

UPEACE NEWSFLASH

UPEACE NEWSFLASH August, 2011



The group consists of 165 students from 52 countries

UPEACE Welcomes Class of 2011-2012

By Mariela Solís / Marketing and Communications Officer

On 17 August 2011 UPEACE received the class of 2011-2012. The group consists of 165 students, and was officially welcome to UPEACE by Rector John J. Maresca, and Vice-Rector Amr Abdalla.

“This place has the magic of transforming people, a transformation that happens because of the wonderful people that come here to UPEACE...I can assure you, you’ll have a year you will always remember, not only for your teachers, but what you learn from your classmates as well”, said Amr Abdalla Vice-Rector of UPEACE.

Also present to welcome the new class were, Dr. Victor Valle and Dina Rodriguez, Associate Vice-Rectors, and Head of Academic Administration, Carla Ortiz.

The ceremony also benefitted from the participation of Dr. Carlos Hernández, Director General of INBio, who introduced the new students to Costa Rican culture and society, as well as INBio’s (Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad) mission.

The Class of 2011 is composed of representatives from 52 countries, with an average age of 28 years. Their academic backgrounds include: International Relations, Sociology, Environmental Studies, Journalism, Political Science, Biology, Law, Sports Science, Sustainable Development, Marketing, Civil Engineering, Administration, Arts, Electrical Engineering,

Environmental Technology, Chemistry, Fishery Sciences, and much more.

Students will become part of a learning community of faculty, staff, and visitors from many different countries, cultures, and backgrounds. Students will turn into partners as well as participants in the learning and teaching process, contributing greatly to each other's knowledge and cross-cultural understanding.

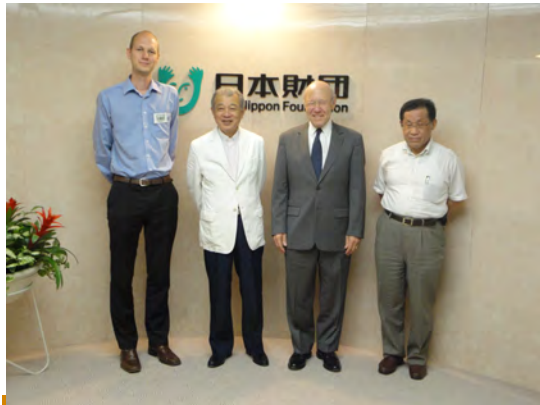
It is an honor for UPEACE to welcome the Class of 2011-2012!



Photos: Gerardo Romero

Extension of Nippon Foundation Programme

By Laurel Gaylor / Programme Officer Project



In the photo from left to right: Thomas Klompmaker, Head Project Management Office UPEACE, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, John J. Maresca, Rector of UPEACE, Mr. Shuichi Ohno, Executive Director of the Nippon Foundation.

underrepresented in international organizations and where the English language is not widely spoken.

To date, ALP has provided 143 scholarships to students from Japan and 18 other Asian countries.

The programme is comprised of four distinct stages that include intensive English training, MA coursework at UPEACE, Asia focus courses at Ateneo de Manila University and a final graduation.

Upon programme completion, students have developed a thorough understanding of the theoretical and practical underpinnings of work in peacebuilding, the key challenges faced in Asia and by international community at large, as well as promising potential courses of action.

The University for Peace (UPEACE) is pleased to announce that The Nippon Foundation has extended its support for our 'Asia Leaders Programme' for an additional year. The extension will allow a sixth batch of young Asian professionals to participate in the programme from April 2012 through October 2013.

Graduates from ALP have gone on to leadership positions in various international organizations, NGOs, governments, aid agencies and the United Nations.

The Asian Leaders Programme (ALP) is a shared initiative of The Nippon Foundation, The University for Peace (UPEACE) and Ateneo de Manila University. Established in 2007, the programme's overall objective is to train young Asian professionals to become peacebuilding practitioners, ready to take up leading positions in their organizations. A Dual Campus Master of Arts Programme, it targets mid-career professionals from Asian countries that are

Some of these organizations include UNDP, UNWFP, UNICEF, IOM, JICA, the Sasakawa African Association, Oxfam, Action Aid, IREX, the Hiroshima Peace Centre, the ILO and the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Asia Leaders Programme

Apply now!

Contact us
specialprogrammes@upeace.org
www.upeace.org/alp

Amb. Mohamed Sahnoun becomes Acting President of the UPEACE Council



Following the completion of his second term as President of the UPEACE Council, and his decision not to continue in this position, the former President of Uruguay, Julio Maria Sanguinetti was succeeded by Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, of Algeria, on 1st August. Ambassador Sahnoun will serve in an Acting capacity until the Council elects a new President.

Ambassador Sahnoun has been Algerian Ambassador to the USA, France and Germany, Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the UN, and a Special UN Envoy, as well as Deputy Secretary General of the African Union. He was Co-Chair of the special Commission which developed the UN concept of the “Responsibility to Protect.”

New Staff Member



With the beginning of the new academic year we have welcomed a new faculty member, Claudio Ansorena Montero as Associate Professor and Coordinator in our Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development MA programme.

His academic background includes: Ph.D., Economics, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Massachusetts (emphasis on Macroeconomics, Political Economy, Development, International Trade and Finance); M.S., Economics, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Massachusetts; Visiting Fellow at Harvard University; 1983, Bachelor in Economics, Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica; Specialized studies on Project Evaluation, Economic Planning and

Macroeconomics in Developing Countries, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Project Management courses with ADN University as basis for the PMI certificate.

UPEACE Institute admissions open

From 16 January to 3 February 2012

three, two and one-week short courses that will be taught in Costa Rica.

UPEACE receives a donation of land



UPEACE is pleased to announce that it has been granted a donation of land by Ms Rita Marie Johnson, a former UPEACE official who has in recent years established her own foundation dedicated to peace training. The donated property is called *Quizur* and is situated in Santa Ana, Costa Rica. It includes several buildings with classrooms, accommodation rooms, amphitheater and residential cabins. Ms Johnson has retained a small portion of the land, with the intention of selling it in the near future, but this will not affect UPEACE activities.

The donation took effect on Thursday 8 September 2011, and *Quizur* is now UPEACE property. UPEACE intends to follow the necessary procedures to declare the land officially part of the UPEACE campus, under our Costa Rican Headquarters Agreement.

A business plan is being developed for use of the property, but it already will be available as an alternative location to continue UPEACE operations in case our access road should be blocked. Also, it is envisioned that this will be a place where some visiting professors and long term visitors may stay. It also has potential as a site for special activities of various kinds.

As part of the donation agreement Ms Johnson's "Be Peace" training programmes will continue to be conducted, under her responsibility, at *Quizur* for a limited period of time.

This donation constitutes a recognition of the solidity and responsibility of UPEACE as an institution, and we would like to acknowledge Ms Johnson's generosity in entrusting UPEACE with this property for the further development of our mission.



Photos by Oscar Morera

-STUDENT LIFE-

8th annual Ramadan Iftar

By Dr. Amr Abdalla / Vicerector

On Monday 29 August, 2011, the UPEACE community celebrated the 8th annual Ramadan Iftar (breaking the fast) at the UPEACE terrace and cafeteria.

The event was organized by Vice Rector Amr Abdalla and his wife Sharmin Ahmad who invited the entire UPEACE community to join them and other Muslim students and staff for the last Iftar night of Ramadan this year.

Students and staff brought delicious dishes and drinks reflecting their cultural cuisine, in addition to several dishes prepared by the UPEACE cafeteria staff. Halal and Kosher dishes were available, in addition to traditional Ramadan sweets such as Kunafa and Baklava.

Dr. Abdalla introduced to the group of attendees, which exceeded one hundred UPEACERs, to the religious and cultural foundations of Ramadan: fasting from dawn to sunset, and the spiritual and universal lessons of Ramadan. A student made the Islamic call for prayer, followed by the sunset (Maghrib) prayer. UPEACERs then enjoyed an opportunity to get to know each other more and to share experiences over a wonderful meal.



Photo by Fatima Kyari Mohammed

Save the date! Symposium: “Climate Change, Conflict and Migrations”

The Alliance for the UN mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) in Costa Rica, along with their partners, is organizing a symposium on “Climate Change, Conflict and Migration”, with a special focus on the water dimension of these processes. This event will be taking place 21 September at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, The Netherlands.

The symposium will serve as a platform where the links between climate change, water stress, migration and conflict will be discussed from a human security perspective. As such, the discussion will revolve around capacity building and resilience in hotspots, conflict prevention, and a (international) legal framework of protection of environmental migrants.

The end product of this symposium will be policy recommendations developed by the symposium's participants, afterwards presented to targeted (inter)national audiences, such as the United Nations with their various organs and specialised agencies, the European Union, national governments, and NGOs in the fields of humanitarian relief, peace building, water management and the environment.

An additional special audience for the policy recommendations may be the 17th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held at the end of this year in Durban, South Africa. The symposium will have presentations by prominent figures on the policy, security and legal perspectives of migration and conflict and how climate change impacts individuals.

Registration is now open on www.allianceforpeace.nl

For organisational and logistical information please contact: Ms Petra van der Ham, Foundation Alliance for the University for Peace info@allianceforpeace.nl.

UPEACE Africa Programme Staff Attend Leadership Essentials Training

By Golda Keng / Programme Officer Africa Programme



Photos provided by Golda Keng

On 8-9 August 2011, seven members of staff at the UPEACE Africa Programme office and 21 GLP fellows from the 2011-12 cohort, attended a 2-day ‘Leadership Essentials’ training facilitated by staff of the Center for Creative Leadership’s non-profit initiative in Africa, Leadership Beyond Boundaries.

The Center for Creative Leadership, CCL, is a San Diego based organization at the fore-front of executive leadership development, for over 40 years. Its non-profit initiative, Leadership Beyond Boundaries, was started as an attempt to democratize leadership education around the world.

Through participatory, task-based and learner-centered methodologies, UPEACE staff and students were introduced to theories of leadership, including understanding social identities and emotional intelligence, identifying mental models, self-

knowledge and management, dynamic and growth mindsets, appreciative inquiry and generating positive feedback. Key to the training was the review of CCL’s leadership model of direction, alignment and commitment.

It was an intensive, yet fruitful two days as evaluated by participants who left enriched with a battery of leadership theories and skills to be adapted and interpreted in their private and professional spaces

Climate change, conflict and migration: the water context



University for Peace



21 September 2011, International Day of Peace
Institute of Social Studies (ISS)
The Hague, The Netherlands

More information and registration: www.hydrology.nl



The symposium will serve as a platform to discuss the links between climate change, water stress, migration and conflict from a human security perspective. The discussion will revolve around capacity building and resilience in hotspots, conflict prevention, and a (international) legal framework of protection of environmental migrants.

Speakers

- Mr **Marius Enthoven** – Chairman, Alliance for UPEACE
- Mr **Rolain Borel** – Head, Department of Environment, Peace and Security, University for Peace (UPEACE), Costa Rica
- Mr **Muniruzzaman**, Major General (ret) – President, Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS), Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Mr **Tamer Afifi** – Associate Academic Officer, United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Bonn, Germany

Panel, chaired by Mr **Wouter Veening** (Institute for Environmental Security):

- Ms **Thanh-Dam Truong** – Associate Professor of Women, Gender and Development, ISS, The Netherlands
- Mr **Michele Nori** – Programme Officer, EuropeAID European Commission, Belgium
- Mr **Maarten Kappelle** – Chief Conservation Officer for Biodiversity, WWF Netherlands, The Netherlands

Introductions by:

- Mr **Alex Flavell**, Policy Liaison and Project Development Coordinator, International Organisation for Migration, Brussels, Belgium
- Mr **Wybe Douma** – Senior Researcher, T.M. Asser Institute, The Hague, The Netherlands

With participation of:



Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken



The Netherlands National Committee IHP-HWRP



UPEACERS in Action:

Working to build a peaceful, prosperous,
just and open Asia-Pacific Region

Saechao Naita
MA in Peace Education (2008)
United States

Hola UPEACE family!!! It's been three years since I've been back to UPEACE and now on my return visit, I felt it necessary, deep down in my heart, to show my 8 months old son, Amaru, the campus that has spring boarded my career in Peace Education.

I currently work for the [Asia Foundation](#) in San Francisco, California and work with the Books for Asia program. I get to communicate and work with 18 countries throughout Asia and positively contribute to access to education and literacy.

The work that I do daily always has a Peace Education and Gender lens; it helps inform my daily choices and drives my long term vision.

I am greatly appreciative of the opportunities that have been presented to me and truly feel that UPEACE has been the biggest factor to my career successes!

Muchas gracias and pura vida!



Course: Sustainable Business: Leading the Change

Location: London, England (Oct 6 -7, 2011)

Who is the course for? The course is aimed at young professionals with experience or an interest in Corporate Responsibility and sustainability. Enrolment this year is limited again to 24 participants to maximize interaction. Last year's participants included people from leading universities, blue chip companies, consultancies, the public sector, social enterprises and charities. This makeup of the group with differing backgrounds and viewpoints allowed sharing of experiences and passionate discussions.

Workshop Format: Each session will feature at least one industry expert. Last year's speakers included experts from LEAD International, WWF, Serco, Asda and the Co-operative Group. Background reading is required and all participants are asked to bring a real life dilemma to the course.

The course includes a welcome dinner on the first evening and a careers workshop with a leading CR recruitment agency.

Tuition

Corporate £1250

Public Sector & NGOs £695

Academics £495

* *The price includes all course material and a first night welcome dinner.*



The Asia Foundation



In the picture Naita and her son Amaru



UPEACE IN THE NEWS

[“Pulmón Verde”, en lo profundo](#)

Informe 11 las historias (Channel 11, Costa Rica)

12 August 2011.

[La “escopetarra” irá al museo de Gandhi de la India](#)

Viplatino.com

23 August 2011.

[Nuevos árboles en parque metropolitano](#)

Al Día (Costa Rica)

23 August 2011.

[Escopetarra, símbolo de la paz del artista. César López, irá al Museo Gandhi en India](#)

El espacio.com.co (Colombia)

24 August 2011.

Upcoming Courses: Distance Education



• The Nation State, State Weakness and Intrastate War • Gender and Peace Studies

Date: 7 Nov. to 16 Dec. 2011 (6 weeks)

2 credits

Intrastate wars and low intensity armed conflicts have become the most typical form of violent conflict in the post-Cold War era. The course first examines the role of the modern nation state and its weaknesses that lead to an inability to provide its most basic function: security. In this context, the course will further analyse the causes and dynamics of civil wars, the effects on society, regional and international repercussions, and finally the complicated nature of ending them.

Among other themes, the course will look at the greed-grievance debate, resource dependence, and the transformation of the rentier(?) state, state formation processes, the use of violence, and the depletion and re-creation of social capital.

Date: 7 Nov. to 16 Dec. 2011 (6 weeks)

2 credits

This course constitutes an advanced seminar in Gender Theories specifically as it applies to violence and conflict creation and resolution. It examines the complex relationships between gender, race, ethnicity, nationalism, religion, militarization and masculinity both in the domestic and the public spheres.

The focus of the course is assessing the possibilities of engendering notions of peace, conflict, justice, reconstruction, reparations and pre-post conflict gender arrangements and challenging discourses and practices which hide, minimize or justify the domination of women worldwide. It intends to give students a theoretical lens through which to examine Gender and Peacebuilding.

See the complete list of individual courses here.