

UPEACE NEWSFLASH

UPEACE/NEWSFLASH, May 2011



The University for Peace celebrates Commencement 2011

On Tuesday, 24 May 2011, the United Nations-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) held its 2011 Commencement ceremony at Eventos del Sol, Brasil de Mora, Costa Rica.

This year, 176 students from 52 countries attended one of the eleven master's degree programmes UPEACE currently offers, all of which focus on peace studies. The group was comprised of 124 women and 52 men.

The keynote speaker of the ceremony was Amb. Mohammed Sahnoun, Vice-President of the UPEACE Council and UPEACE Observer to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The event was chaired by John J. Maresca, Rector of UPEACE.

"The class of 2011 will join a growing community of UPEACE alumni which is contributing to efforts for peace around the world. In this way they will be helping to fulfill the UPEACE mandate to offer to humanity an education for peace-related disciplines. I am sure that with the knowledge, experience and skills learned at UPEACE each member of this graduating class is prepared to go out into the world to meet many challenges

humanity faces, as it seeks to maintain a peaceful and sustainable planet", said John J. Maresca, Rector of UPEACE.

"It is difficult to describe in words one year of studies...But I could summarize my personal experience in three words; challenging, rewarding, and fun. It has been challenging in a positive way, working hard in an intense program of studies in a rich multicultural environment is not always easy. But it has been rewarding, together though our studies and group projects, we have been able learn so much and develop a deeper understanding of the world and the critical issues the global community is currently facing, we are better prepared to be leaders for change", said Manuel Davila, Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development (RMSED), 2011 from United States.

"It has been so much fun to share unforgettable moments and make friends with people from all over the world.

"I AM NOT THE SAME PERSON I WAS PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL TO THE UNIVERSITY; I NOW HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF MY INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY AS AN AGENT OF PEACE, AND I KNOW THAT I AM NOT ALONE IN THIS JOURNEY", added Manuel.

UPEACE was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the initiative of the Government of Costa Rica in 1980. Young people representing over 90 nationalities have completed its academic programmes.

UPEACE Council Holds Its 20th Session

By Yamilé Salas

The Council of the University for Peace held its Twentieth Session on Monday, 23 May, at the main campus in Costa Rica, chaired by President Julio María Sanguinetti. Members in attendance were President Julio María Sanguinetti, President of the Council; Amb. Mohamed Sahnoun, Vice-President of the Council; The Hon. Ruth Dreifuss, Chancellor; Mr Marius Enthoven, Chair of the Alliance for UPEACE; Ms Judy Cheng-Hopkins, UNSG Representative to the Council; The Hon. William F. Martin, Chair of Washington Policy & Analysis; the Rector of the University, Mr. John J. Maresca, and the two representatives of the Costa Rican Government to the Council, Mr. Luis Alberto Cordero and Mr Francisco J. Aguilar-Urbina. Unfortunately, Mr Jorge Grandi, Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, and Ms Valentine Rugwabiza, Deputy Director of the WTO, had to cancel their trips at the last minute for reasons out of their control.

As has been the practice since 2006, this meeting was also attended by observers representing different sectors of the University such as academic staff, non-academic staff, alumni, students, and for



the first time in the last ten years, the three UPEACE affiliated centres. These were represented by: Mr Don Wallace, Vice-President of the Council of the European Centre for Peace and Development in Serbia; Amb Frans van Haren, Executive Director of the World Centre for Research and Training on Conflict Prevention in Colombia; and Mr Roberto Domínguez, Executive Director of the World Centre on Research for Peace, in Uruguay. Also UPEACE Vice-Rector, Dr. Amr Abdalla and Associate Vice-Rector Dr. Víctor Valle, were invited to attend the session.

The meeting of the Council was interesting and enjoyable. The Members discussed the financial situation of the institution, the first numbers of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and the rapid expansion of our university. Mr. Luis Alberto Cordero, Hon. Ruth Dreifuss, and Hon. William F. Martin, were re-elected to the Executive Committee of the Council, until 30 July 2013.

Master in Sustainable Peace through Sport

By Moïse LOUISY-LOUIS, MBA

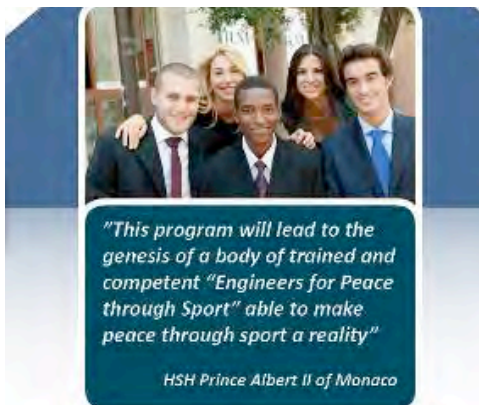
Peace and Sport, L'Organisation pour la Paix par le Sport, founded under the High Patronage of HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco, the Costa-Rica based UN-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE), and the International University of Monaco (IUM) have officially launched the Master in Sustainable Peace through Sport during the 4th Peace and Sport Annual International Forum, held in December 2010 in Monaco.

This multi-disciplinary 10-month programme aims at training committed young people in using sports for the purposes of maintaining peace, rebuilding peace after conflict, or engaging youth in positive ways in developing or underprivileged areas. Participants will

learn fundamentals of peace-building and conflict resolution and will become Engineers of Peace through Sport.

The program will be taught in English and will be offered from September 2011 at IUM's premises in Monaco. Graduates will consider a wide range of career opportunities including project management, public relations, business development and marketing, and more, in both public and private settings such as in governmental and non-governmental agencies, NGOs, sport federations, clubs, etc.

Our dedicated team welcomes questions you may have and is available to you at short notice <http://www.monaco.edu/masters/master-sustainable-peace-through-sport.cfm>



The Principality of Monaco Becomes a Signatory to the UPEACE International Agreement

By Yamilé Salas

On 10 May 2011, Her Excellency Isabelle F. Picco, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and Permanent Representative of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations, presented to the UN Office of Legal Affairs the signed instrument by which the Principality of Monaco becomes a signatory to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace. His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco personally signed the Agreement.

This signing is the corollary to the collaboration of the University for Peace with Peace and Sport, a global initiative under the High Patronage of H. S. H. Prince Albert II that works for sustainable peace by promoting the practice of structured sport and sporting values to educate young generations and foster social stability, reconciliation, and dialogue between communities intervening in areas made vulnerable by extreme poverty, recent conflict, or lack of social cohesion.

Additionally, UPEACE also partnered with the International University of Monaco, and Peace and Sport to create an exciting new joint master's degree programme in *Sustainable Peace Through Sport* at the International University of Monaco, under the guidance of Peace and Sport.

This programme was envisioned under the conception that building sustainable peace requires specific skills in diplomacy and conflict resolution, but it also implies implementing ambitious educational processes for future generations, and to promote sustainable peace involves teaching, learning, and transmitting a set of values that help transcend political, social, racial, and religious differences that, today, are often at the origin of conflicts.



Photo : *Amb. isabella Picco (left) with Ms. Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli , Chief of the Treaty Section in the UN Office of Legal Affairs at the time of the handing over of the signed International Treaty on UPEACE.*



Dr. Victor Valle Associate Vice-Rector, University for Peace

Lecture on: Culture Peace and Militarization in Costa Rica

On 17 May 2011, UPEACE Associate Vice-Rector Victor Valle delivered a lecture at the National University of Costa Rica.

The event was sponsored by the National University Institute of Latin America Studies and attracted the participation of students and faculty members of the National University and other invitees.

- [Presidenta recibió a ex presidente Uruguayo y al secretario de Estado adjunto de los Estados Unidos](#), CR Nykom.com, **Costa Rica**) 24 May 2011.

- [Sanguinetti visitó a Chinchilla](#). La Nación (Costa Rica). 23 May 2011.

- [Póngase las tenis y corra por un fin benéfico](#). La Nación (Costa Rica), 7 June 2011.

- [Paz y ciudadanía Empresarial. Gerencia, INCAE Business Review](#) (Regional), January-April 2011.





Twenty-seven participants from twenty countries joined this survey course, which was given in an executive format.

Photo by Celia Solari

Arms Control and Disarmament Today Course in Geneva

By Celia Solari

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

Twenty-seven participants from twenty countries joined this survey course, which was given in an executive format. Participants were 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 presided the opening.

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.

"The course was an eye opener to the discourse and current state of affairs on issues at hand. I recommend it to anyone interested in the field, and even to those with little or no interest. They will see the need why." Mr. Absalom Nghifitikeko, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

"This specific course has equipped me personally with a lot of more informative and valuable information that I didn't have before.

I must admit that this course has made me a new advocate and Ambassador for peace through the Campaign of Disarmament and all its associate treaties including those passive to make and turn them into active to make this world a better place and create a good living society as a valuable inheritance for our young growing generation and future generations to come". Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, United Republic of Tanzania, Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations, MA student.

"SHORT, WELL-STRUCTURED AND BRAINSTORMING JOURNEY INTO THE IMMENSE WORLD OF DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL – A PRIZED OPPORTUNITY OF LEARNING". HARI PD. ODARI, SECOND SECRETARY, PERMANENT MISSION/ EMBASSY OF NEPAL, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.



Pura Vida Run for Peace a Success!

By Kendra Bruno

We are proud to announce that the First Annual Pura Vida Run/Walk for Peace was a success. Students, staff, and community members took on the challenge and either walked or ran the beautiful road from Ciudad Colon to the University for Peace Rodrigo Carazo Odio Campus at 8 AM on Saturday, May 7th. With sunny weather, happy participants, and treats from their sponsors at the top, the event could not have gone more perfectly.

Organizers Heidi Resetarits, Erica Giljohann, and Kendra Bruno raised \$600 total from the participants and donations, with \$300 to the local Red Cross and \$300 to Rotary's End Polio Now campaign, which will be matched by the Gates Foundation for a total of \$600 for the campaign.

The Pura Vida Run/Walk for Peace has great potential to be an annual event. We hope to have students and staff who are excited to carry on the tradition next year. Thanks to our sponsors: Super Mora, La Florida, Celajes Buses, and Bioland for helping us make the first year an unforgettable experience!



Photo provided by Heidi Resetarits

Peace Education and the Hip Hop generation

By Yesaka Saylove

To honour the ten year anniversary of the Hip Hop Declaration of Peace, on Monday, 16 May, MA Peace Education Alumni 2009 Jesaka Sekmet Auset (Saylove) presented findings from her independent research project, Peace Education and The Hip Hop Generation at the UPEACE campus in Costa Rica. Recently reviewed by the Department of Gender and Peace Education, the document was highly esteemed and has also gained the support of Transcend: Art Peace Network, a group of global academics committed to collaborative research on the impact of music and art on peace internationally.

Gathered in the council room, international students, professors and colleagues were handed copies of the Hip Hop Declaration of Peace and transcripts of the introductory speech given to the United Nations by Pop Master Fabel. These items were set forth prior to moving onto Saylove's own masterpiece.

Introducing Peace Education and the Hip Hop Generation as the first text to address the interconnectedness of peace education and hip hop culture, Saylove outlined the structure of the document.

Coupling five major educational subjects with the six main petals of peace education, the last two petals are given together with the fifth subject. Each petal was explored first by members of the audience. Connections being made, its correlating subject was then introduced. Highlighting the ways that hip hop culture has expressed peace education pedagogy through its dealings with each petal and subject, Saylove cited the work of some of her twelve interviewees.

The presentation inherited spirited feedback and led to further inquiries. UPEACE Peace Education Professors Virginia Cawagas and husband Swee-Hin Toh shared concepts from the project that week with students in their online course.

For the Saylove Music Mission, music and more, visit our site and the links in the bottom margin at: <http://www.saylovemusic.com/> "Saylove" artist page: <http://www.facebook.com/earthsaylove>

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Distance Education: No Limits to Learning

By Dina Rodriguez

The Mission of the University for Peace (UPEACE) is clear in its purpose of “educating for peace.” The [Distance Education Programme](#) aligns with the Mission and has played a significant role in achieving it. Currently, UPEACE is launching an integrated and interdisciplinary online Master of Arts in Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World. The online MA programme critically engages with the complex and broad study of peace, which is the University’s area of specialization.

In parallel, UPEACE is offering individual online courses for those students around the world, who want to upgrade their skills and knowledge in this field, while effectively and efficiently making use of new technology.

Distance education and, specifically online education is recognized as the education of the future; at UPEACE we believe that through this educational modality there are no limits to learning. Many universities in the world are offering online programmes and creating virtual universities matching their face-to face programmes.

The UPEACE online programme aims to provide global access to mid-career professionals, who for many reasons associated with jobs, physical limitations or family responsibilities are unable to go to a campus for a face-to-face programme. This educational modality has become a significant alternative to allow students to obtain high level graduate education and fulfil their educational goals. Students enrolled in one of the online courses or in the online MA programme want to be leaders in peace and are motivated to become contributors to peace in all regions of the world.

There is great demand for online education in the field of peace studies; many students aren’t able to attend classes and get graduate degrees because of time, distance and cost. The UPEACE online programme allows them to obtain their graduate level education, with effective use of time and at lower costs, avoiding travel time and expenses. These are important differences from any traditional face-to-face learning model.

Through this media, online teaching/learning has become global, multicultural and open to the whole world; students attending each course learn from professors and course material. But there is an additional element that takes place in the process, which is connected with the active participation of students enrolling from different nationalities and bringing different experiences to the classroom.

The UPEACE online MA programme is comprised of 15 courses and a research project. Each course will help seek answers to fundamental real-life problems and will prepare students for their professional life, with a comprehensive and international perspective.

All courses respond to current debates, theories and practices connected to contemporary problems in the world. They also contemplate the interactions of the social, economic and political factors that play in each specific case and location.

Professors teaching in the online programme are experienced faculty members or visiting professors from UPEACE with extensive involvement and expertise in their field of study.



Photo by Gerardo Romero



UPEACERS in Action: Karen Huggins

I'm an alumna of the Peace Education program, 2007. Upon returning to Canada after graduation, I searched and searched for the perfect job that would utilize all the skills and knowledge I learned while in Costa Rica. I finally found my dream job a few months ago as Program Director with Project Ploughshares Calgary...needless to say, I am thrilled!

Project Ploughshares is Canada's largest peace education organization, with a mandate to work with churches, government, and civil society, in Canada and abroad, to advance policies and actions that prevent war and armed violence and build peace.

The Calgary office is the largest and busiest of the nine regional offices, where we hold educational meetings on peace-related topics every month, in addition to presenting a yearly workshop for the general public. Additionally, we publish a monthly newsletter, sponsor various workshops and special events on peace and nonviolence, and provide schools, churches, and groups with resources as well as resource people on such topics as conflict transformation, alternatives to war, peace and violence in our culture, nuclear disarmament, and reduction of small arms. Our one-person office is quite an active place!

I am grateful every day for the education I had and the tremendous opportunity to experience UPEACE. I received support and encouragement from my cohort, which was and is an incredible group of committed people... (we all - the Peace Eddies - still keep in touch).

I really can't express how special and important that year was to me in terms of personal growth and development as well as in expanding my awareness of all issues related to peace. Thanks to my classmates and professors, I feel that I have the tools and knowledge to serve Project Ploughshares in a pro-active, positive, and meaningful manner.



**“WE ARE MAKING
A DIFFERENCE IN
OUR CITY AS
WELL AS
GLOBALLY AND
THAT REALLY IS
WHAT PEACE
EDUCATION IS ALL
ABOUT!”**

Karen Huggins
Programme: MA in Gender and Peace Building (2007)
Current Position: Program Director
Country: Canada





The NRSD Class of 2011 is composed of 19 students. A nice reception followed the ceremony, with participation of family and friends of UPEACE alumni.

Photo provided by Tammy Odierna

UPEACE community congratulates the NRSD class of 2011

By Carla Ortiz

On Sunday 8 May 2011, the Dual MA in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development Class (NRSD) of 2011 celebrated their Commencement ceremony at the American University School of International Service (SIS-AU) Lounge.

The ceremony was attended by UPEACE Rector Maresca and Vice Rector Abdalla. Professor Robert Fletcher, from the UPEACE Department of Environmental Security and Peace was also present. Graduating students were honored with the participation of Professor Lou Goodman, former Dean of SIS-AU, as the Keynote Speaker.

The NRSD Class of 2011 is composed of 19 students. A nice reception followed the ceremony, with participation of family and friends of these new UPEACE alumni. The Master of

Arts Dual degree Programme in NRSD allows participants to learn about environmental and development policies and practices from the perspectives of both the South and the North, and from both local and global view points.

American University's School of International Service in Washington, D.C. contributes with its strengths in international relations, environmental policy, and economics, while the University for Peace provides unparalleled opportunities for participants to gain from courses and practical experiences in sustainable development and natural resources management

UPEACE Africa Programme organizes a Peace Research Workshop

The Africa Programme of the University for Peace has organised a "Peace Research Capacity Building Workshop" from 2 – 6 May 2011 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

15 participants from different African countries participated in the workshop. All of the participants were PhD candidates pursuing their studies in Peace and Conflict in African Universities. They are all part of the UPEACE-IDRC Peace Research Capacity Building Project.

In addition, Ms. Njeri Karuru, Senior Program Specialist from IDRC and Prof. Geoff Harris from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, also attended the workshop.

The Workshop focused on two areas; advanced level training on Peace Research, particularly on qualitative methods and how to publish an article in peer review journals.

It was facilitated by Prof. Amr Abdalla and Prof. Tony Karbo.

The Workshop was the final of the six workshops organized under the Project, which started in 2007. Under this project, 26 PhD grants have been offered to students doing their studies in 12 Universities in Sub-Saharan Africa so far. These grants have been awarded in two rounds, in 2008 and 2009, on a competitive basis.

In addition to the PhD grants, the project supported 11 Peace Researchers from Eastern Africa. Researchers under this programme were offered training to build their capacities in publishing, connected with mentors and granted seed money to conduct their researches. Seven of them published their articles in the UPEACE Africa Peace and Conflict Journal (APCJ).

The project also sponsors the Africa Peace and Conflict Journal (APCJ), which is a bi-annual peer reviewed journal published by the UPEACE Africa Programme.



Don't turn your back to the rapes in Congo. Pass the voice, get involved. Let's stop this atrocity all together. Now.

Mercedes, Argentina



Mercedes Somosierra, MA in Peace Education, 2011.

See more personal messages of support for the women from Congo from a number of University for Peace students by following this link to a slideshow.

Launch of the new website: End the rape in Congo

Forty-eight women are raped every hour in the Congo. Alarmed by such statistics, a group of media colleagues launched a website shedding light on the horrors Congolese women experience daily. The team is composed of three Canadians and one German, all master's degree candidates at UPEACE, Costa Rica. These friends decided to combine their diverse talents in order to create a web platform and a media campaign to increase awareness of this painful subject.

The www.endcongorape.info site contains an array of helpful references as well as video and written messages from peace builders from Argentina, Canada, Finland, Iceland, Korea, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, The Philippines, The United States, Swaziland and Thailand.

This diverse body of engaged world citizens are all united in denouncing the rapes in Congo. Visitors to the website are encouraged to participate and submit relevant material on rape in the Congo in order to enrich the collection. Those desiring to contribute financially or volunteer can find a list of relevant organizations.

For the creators of the End Congo Rape campaign, Ingmar Zahorsky, Megan Herkert, Carl Kouri and Tatiana Philiptchenko, the staggering statistics and chilling personal accounts from women in the Congo gave them the impetus to act:

“We hope that in a small way this site will make a difference in raising awareness to improve the lives of women in Congo by inspiring people from all countries of the world to take action in whatever way they can.”

Background information on Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is located in Central Africa. Formerly a Belgian Colony, the francophone community reached independence in 1960.

Despite its richness in natural resources, the DRC has faced conflict for many years. Following the First and Second Congo Wars in 1996 and 1998 respectively, a Peace Accord was reached in 2003, however, the fighting continues. According to a report issued in 2008 by the International Rescue Committee: the Second Congo War and its aftermath killed a shocking 5.4 million people. This conflict is the deadliest since World War II.

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>

Field Trip:

Indigenous People’s Rights in the Field

Enroll: Send an email to hrc@upeace.org by June 15, 2011.

Recommended for: Students with a particular interest in indigenous populations, international law, environmental law and human rights

Duration: Seven Days incl. a five-day trip to Talamanca (Aug 8-12), an additional stay in the Caribbean town of Puerto Viejo (Aug 12-13) (Arrival in Costa Rica no later than Aug 7; departure from Costa Rica on Aug 14; if participants wish to extend their stay, they may do so at one's own expense)

Location: Talamanca region, Costa Rica (The region - close to the Caribbean coast and the border to Panama – is home to the Bribri and Cabecar, two of the largest indigenous communities of Costa Rica.)

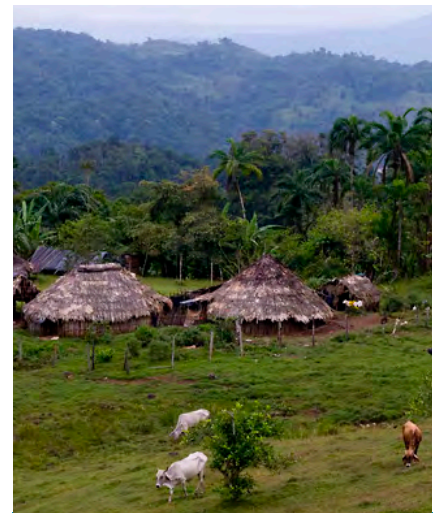


Photo: Talamanca region, Costa Rica.

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