

UPEACE NEWSFLASH

UPEACE NEWSFLASH September, 2011



Photo by Gerardo Romero
UPEACE commemoration of International Day of Peace.

International Day of Peace 2011

On 21 September, 2011, UPEACE commemorated the International Day of Peace, which was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1981 as an annual day of non-violence and ceasefire.

Organized by students in the Peace Education program, the commemoration began with a minute of silence in memory of one of UPEACE's most dedicated and beloved professors, Dr. Mahmoud Hamid, who passed away suddenly a day before.

In his speech, Rector J. Maresca acknowledged Prof. Hamid's invaluable contributions to the UPEACE community and his inspiring example as a human being committed to the values and goals of building a peaceful world.

An interactive activity then gave an opportunity for participants to show their gratitude and appreciation to other UPEACE members for helping to promote a harmonious and peaceful environment.

The celebration concluded with a collective singing of the beautiful song, "Dona Nobis Pacem", meaning "grant us peace" and the writing of inspirational messages of peace by participants on multi-colored flags which were displayed throughout the campus with the hope that, as they gently blow in the wind, those messages and thoughts will travel across the world.

"Students in the M.A. in Peace Education Programme at UPEACE have been coordinating the celebration of the international Day of Peace for the past 5 academic years. They creatively design the program for the celebration as a part of their participation in the core course on Peace Education: Theory & Practice. By involving the entire UPEACE community in the celebration, this annual activity symbolizes the commitment of UPEACE to the vision of building a world free of violence and wars", explained professor Virginia Cawagas, Associate Professor in the Department of Gender and Peace Education.

The International Day of Peace was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly. The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982. In 2002, the General Assembly officially declared September 21 as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace.

Photo by Esteban Gutiérrez

Prof. Hamid, was director of the Department of Environment, Peace and Security, died of cardiac arrest after falling ill during a morning class on 20 September. He was 48.



Memorial to Prof. Mahmoud Hamid

By Oscar Morera

Many of us in the community of UPEACE had the joy and honor to meet Mahmoud Hamid. In some ways, Mahmoud was the most “UPEACE” among us.

His kindness and his wide smile were without limit, and he was always willing to give more – with friends, family, students, and colleagues – for his institution, his country, and the world.

He was passionate for an intellectual discussion, a large and full table, the exchange of ideas, good music, and the tenderness and innocence of children. Always clear about his ideals of social justice, and the duty to help those in needs, morally, spiritually and

materially, he was a friend of transparency, clear and fresh as his way of thinking.

Mahmoud left Sudan in search of knowledge and wide plains for thought, where he could develop and share the innovative and bright ideas bubbling in his mind. As a Bedouin in the desert, freedom and solidarity were two concepts rooted in his way of being, thinking, and acting. He arrived at UPEACE, convinced that peace was the only possible way to solve the problems we face, and decided to embrace this idea with passion and conviction.

Today, in his absence, is important that we as individuals and as an institution learn from

all the good that our partner has left us: to be more friendly, more clear and transparent, kind and caring, responsible and committed, free and fair. In short, more human. And why not also share a beautiful smile.

Watch a video tribute to Mahmoud Hamid [here](#).

For condolences messages please visit [Remembering Mahmoud Hamid Facebook page](#).

Climate Change, Water Stress, Conflict and Migration

Symposium in the framework of the International Day of Peace

The Hague, 21 September 2011, the International Day of Peace. The Dutch foundation Alliance for the University for Peace (UPEACE) organized a symposium on climate change as one of the causes of conflict and migration in various parts of the world. The event was held at the International Institute of Social Studies.

The symposium focused on the impacts of climate change on water: longer and more intensive droughts as are occurring in the Horn of Africa, severe floods as are now taking place (again!) in Pakistan, loss of territory and salination of agricultural land by sea level rise as has been happening already for years now in Bangladesh, Vietnam, and the area around Jakarta, and the imminent disappearance of small island states in the Indian Ocean (Maldives) and the Pacific (Kiribati, Tuvalu and many others).

The goal of this symposium, organized in close cooperation with and support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cordaid, The Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO, WWF Netherlands, The International Institute of Social Studies and the Institute for Environmental Security, was to bring forward, by using concrete experiences, the interdependencies between climate change, water and migration, and also to formulate recommendations for present and future problems.

Other problems discussed were the greater vulnerability of women and children to water stress caused by climate change, the importance of timely reactions by authorities to early warning messages on, for example, coming droughts, and ways to deal with emergency situations which are understandable for the local communities.

At the end of the day, Mr. Mass Goote, Netherlands Chief Negotiator in UN Climate Talks / former Lead Negotiator for the EU, gave a first reaction to the recommendations, followed by Prof. Rolain Borel on behalf of UPEACE and by Mr. Marius Enthoven, Chairman of the symposium and Chairman of the Alliance for UPEACE.

The program and other background information can be found at [Alliance for UPEACE](http://AllianceforUPEACE) or please contact Petra van der Ham, Alliance for the University for Peace, +31 6 44686570, info@allianceforpeace.nl.

Photos:

More photos on the event please visit www.dickdejager.com/UPEACE



Transforming grief and anger into peace with prayer

By Rebecca Reeves

Ten Years since jet planes hijacked by terrorists crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing nearly 3,000 people from all walks of life, and the thoughts and feelings still resonate as if it were yesterday.

On the 10th anniversary of the attacks, students at UPEACE gathered to remember, discuss and reflect on the spiral of violence that ensued since that day, and took the opportunity to transmute grief, anger and fear into a prayer for love and peace.

An organizer for the event, John Paul Martinez shared a personal experience, captured here in short: "Even though this day changed the lives of countless citizens in the USA it changed my family for the better bringing my divorced parents together in peace, harmony, and love to celebrate life to the fullest."

After the open sharing, we joined thousands of others around the globe in the ONE event, based in Seattle, Washington: "we [came] to an awareness of our deep true nature of

connectedness to all things, and prepare [d] for the Moment of Love, ten years and ten hours after the first plane strike in 2001, at 3:46 pm pst. This powerful MOMENT of opening our hearts and sharing love with people from all around the world [was] felt as a tsunami of love, breaking through barriers to our human harmony."

During the MOMENT of Loves, students meditated and prayed together, both on campus as well as with a group of 50 students whom spent the day visiting an indigenous community. The power of this moment was felt by all.

UPEACE to participate in the Peace Parade San José 2011

By Mariela Solís

The University for Peace (UPEACE) is proud to announce that it has been selected to participate with one dove sculpture in the upcoming Peace Parade San José, 2011.

Schools and artists from around the country were convened to submit their design proposals, after the close of the call, an interdisciplinary jury-composed of experts of art, education and communication, analyzed the proposed sketches to decide which will go from the paper to the white sculptures.

The organization will transfer 70 white sculptures, made of fiberglass and with a height of 2.3 meters. Of these 70 sculptures, 50 will be assigned to schools, and 20 for artists.

The UPEACE design was presented by the UPEACE students Elizabeth Henke, Ana Isabel Hernández, Fatima Kyari Mohammed, and Jacques Koroi.

Afterwards we gathered for a closing ceremony on the front lawn of UPEACE.

Here we shared our personal prayers and gratitude for peace, love and healing both in writing and verbally. We sealed these intentions with a meditation, visualization, and an energetic gifting back to the earth, grounding it on the UPEACE campus, with the intention that these prayers would be felt by all in our university community.

Peace Parade is a public event organized by GPO Vallas y Gigantografias and The Municipality of San José, to promote a peace message thought artistic creation. The exhibit will be similar to the "Cow Parade" which was held two years ago in this city. Similar in concept, cows were painted and displayed in the city, attracting thousands of visitors to view the different painted statues.

The dove statues were picked as a symbol of peace, and will be displayed in squares, parks, and other areas in San Jose. Standing on spherical bases, a reminder of the pre-Columbian indigenous people who form the history of Costa Rica, the exhibition will exemplify the cultural scene of San Jose. The godfather of the project is the well-known costarican artist Jorge Jimenez Deredia.

The exhibit will run from 15 December 2011 to 25 March 2012. This year's exhibition promises to be a colorful sight for viewers.

Congratulations to all who were involved in the creative process for this project!



Photo by David Kriegleder

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New Staff Member



UPEACE is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Julia Hoffmann as Assistant Professor in the Media, Conflict and Peace Studies MA programme.

Julia will work together with other staff in the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies to develop, coordinate, and implement the programme, as well as collaborate with the wider faculty of UPEACE.

Dr. Hoffmann completed her PhD in 2009 at the University of Amsterdam, where she conducted research on Communication Rights, Democracy and Legitimacy in The European Union. She holds a Master's degree in International and European Law

(LL.M. cum laude) with a specialization in International Public Law from Amsterdam Law School, as well as a Master's degree in Communication Science (M.Sc. cum laude) with a specialization in International Relations and Development Studies.

Welcome to UPEACE Dr. Julia Hoffmann!

MA programme in Sustainable Peace through Sport



Photo by IUM

The Master in Sustainable Peace through Sport was officially launched on 8 October, 2011 at the International University of Monaco (IUM). Designed with the contribution of individuals and experts from the fields of peace studies and sports, this innovative program was conceived in partnership with the IUM, the University for Peace, and Peace and Sport to produce a well-trained group of "Engineers for Peace through Sport".

Achieving sustainable development

Conservation International (CI) strives to empower societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature, our global biodiversity, for the well-being of humanity – an ambitious but vitally necessary endeavor. How can we develop practical solutions that simultaneously protect ecosystems and ecosystem services while improving human well-being? How do we achieve sustainable development? What does a healthy, sustainable economy look like? How can we encourage decision makers to adequately value our natural capital? And how can we accomplish this on a scale large enough to confront the global challenges we face today?

These are the questions I struggle with daily as part of my job as technical manager for CI's Mexico Program. We discuss, develop, and implement solutions for these issues with policy makers, indigenous communities, civil society and the private sector. Due to the scale of the challenge, everyone has to be part of the solution. CI thus works heavily through partnerships and alliances to achieve our mission. By working here, I have witnessed the transformative impact multi-sectoral collaboration can have.

In Chiapas, Mexico, 59% of greenhouse gas emissions come from land use, land use change and forestry sector, while an additional 19% come from agriculture. Therefore, we are currently working with many partners to develop and implement a REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation plus conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks) Readiness strategy for the state. This includes developing feasibility studies, drafting legal, financial and technical frameworks, creating safeguards, building capacity, and developing pilot projects.

While incredibly complex due to the sensitive political, economic, and technical issues surrounding REDD+, we believe that by working together we can succeed at mitigating climate change and protecting natural capital, while helping local people to improve their livelihoods.

Working for Conservation International has been a dream come true for me. I firmly believe in these goals and am excited about the opportunities we have to solve these issues. In my roles at CI (first as protected areas management assistant, then as global support for field programs



“My dual degree from UPEACE and American University helped set the foundation that enables me to be part of the fight to conserve our natural resources while allowing for sustainable development”.

**Kelly Witkowski
Natural Resources and Sustainable
Development 2008
United States**

manager and now as the Mexico technical manager), I have travelled around the world, from Papua New Guinea to Liberia to Guatemala, and witnessed the cutting edge work that my colleagues and our partners are doing on the ground. Check out more about this work at www.conservation.org.

My dual degree from UPEACE and American University helped set the foundation that enables me to be part of the fight to conserve our natural resources while allowing for sustainable development.

The experiences UPEACE provided and the lessons learned while in the classroom or traipsing around the forest with my fellow students, led by Ronnie, Rolain and David, who taught us all so much, remain relevant and serve as a guide for my current work. I'm always happy to know that each of my UPEACE colleagues is doing their part to make this the better world we envision.



Capacity building workshop for young Costaricans

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.

The project is entirely funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (FCIL) and will bring together 40 to 50 young women and men aged between 18 and 30 from different parts of Costa Rica, having a common vision and passion for promoting human security in Costa Rica through civil society participation.

"Human Security in the Costa Rican context is an increasingly important area that needs to be addressed through involvement of civil society, and in particular the youth. Costa Rican youth are dynamic and very involved in social entrepreneurship and this project will serve as an important platform for bringing together such likeminded youth who have a common passion for promotion of human security in Costa Rica", said Mihir Kanade, Director of the UPEACE Human Rights Centre and a faculty member in the Department of International Law and Human Rights at UPEACE.

The participants will be selected on the basis of their proven track record in issues concerning human security in Costa Rica, such as juvenile crimes, drug abuse, domestic violence and other gender issues, environment and human rights, migrant rights etc.

The workshop will be conducted in Spanish by experts in the field and will train the participants on not only the contemporary human security issues in Costa Rica and the legal human rights mechanisms for promoting them, but other issues relating to human rights and human security advocacy as well. In addition, the workshop will train participants on practical issues such as the Costa Rican legal system for creating NGOs as well as for sustaining them through fundraising.

Qualified applicants will be selected on a first come first serve basis. The organizers will cover all costs related to the participation from the funding of FCIL. Further information for interested applicants is available at <http://www.hrc.upeace.org/index.php/projects/short-courses>.

Two Upcoming Online Courses

Now accepting applications for Training and for Credit. Use your credits towards the completion of an online MA at UPEACE.

7 November to 16 December 2011

The Nation State - State Weakness and Intra State War

Professor: Balazs Kovacs
2 Credits Course



Gender and Peace Studies

Professor: Jacobo Schifter
2 Credits Course



Duration: 6 weeks
Limited Admissions
First come, first served
Cost: For Academic Credits: US\$700
Non-credit: US\$500

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

4th Short Course on Gender and Conflicts: Early Warning For Early Response Mechanisms

From 28 November to 2 December 2011 in Dakar, Senegal, The PanAfrican Center for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC) will offer its Fourth Short Course on Gender and Conflict: “Early Warning for Early Responses Mechanisms”. It is intended to be an advanced-level, one-week course of interest to those who work in academic programmes and projects related to conflict prevention and peace building with a focus on gender.

“The UPEACE Gender and Peacebuilding Programme and the Africa programme have been working for quite a long time with the PAC, which is part of the *Femmes Africa Solidarite*. Part of our work has been organizing short courses; we are getting ready to organize the 4th course on Gender and Conflicts. Additionally, we are working in the creation of an MA in Gender and Peacebuilding in Senegal, replicating the MA programme we offer at UPEACE”, said Prof. Dina Rodriguez, Director of the Gender and Peace Studies Department.

The main purpose of the course will thus be to identify early signs of gender discrimination that can lead to violent conflict and its impact on women, as well as to draw different warning mechanisms that can be put in place to prevent violent conflict. The course will train 30 young professionals, journalists, and young graduates who would like to contribute to the work of those NGO’s that deal with issues of peace, security, and gender in Africa.



UPEACE IN THE NEWS



Photo by Ving Prah

Publications

In the book “Feminist, democratization, and radical democracy. Case studies in South and Central America, Middle East and North Africa”, Prof. Dina Rodriguez has a chapter on “The Gender Dimension and Conflict Processes”.



Researches and academics have been devoting increased attention to the study and analysis of gender dimensions in peace and conflict processes. Conflict and war continue to happen worldwide, affecting men and women differently.

This chapter is grounded on the recognition of differences between men and women’s social, cultural, political, and economic roles, all of which become exacerbated in times of war. Reflection and debate on this issue will contribute to its suitable and fair consideration, so that women’s specific needs, often ignored and always postponed, may be duly fulfilled.

Rodriguez, D. (2011) “The Gender Dimension and Conflict Processes” in *Feminist, democratization, and radical democracy. Case studies in South and Central America, Middle East and North Africa*. (Eds) Graciela di Marco, Costanza Tabbush.

Buenos Aires
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[Universidad de Córdoba le apuesta a la reparación de víctimas](#)

Eluniversal.com.co (Colombia)
10 September, 2011

[Apostar por la juventud](#)

La Nación (Costa Rica)
11 September, 2011.

[Capacítese para formar una empresa social](#)

Elfinancierocr.com (Costa Rica)
26 September, 2011.

[UPEACE professor from Sudan dies of heart attack](#)

Ticotimes.net (Costa Rica)
20 September, 2011.