

UPEACENEWSFLASH



1. The Nippon Foundation's president, Mr. Takeju Ogata 2. Ateneo de Manila President Fr. Jose Ramon T. Villarin, S.J 3. Twenty eight graduates from thirteen Asian countries received their MA degrees in 10 distinct fields.

Fourth Cohort of UPEACE Asia Leaders Programme Graduate in Manila

By Ms.Chayie Maligalig

The Asia Leaders Programme graduation ceremony, which was coincidentally held on United Nations Day, 24 October, was a fitting celebration for future leaders of world peace and cooperation. The graduation ceremony was held at the Ricardo and Dr. Rosita Leong Hall at the Ateneo de Manila University, which has been hosting the programme since its inception in 2007.

This year's twenty eight graduates come from thirteen different Asian countries: Sri Lanka, Japan, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, Cambodia, Vietnam, Nepal, Myanmar, Kyrgyzstan, China and Kazakhstan.

The graduates received their Master of Arts degrees in 10 distinct fields. These

include: Environmental Security and Peace, Environmental Security and Peace - Specialization in Climate Change and Security (CCS), Gender and Peace Building, International Law and Human Rights, International Law and the Settlement of Disputes, International Peace Studies, Media, Peace and Conflict Studies, Natural Resources and Peace, Peace Education, Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development, Sustainable Urban Governance and Peace.

The graduation rites began with an address from Ateneo de Manila President Fr. Jose Ramon T. Villarin, S.J., and proceeded with an address from University for Peace Rector Mr. John Maresca. The Nippon Foundation's president, Mr. Takeju Ogata, also delivered an address.

Keynote addresses were given by Secretary Albert del Rosario of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and Secretary Teresita Quintos-Deles, the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) in the Philippines. The Asia Leaders Programme, a Dual Campus Master of Arts Programme, is a shared initiative of the Nippon Foundation, the UN-mandated University for Peace, and the Ateneo de Manila University.

The programme aims to train young Asian professionals to become peace building practitioners, ready to take up leading positions in their organizations.

Congratulations to the UPEACE Asia Leaders Programme Class of 2011!

The Hon. Ruth Dreifuss at UPEACE

By Yamilé Salas / Secretary of the Council

From 28 September through 7 October 2011, the Hon. Ruth Dreifuss, former President of Switzerland and current Chancellor of the UPEACE Council, visited our campus. The purpose of her trip was to offer students and staff her views on the Report of the Global Commission on Drugs of which she is a member.

The conference “Drugs, Addiction and Public Health” was held on Monday, 3 October. She also met with the Rector, the Vice-Rector, the Associate Vice-Rectors, and with members of faculty, students and staff to make an evaluation on the work of UPEACE as an academic institution, with quite positive results.

Chancellor Dreifuss took advantage of her trip to Costa Rica to accept an invitation from INCAE (Central American Institute of Business Administration) to lecture their students and to attend, as special guest, a lunch offered by INCAE’s Board of Directors.

Ms Dreifuss also met with Dr. Jose Joaquín Campos, Director-General of the Tropical Agronomic Center for Research and Teaching (CATIE) a prestigious international organization based in Costa Rica with offices in several countries in Latin America. Dr. Campos presented CATIE’s programmes and activities and suggested some possible joint activities

“It was both an honor and privilege to meet Chancellor Ruth Dreifuss the first woman President of the Swiss Confederation...was truly a breath of fresh air, full of energy and high hopes for the students at UPEACE”, said John Paul Martinez (RMSED Class of 2012).

John Paul Martinez
Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development (Class of 2012).



with UPEACE and other research and teaching organizations based in Costa Rica, such as EARTH University (School for Agriculture in the Humid Tropical Region) and INCAE. These four organizations, CATIE, UPEACE, EARTH and INCAE, along with other individuals, are working to establish a consortium to present Costa Rica as a world-class destination for knowledge, science, technology, and innovation.

1-2 Hon. Ruth Dreifuss shared with UPEACE students on a Conference at UPEACE campus.

3. Chancellor Dreifuss lectured MBA students at INCAE Business School.



UPEACER's In Action

Mayme Lefurgey
 Canada
 MA in Gender and Peacebuilding (2011)
 Gender Specialist Internship, Federal
 Government Malawi

I spent the 2010-2011 academic year at the University for Peace in Costa Rica studying in the MA Gender and Peacebuilding programme. That year of my life is one I look back on with great fondness and sometimes disbelief at how much was accomplished by our small community of 178 students. UPEACE provided me with a great opportunity for growth, both academically and personally, and I really feel I have gained so much from the GPB program as well as the dynamic networking connections with our small UPEACE network where 55 different countries in my 2010-2011 cohort alone were represented.

Before attending UPEACE, I was studying Sociology and Psychology at Mount Allison University in Canada. I was unsure of the 'next step' but knew I was interested in travelling abroad, further pursuing gender studies and eventually engaging in development work. When I found the GPB program, I felt it was ideal for me as I have yet to find another program that combines these unique passions of mine.

Having attended the university as a young student, directly out of undergrad at only 22 years old, I wasn't sure what the program would hold for me or if I had the necessary field experience to adequately gain from what the program had to offer. I ended up being pleasantly surprised and found that the students were of all ages and from various backgrounds and we were each able to bring something of our own and create a wonderful learning and social environment together. The GPB class was made up of only nine students but together we created a vibrant, dynamic group.

Together we drew on experiences from our home countries: Canada, The United States, Indonesia, The Philippines, Belarus, Bulgaria, Japan, Burundi, and France. We were all different ages, with various work and volunteer experiences to share with one another. In addition, we had professors from all over the world-the Netherlands, France, Sudan, The Philippines, Costa Rica and Egypt to name just a few! The professors not only brought to us creative new ways of learning and rich academic material but also their own experiences from working in the field of gender internationally. This was incredibly helpful to us as we held similar goals of putting our gender education into practice.

Today, my colleagues are all over the world again working for various organizations and institutions mainstreaming gender, promoting equality while representing the values of the GPB program wherever they go from assisting with masculinity and violence issues in El Salvador to engaging in exciting democratic elections in Liberia.

Although a small class, we had the largest presence on campus and were able to host a number of gender related activities throughout the year. Together, we created the Students for Gender Equality club where we invited students from other disciplines to join us in awareness campaigns. Together we hosted a week event called, "5 Days, 5 Ways: Women are Changing the Future" focused on women's empowerment and combating VAW. We also hosted the first ever TEDx event at UPEACE entitled, "TEDx Pura Vida Women" where we teleconferenced in to the live TED Women event in Washington D.C. and had some inspiring Costa Rican women come and speak to us. In addition, we led a student petition to have a mental health care provider on campus and helped reform the sexual harassment policy at the University. We were very eager to put our academia into practice and the entire GPB department was incredibly supportive with our ideas and made it possible for us to be so successful.

Another project that we are very proud of is The Stop the Rape of Women in the Congo Task Force we created. We held numerous meetings and had campus awareness events and the end result was a website created by UPEACE media students with resources on the issue. Even now, several months after graduation, we are in touch as a class and have been updating each other on our career, volunteer and personal accomplishments since attending UPEACE. **(Cont.)**

"I had made lasting connections and how have friends from all over the world as well as a number of incredible professors who are still eager to send me resources, act as references and offer the practical and emotional support needed to work in this field"



Mayme and her colleagues at the "TEDx Pura Vida Women", on 8 December 2010.



"I truly feel that the GPB program was ideal for me to pursue my passion for gender equality, make meaningful networking connections and engaging with a variety of perspectives. It has strengthened my personal academic work as well as provided me with the practical tools to work in the field of promoting gender equality"

Mayme Lefurgey

(Cont.) I personally feel that I made lasting connections and now have friends from all over the world as well as a number of incredible professors who are still eager to send me resources, act as references and offer the practical and emotional support needed to work in this field.

For my independent research project I am working with the International Earth Charter Secretariat and studied the current framework of the organization through analyzing its practices, strategies, focus areas, beliefs and activities while examining the interconnectedness of gender rights and sustainable development.

When the research project is complete I hope to be able to provide recommendations for the Earth Charter Secretariat for them to hold a more inclusive ethical vision on achieving global sustainability.

It was very important for me to be in a program where active research was encouraged and where my work would ultimately be helpful and engaging. The GPB department was excellent in facilitating this and I am incredibly grateful for all of their support.

Today I write to you from Lilongwe, Malawi, where I am working for the federal government as a gender specialist

on an internship through the [Canadian Development Agency](#).

It has been an incredible experience so far and I feel that my time at UPEACE has prepared me for the rigor of this position as well as the large cultural adjustment in moving to another country. After my year here, I will continue my academic studies at the University of Innsbruck in Austria, a partner institution to UPEACE, in their MA in Peace, Development, Security and International Conflict Transformation program.

Though my year in Costa Rica was not without personal struggle, earthquakes, or mudslides, it was a life changing

UPEACE Represented at the 5th Global Alliance Summit in Cape Town, South Africa



Photo provided by Tara Ruttenberg

University for Peace Assistant Editor and alumna Tara Ruttenberg (IPS '09) represented UPEACE at the 5th Summit of the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace: Ubuntu in Action, 2-6 October 2011 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Civil society and government delegates convened from 19 countries representing

all 5 continents with the goal of strengthening national campaigns for peace infrastructure in their respective countries. The event was a resounding success, with dynamic panel discussions led by expert peace practitioners, educators and grassroots peace activists from around the globe.

The Summit featured a keynote address by Ela Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas Gandhi and former Member of Parliament of South Africa, along with vibrant performances by the Siyazama Cultural Group, an all-youth traditional song and dance ensemble, and a powerful presentation by the African Alliance for Peace.

Additional highlights included a rousing panel on peace economics, a session dedicated to youth participation in peacebuilding attended by 50+ Cape

Town youth from local universities and the United Nations Association – South Africa (UNA-SA), conversations on professional experiences of NGO and government collaboration for peacebuilding, a tour of the Robben Island Mayibuye Archives, and expressions of Ubuntu in action - celebrating local and regional solutions grounded in traditional ways of dealing with conflict.

The Global Alliance Summit was endorsed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and US Congressman Dennis Kucinich, whose powerful words for peace resounded among those gathered at the University of the Western Cape. Information: www.mfp-dop.org / registration@mfp-dop.org

UPEACE Institute

16 January to 3 February 2012



The UPEACE January Institute 2012 will consist of three, two and one-week short courses that will be taught by resident UPEACE faculty and international professionals with extensive expertise in diverse areas.

Set in the serene campus of the university, the UPEACE January Institute offers the opportunity for participants from diverse backgrounds to take part in a rich educational experience in Costa Rica. Courses available in English and Spanish.

Courses

Fundraising for Sustainable Development
Jurgen Carls (Germany) 1 credit

Economics and the Pursuit of Happiness
Veronica Hillo (Spain) 1 credit

Transformational Leadership
Anne Margaret Robert (France) 2 credits

Strategic Nonviolent Resistance
Amr Abdalla (Egypt)
Maciej Bartkowski (Poland) 2 credits

Transition to Democracy
Balázs Kovács (Hungary) 2 credits

Gender and Human Trafficking
Ameena Alrasheed (Sudan) 2 credits

Curricular Design for Peace and Conflict Studies
Victoria Fontan (France)
Virginia Cawagas (Philippines) 3 credits

The European Union: A Model Peace Project?
Christer Persson (Sweden) 3 credits

Education in Times of War and Emergencies
Toh Swee-Hin (Australia and Canada) 3 credits

Environmental Security Assessment: Principle and Practice
Jeffrey Stark (United States) 3 credits

Hunger, Famine and Food Security
Reg Noble (Canada & Great Britain) 3 credits

Globalization, Communication & Human Rights
Julia Hoffmann (Germany) 3 credits

Poverty, Inequality and Policy Making
Claudio Ansorena (Uruguay) 3 credits

Derecho Internacional Fluvial (in Spanish)
Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo (Venezuela) 1 credit

Democracia, Seguridad y Desarrollo en América Latina (in Spanish)
Victor Valle (El Salvador) 2 credits

Why Attend the Institute?

• Uniquely Diverse Community

• Quality of Learning

• Practitioner-Based Approach

Whether you are a graduate student, nonprofit leader, business executive, educator, UN staff member, diplomat, or interested professional, we welcome your participation and look forward to engaging with you.

For more information visit:
www.upeace.org/institute
or send an e-mail to: institute@upeace.org
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University for Peace
Universidad para la Paz





United Nations Celebrates the Culture of African Descendants

By Mariela Solís / Marketing and Communications Officer

On October 24, 2011 during the 66th anniversary of the United Nations system, people of African origin expressed the need to strengthen national measures to ensure that people of African descent fully enjoy economic, cultural, social, civil, and political rights.

In Costa Rica, the communication campaign "Yo quiero, yo propongo" was presented to highlight the desires and aspirations of Costa Ricans of African

descent, and thereby promote greater understanding of and respect for the diversity of African heritage and culture in the country.

In her speech, Luiza Carvalho, Resident Coordinator of United Nations System in Costa Rica, emphasized that "the International Year of African descent offers a special opportunity to redouble efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance affecting people of African descent."

Besides the presentation of the campaign, the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented a proposal for National Public Policy on the issue of African descent. The ceremony was supported by many organizations including: the Comisión

Afrocostarricense, Asociación Proyecto Caribe, Asociación para el Desarrollo de las Mujeres Negras Costarricenses, Comisión Nacional de Estudios Afrocostarricenses, Junta de Administración Portuaria y de Desarrollo Económico de la Vertiente Atlántica de Costa Rica (JAPDEVA), Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), Mesa Nacional Afrocostarricense y Limón Negro Cultural and Civic Committee, and UN Representatives.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 2011 as the International Year for people of African descent as part of a greater effort to raise awareness about the challenges facing people of African descent and ensure their integration in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society.



Photo by Mariela Solís. Luiza Carvalho, Resident Coordinator of United Nations System in Costa Rica.

Visit to the Orphanage of San José by representatives of the Rotary Club

As part of their Rotary services the students John Paul Martínez (RMSED 2012) and Ragan Dueker (MPCS 2012) visited the Hospicio de Huérfanos in Vista del Mar with the idea to share with the children and look for different ways to collaborate with the institution.

"This orphanage, as explained to us by the director and caretaker, are kids of different ages, but mostly infants that were left at the hospital, because either

their parents, were not ready, were under the influence of drugs, or other reasons. As the class of 2012 I believe, this is the time to come together, and truly make an impact within this orphanage. As we have learned within our foundation course, theory is completely different then "the field" and I have had the privilege of going to the field and there is a need!" said Martínez.

"To assist in this endeavor, we are organizing a UPEACE "Comedy Show" We would have the opportunity to enjoy the company of each other, in laughter, fun, and harmony, but also to raise enough capital to make a difference."



Photo provide by John Paul Martinez

If you would like to take part in this effort please contact us at jmartinez@master.upeace.org



Workshop for young Costa Rican's on Building Sustainable NGO's

By Mihir Kanade / Director, UPEACE Human Rights Center

The Human Rights Centre of the United Nations mandated University for Peace will be conducting a capacity building workshop on 'Building Sustainable NGOs for Promoting Human Security' from Dec 6 to Dec 16, 2011.

Young women and men aged between 18 and 30 years will have the opportunity to be trained in practical issues such as the Costa Rican legal system for creating NGOs as well as for sustaining them through fundraising.

The workshop is entirely funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives and as such, all costs of the participants associated with the workshop will be covered by the Centre. The medium of instruction for the workshop is Spanish.

The Center would like to encourage those who have a proven record/passion for civil society

participation/activism/advocacy in human security and human rights, to apply.

Applicants must be Costa Ricans by nationality as per the requirements of the project. The selections are on first-come-first-serve basis. Further information for interested applicants is available at the following link (Spanish).

UPEACE announces its first Online courses in Spanish!

Cursos de postgrado a distancia con la Universidad para la Paz

Postule a nuestros cursos a distancia en español y opte por recibir créditos académicos o capacitación profesional.

Transformación de Conflictos Ambientales	Derecho Internacional y la Responsabilidad de Proteger	Seguridad Humana y Violencia Urbana en América Latina
		
Profesor Rolain Borel (Suiza) 19 de enero al 26 de febrero del 2012 Curso de 2 créditos	Profesor Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo (Venezuela) 27 de febrero al 6 de abril del 2012 Curso de 2 créditos	Profesor Víctor Valle (El Salvador) 16 de abril al 25 de mayo del 2012 Curso de 2 créditos



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Duración: 6 semanas

Costo por curso con créditos académicos: \$400

Costo por curso sin créditos académicos: \$200

Para más información consultar:
admisiones@elearning.upeace.org
www.upeace.org/academic/distancia/index.cfm
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Slow Food Convivium in Ciudad Colón

By Mariela Solís / Marketing and Communications Officer

Ciudad Colón, San José, 2011. Eat, “Good, Clean, and Fair“ was the motto of a special slow food movement activity held at the old market of Ciudad Colon on Tuesday 25 October. The convivium was promoted by the University for Peace (UPEACE), University of Costa Rica (UCR), and the Centro Nacional de Alta Tecnología (CeNAT).

UPEACE students had an opportunity to participate in the 1st Organic Fair “Terra Madre” and Gastronomic Festival, showcasing crafts and products of the western Central Valley, including a buffet tasting with organic and native ingredients.

“The students of ‘Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development’ (RMSED) had a session with the representative for Latin America from Slow Food, Andrea Amato, who discussed with them the world challenges on sustainable development and how a grassroots movement like Slow Food is contributing to palliate the negative

effects of global trade. The movement promotes local agriculture and local trade of food as a way to diminish poverty, reduce CO2 emissions and conserve diversity”, said Veronica Hillo, RMSED Instructor.

Slow Food is a global, grassroots organization, founded in 1989 with more than 100,000 supporters in 150 countries around the world who are linking the pleasure of good food with a commitment to their community and the environment.

A non-profit member-supported association, “Slow Food was founded in 1989 to counter the rise of fast food and fast life, the disappearance of local food traditions and people’s dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from, how it tastes, and how our food choices affect the rest of the world”.

said at the Slow food Movement webpage.



1. At the event guests had the opportunity to taste different dishes prepared with traditional ingredients. 2. 1st Organic Fair “Terra Madre” in Ciudad Colón 3. Dr. Patricia Sánchez, Food Safety Programme Coordinator CENAT-CONARE / Leader of the Convivium in Costa Rica, and special guest Mr. Andrea Amato.

Cameroon Peace Foundation Launches a Peace Boat

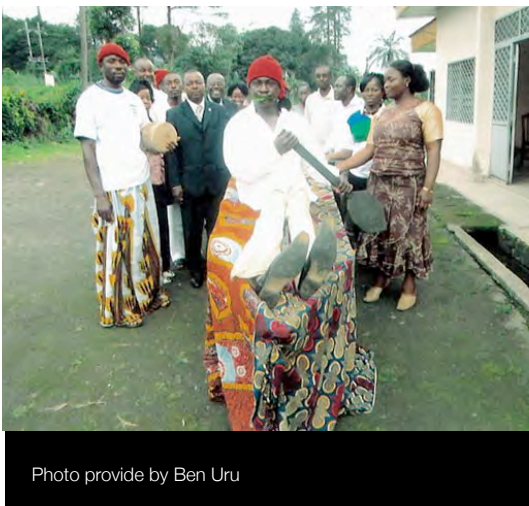


Photo provide by Ben Uru

October 2011, Cameroon. Considering that election misconduct has often resulted in violence, the Cameroon Peace foundation has launched a peace boat project to spread the message of peace before, during and after elections. The “Peace Boat” sailed across the country carrying peaceful messages that crew members shared at each stop.

“The Peace Boat has gone a long way and we believe that we are making our own contribution in fostering a culture of peace in Cameroon”, said Mforndip Ben Oru, MA Peace Education (2008). The launch took place on 16 October in Buea, Cameroon. As Mforndip Ben Oru explained: “The boat was made using some local materials like bamboos and ropes. So far we have been in three places, Buea, Ekona and Muyuka. We are expecting to go to Kumba, Bamenda, Douala and Yaounde. We could have liked to go across the country but our hands are empty. We wish that UPEACE initiate some fundraising activities for us”

“With the announcement about the arrival of the boat, the excitement was high and people were happy to see a peace boat for the first time. Above all, the messages that the boat was carrying was a clear indication that we were working for Peace.”

“Financial support is also appreciated so that this boat can go to all places in Cameroon. UPEACE can support me by making my project known worldwide and by linking us with other organizations that are working for Peace”, said Oru, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Cameroon Peace Foundation.

For more information on the project please contact Mforndip Ben Oru, MA Peace Education (2008) CEO, Cameroon Peace Foundation at ben.mforndip@gmail.com

Save Jeju Island Campaign

By A-Young MOON / MA Peace education Candidate (2012)



Photo provide by A-Young Moon

On 12 October, a Forum was held at UPEACE on the theme of "Defending Eco-Social Rights Against Militarization in South Korea's 'Island of Peace': A Non-violent Campaign to Stop the Naval Base Construction on Jeju Island."

This Forum focused on the decision of the South Korean Government to construct a naval base at Gangjeong in Jeju Island, which was designated as the "Island of World Peace" by the late President Roh Moo Hyun. According to the Government, this naval base is vital to South Korea's national security. However, there has been a growing nonviolent campaign at local, national, and international levels to stop the construction of this naval base.

Drawing on the voices of Gangjeong villagers, civil society organizations, and peace building advocates, the presenters highlighted the reasons for the opposition to the base and the nonviolent strategies being used to defend the eco-social rights of Gangjeong peoples and the wider Korean society.

The Forum also explored the crucial role of global solidarity in supporting a local struggle for ecological and human security.

During the Forum, several follow-up actions were suggested for those interested in expressing their solidarity with the local, Korean, and international campaign to halt the construction of the naval base in Jeju Island. We appeal to all concerned individuals and organizations to consider joining this solidarity campaign.

There are many ways that YOU can assist the Global Campaign to Save Jeju Island. Please visit the website www.savejejuisland.org.



UPEACE IN THE NEWS

[UPAZ realizará taller sobre construcción de ONG'S disponibles](#)

El Periódico.com
7 October, 2011.

[Peace University Graduation](#)

Phillippine Daily Inquirer (Phillippines)
24 October, 2011.

[ALP graduation in Manila](#)

The Daily Manila Daily Shimbun (Phillippines)
25 October, 2011.

[Mitad de la población vive en cantones de más inseguridad](#)

La Nación (Costa Rica)
28 October, 2011.

[MILF braces for AFP offensive](#)

Phillippine Star (Phillippines)
1 November, 2011.

