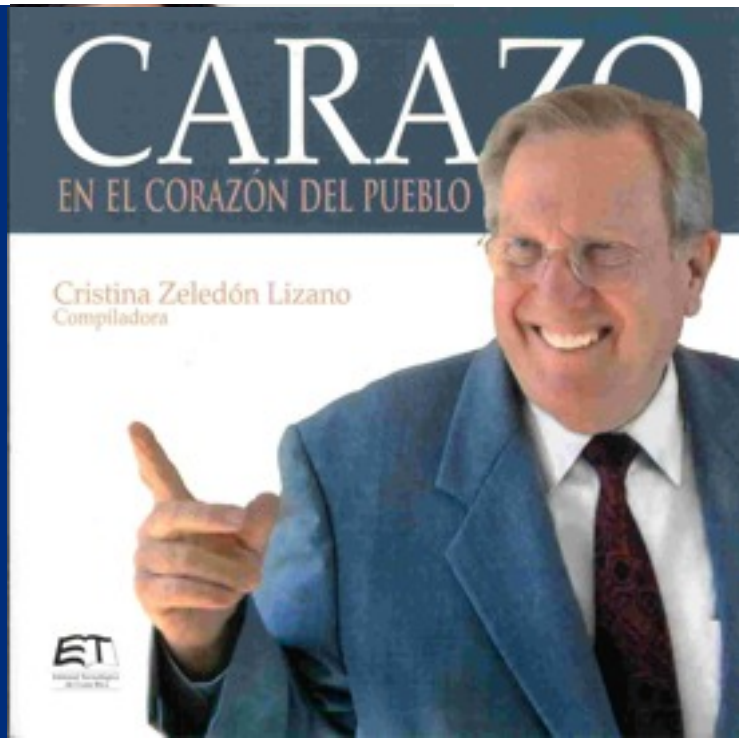
Luanda, Angola

Photo by Ana Claudia Menezes



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During his time in office (1978-1982), Carazo brought the idea of University for Peace to the floor of the United Nations, proposing its mountainous Central America country as the University's home.



Carazo in the Heart of his people

By Yamilé Salas

This is the title of a book recently published by the editorial board of one of Costa Rica's public universities, launched 7 April, in memory of Rodrigo Carazo Odio, the man, and Rodrigo Carazo Odio, the statesman. The large reception room of the Mexican Cultural Institute that hosted the event, became a rather small space for the gathering of more than 400 people.

This book is the result of a compilation of posthumous letters, articles and diverse opinions about Rodrigo Carazo Odio, father of the University for Peace, after whom the campus was named on 10 December 2010.

The book portrays a man who dedicated the most productive years of his life to the defense of national sovereignty, and to working for world peace without making use of political influence or the desire for political or economic power. UPEACE obtained copies of

the book for the University Library for those students and staff who would like to learn more about our Founder's personal and political life.

Dr. Victor Valle, in his capacity as Rector representing UPEACE; Ronald Castro, UPEACE historian; Rafael Delgado, who worked with Rodrigo Carazo since he became the UPEACE Rector in 1982; and Yamilé Salas, Secretary of the UPEACE Council attended this event.



Photo by Oscar Morera

Both teams got the second place in each category. Congratulation on behalf

UPEACE teams take part of the annual UN Central American Tournament

By Oscar Morera

As part of the tradition of the UN Central American Football Tournament, UPEACE represented Costa Rica in Honduras on 30 April, 2011.

This year, besides the men's team, a group of students formed a women's team, and both teams got the second place in each category.

It was a big effort and a laudable achievement, especially if you take into account that they traveled more than 2500 Kilometers by bus.

Next year, the Tournament will take place in Nicaragua, so we hope to have a bigger representation, and take first place in both categories.

Field Trip on Climate Change

By Mauricio Luna

From 23-25 of March 2011, a class of 20 students from the course on Human Vulnerability and Climate Change visited the coastal community of Junquillal, guided by Professor and Head of the Department of Environment, Peace and Security, Dr. Mahmoud Hamid. The students met with several grass roots organizations and interviewed several people about livelihoods and climate changes in the community.

As part of the visit, the class also organized a workshop with some of the locals in order to gather information and create awareness about the impacts of climate change in the area of Junquillal. Additionally, students had the opportunity to release baby turtles on the beach with the local environmental organization, Asociación Vida Verdizul.



Photos by Mauricio Luna Professor Mahmoud Hamid, Head of the Department of Environment, Peace and Security.

Arms Control and Disarmament today

By Celia Solari

From 16-21 May 2011, UPEACE will conduct its fifth course in Geneva on disarmament. This survey course maintains the same format as the December 2009 and March/December 2010 courses. It is once again funded by the Swiss Government and will be held at the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations (GSD).

Twenty-seven participants from twenty countries will participate in this survey course, which will be given in an executive format. Participants are representatives of the Permanent Missions accredited to the Conference on Disarmament at the United Nations Office at Geneva, UNOV, United Nations agencies, NGOs and academics.

Dr. John H. King, UPEACE Course Coordinator, and Dr. Colum de Sales Murphy, President of the GSD will preside at the opening. This week-long survey course is designed to provide a general overview of the specific issues relevant to the arms control and disarmament field as it exists today. Gender issues in disarmament are specifically addressed, including gender perspectives on small arms and weapons of mass destruction.

The course covers the complex interaction between the technical, political and diplomatic factors affecting each subject, as well as the overarching influence of international security requirements on each nation's approach to dealing with arms control and disarmament.

Participants will receive a joint UPEACE/GSD Certificate upon completion.

Non Violent Communication (NVC) training on campus!

By Lorena Pinto

Throughout 2011, Lorena Pinto, Human Resources Officer is facilitating a series of workshops to all staff members willing to integrate the consciousness of nonviolence, the natural state of compassion when no violence is present in the heart.

NVC begins by assuming that we are all good-hearted by nature, and that violent strategies—whether verbal or physical—are learned behaviors taught and supported by the prevailing culture. NVC also assumes that we all share the same basic human needs, and that each of our actions is a strategy to meet one or more of these needs.

People who practice NVC have found greater authenticity in their communication, increased understanding, deepening connection and conflict resolution in their personal and professional lives.

The NVC community is active in over 65 countries around the globe. Find out more about how NVC is changing the world at www.cnvc.org (Adapted from the Center for Non Violent Communication website).

If you would like to enroll in May's NVC training, please email lpinto@upeace.org

UPEACE in the NEWS

- [Presentación del libro "Carazo en el corazón del pueblo"](#) *El País* (Costa Rica). 5 April 2011.

- [Costa Rica estrena red de estaciones para monitorear cambio climático](#) *La Nación* (Costa Rica), 7 April 2011.

- [Listos primeros 550 árboles para La Sabana. Fueron cuidados y sembrados por la Universidad para la Paz.](#) *Diario La Extra* (Costa Rica). 25 April 2011.

- [Inicia rearbolicación del pulmón capitalino.](#) (Costa Rica) *Costa Rica Hoy*. 29 April 2011.

UPCOMING Courses



**NO LIMITS TO LEARNING:
Distance Education at UPEACE.**

Click [here](#) to apply!!

Summer Peace Institute: Human Security and Peacebuilding

From 12 June to 15 July 2011, UPEACE and University of California-Berkeley will offer the Summer course, Human Security and Peacebuilding: Problems without Passports, dealing with current world issues of human security. The course will approach this subject through critical analysis and by means of intensive dialogue, exploring claims for its potential, as well as those warning of pitfalls.

The course includes a “Peacebuilding Practice” that will provide students the opportunity to interact with a variety of both governmental and non-governmental institutions at both international and local levels on the case-study issues in question.

For further information, please visit <http://www.upeace.org/academic/berkeley.cfm> -

Summer Peace Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Social Change - Online course

Dates: Starting on May 9, 2011. (6 week course)
Short video: [Introductory overview video of the course](#). United Nations-mandated University for Peace, Centre for Executive Education

Course Format: Online course, including videos, lectures, articles and forums for discussions. The worlds of 'working for the betterment of society' and 'private enterprise' are often seen as incompatible. This course, [Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Social Change](#) will attempt to break down that perception in order for participants to see the social sector as a place of opportunity, both to 'do good' and also to innovate and build a financially sustainable social enterprise.

It will cover the following topic areas:
Understanding the Landscape: Who are Social Entrepreneurs?; Nonprofit or For-profit?;
Developing a Business Plan: Clarifying Strategy and Structure, Measuring Impact and Execution, Managing Growth and Change (Scaling up), Sustaining Positive Change.

Other Benefits: Participants from around the world, a highly recommended course, flexible schedule - take the course in your pajamas!



The Monteverde Institute and UPEACE launches “Monteverde Now”

By Mariela Solis

On Tuesday, 19 April 2011, marking the 60th Anniversary of the founding of Monteverde, the Monteverde Institute and the University for Peace (UPEACE) launched MonteverdeNow.org, a Master’s research project produced by graduate students in the MA programme in Climate Change and Media, Peace and Conflicts Studies, featuring 11 shorts films on people who live and work in the Monteverde cloud forest.

The project was produced in June 2010 and attempts to initiate dialogue on the changes that can be observed in one of Earth’s most diverse and delicate ecosystems.

MonteverdeNow.org is a research project conducted by Peabody Award-winning filmmaker Austin Haeberle during his Environmental Security MA Programme at UPEACE, Costa Rica, and features nature guides, eco-tourism operators, scientists, researchers, educators, and farmers.

“Monteverde Now is an online film project that came out of a class on climate change that I helped teach at UPEACE,” said Haeberle who helped students conduct a series of interviews with local Monteverde residents.

“MonteverdeNow.org, while reflecting on the past, gives local residents a forum to discuss the type of community they’d like in future. It’s also a way for foreign visitors to quickly learn about the unique challenges and pressures on the cloud forest”, added Haeberle.

For more information, please visit MonteverdeNow.org