

UPEACENEWSFLASH



PHOTO: MRS. MUNA GHASSAN TAMIM RIHANI, Mrs. Ban Soon-taek and Mr. Narinder Kakar.

UN Women for Peace donation to UPEACE

By Narinder Kakar, Director, UN Liaison Office in New York

New York, 23 June, 2011. UN Women for Peace has contributed \$ 30,000 to the University for Peace to be utilized for scholarships for female candidates from around the world.

A cheque representing this donation was presented to Mr. Narinder Kakar, Permanent Observer of UPEACE to the UN by Mrs. Ban Soon-taek at an event organized by her at her residence.

Over the last three years, UN Women for Peace has organized events and campaigns to raise funds for female students from around the world to study at UPEACE, with a view to developing female leaders of tomorrow through education for peace. Their support has contributed, and will continue to contribute tremendously to the process of developing the capacities of young women and preparing them for leadership roles.

In the last two years, UN Women for Peace contributed \$ 40,000 and \$88,000 which enabled UPEACE to

provide partial scholarships to 12 students from developing countries.

Mrs. Ban Soon-taek serves as the Patron of the group which is led by Mrs. Muna Ghassan Tamim Rihani, wife of Amb. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, the group consists of many prominent ladies from diplomatic and cultural segments of society.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Rihani, and her predecessor Mrs. Anna Hannesson, wife of the former Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations, the group has developed a strong network of dedicated supporters.

UNiTE Campaign in Costa Rica



By Mariela Solis / Marketing and Communications Officer

On 7 June, 2011 UPEACE participated in an event at which Costa Rica joined the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's UNiTE Women campaign, to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls in all parts of the world.

In this activity, the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Madame Laura Chinchilla, and the President of the National Women's Institute (INAMU), Mrs Lauren Clarke, signed the commitment of the government of Costa Rica to UNiTE and expressed its full support for this initiative to the Secretary General.

The event was attended by the Vice-President of the Republic, Ministers of State bodies, Deputies of the Republic, as well all representatives of UN agencies

Through UNiTE, the UN is joining forces with individuals, civil society and governments to put an end to violence against women in all its forms.



Photo: President Laura Chinchilla, Dr. Victor Valle Associate Vice-Rector of UPEACE, Mrs. Luiza Carvalho, UNDP an UN System Representative in Costa Rica, and others UN agencies



Photo: President Laura Chinchilla, signing the commitment at Casa Presidencial.

UPEACE Alumni Phonathon

By Leonardo García / Alumni Affairs Office



With its many MA degree graduates and other former students, from almost 95 countries, our UPEACE alumni community represents one of the most diverse networks of peacebuilders in the world today. From diplomats in Geneva to local leaders in Cameroon, from Conflict Resolution academicians in Cambodia to human rights activists in Mexico, each UPEACE graduate actively works for peace in its many manifestations and each carries with him or her the strong relationships made at UPEACE.

A basic and fundamental element in the development and growth of UPEACE relies on the networking initiatives and interactions

with its alumni. You all represent the maximum expression of our meaning and you stand as the professional and academic achievement of the institution.

On 8-9 July UPEACE launched its first-PHONATHON, an initiative that reached our alumni by phone with the aim of updating our institutional data bases, setting up networking opportunities, and seeking professional and financial assistance from them through joint plans and projects.

UPEACE needs to hear back from you and is looking forward to further paving the successful road that you have been building throughout these years.



Green invention to win € 500.000

The fifth Postcode Lottery Green Challenge seeks sustainable, creative, innovative ideas

SUPPORTERS OF THE POSTCODE LOTTERY GREEN CHALLENGE

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 3 May, 2011. The Postcode Lottery Green Challenge, a Dutch Postcode Lottery Initiative, calls on creative, innovative thinkers around the world to submit ideas for green products and services for the the fifth annual Postcode Lottery Green Challenge, opened in Amsterdam, The Netherlands this past May.

Entries that reduce CO2 emissions and score highly on design, user-friendliness and quality have a shot at the prize. Entrants are asked to submit detailed business plans. An expert preliminary jury will assess the entries' viability and select five to seven finalists after 29 July. The finalists will present their ideas before an international jury of experts and an audience of invited guests on 14 and 15 September at the multimedia conference PICNIC '11 in Amsterdam. After the presentations and private interviews with the finalists, the jury will choose the winner and one or two runners-up.

The Green Challenge finalist presentations and award ceremony have taken place at PICNIC every year since the competition began in 2007.

Successful entrepreneurs

Past winners have enjoyed success with innovative products, thanks in part to publicity and contacts gained through the Postcode Lottery Green Challenge.

Last year, the American Scot Frank won for his low-priced, multi-purpose portable solar collector SolSource. In 2009, Brit Dean Gregory took the prize with The Power Collective's near-invisible rooftop wind turbines.

In 2008, Eben Bayer of the United States won for his natural insulation material Greensulate. And Dutchman Igor Kluin's Qbox, a device that helps to enable decentralised energy production, took the prize at the first Challenge in 2007.

For more information on the Green Challenge, see www.greenchallenge.info

Follow the Green Challenge on Twitter and Facebook.

ABOUT THE DUTCH POSTCODE LOTTERY - SOCIETY ALWAYS WINS

The Dutch Postcode Lottery has been raising funds since 1989 to support organisations working for a fairer, greener world. Half its proceeds go to charity. The Netherlands' largest charitable lottery, it supports 81 organisations and has given more than €3 billion to charity since its founding. The Dutch Postcode Lottery supports organisations working on behalf of humanity and the environment, including University for Peace, UNICEF, WWF, Amnesty International and Doctors Without Borders. Since 2005, the Postcode Lottery has also been active in the United Kingdom and Sweden, where the People's Postcode Lottery and the Svenska PostkodLotteriet, respectively, raise funds for good causes.

"I'M PLEASED THAT THE DUTCH POSTCODE LOTTERY HAS LAUNCHED THE GREEN CHALLENGE TO ENCOURAGE ENTREPRENEURS TO DEVELOP NEW WAYS TO FIGHT ONE OF THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES OF OUR TIME: CLIMATE CHANGE."

- Bill Clinton

"PEOPLE AREN'T GOING TO STOP CONSUMING. INSTEAD, WE MUST OFFER THE CONSUMER A GREEN ALTERNATIVE TO BRING CLIMATE CHANGE TO A HALT. THE POSTCODE LOTTERY GREEN CHALLENGE IS ABOUT STIMULATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE ALTERNATIVES. THE LARGE NUMBER OF ENTRIES DEMONSTRATES THAT AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO CHANGE AND THE WILLINGNESS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT ARE FELT WORLDWIDE."

- Sir Richard Branson (2007 Green Challenge juror)

Back to Basics: Asia Leaders Programme Visits Bendum, Mindanao

By Maria Luisa Lentejas

A five day, field-based learning trip was organized by the UN-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE), Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU), and Environmental Science for Social Change (ESSC) on 25-29 May, 2011. This was the field-based part of the course: Practices in Conflict Management in Asia. The main objectives were to apply analysis and gain understanding of resource use, conflicts and management, and natural resources management. This is the second year that UPEACE-ALP students made this trip to Sitio Bendum.

Sitio Bendum is an indigenous community made up of families from the Pulangiyon tribe. The ESSC has been active in the community for more than a decade and has assisted the community in setting up the Apu Palanguwan Cultural Education Center, a school for early language of instruction in the mother tongue followed only with Filipino and English. This school system has helped the community maintain and sustain their culture, starting with educating children in their mother tongue.

Through this trip the UPEACE students experienced the community's way of life – difficult road access, no internet access, and limited electricity, as well as water from the river, rich culture, and natural resources.

The students were able to gain first-hand indigenous wisdom about the Polangiyon culture through trips to the river, forest, and field, and through their engagement with the tribal leaders, women, educators, and youth.

A first-time activity was tree planting with the Bendum youth as part of the assisted natural regeneration project, the UPEACE students each helped to plant at least 2 seedlings in the forest area. A solidarity night followed where the community people and the UPEACE students shared their talents.

Dipo Summa, an ALP student from Indonesia, expressed that it was a great eye-opening trip. He learned how theories and reality are sometimes difficult to reconcile.

Another ALP student from South Korea, Jin Hyuk Kim, noted that it was a humbling experience and a great a reminder of what they are all studying, working, and fighting for.



Photo provided by Nabil Ramirez

Online Master Programme and Individual Courses

ONLINE MASTER OF ARTS
SUSTAINABLE PEACE
IN THE CONTEMPORARY
WORLD



University for Peace



The World's University
Distance Education Programme
NO LIMITS TO LEARNING

Prospective Participants for the Online MA

The online MA is mainly intended for working professionals who are seeking a graduate degree in the field of peace and conflict studies. Such professionals include, but are not limited to, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the military (in service or in military academies), members of security services, university professors, employees of international organizations, members of international NGOs, and governmental officers or civil servants (within foreign relations, security, ministry officers, etc.).

More broadly, the audience profile is intended to engage adult learners who are unable to travel or attend the face-to-face programmes or who prefer to interact online and at their own pace and timing. These are individuals who likely wish to combine professional goals and personal commitments with their studies in the field of Peace.

Contact us for more information, please email:

Ciudad Colón- El Rodeo de Mora road is a threat to safety

The road from Ciudad Colon to el Rodeo, which is the only useable access to University for Peace, has been in a dangerous condition since a landslide there in December, 2010.

The University, along with the community of El Rodeo and friends in Ciudad Colon, has made multiple senior-level appeals and other efforts to obtain the necessary emergency repairs, thus far without success.

All relevant government institutions have been approached on an emergency basis, meetings have been held, and the problem has been explained and recognized.

The dangers in the situation are very clear. But nothing has been done, and there is growing concern that the situation could result in a tragic accident.

UPEACE expects prompt action from the authorities to correct this situation.



Photos by Gerardo Romero, June 2011.





UPEACERS in Action: Life after UPEACE- Lieve Scheewe



Lieve Scheewe, MA Peace Education, Class of 2010
Programme Coordinator
Foundation Dark & Light
The Netherlands

It is almost exactly one year ago that I left the green grounds of the UPEACE campus for the cobbled streets and canals of my city Utrecht, in the Netherlands. I tried to hold on to the *'pura vida'* lifestyle for half a year longer, writing on my thesis and doing volunteer work, but soon enough I got pulled back into the pace of living that was directed by my calendar.

UPEACE, with its diversity in faculty, staff and students, practice-oriented learning environment and the network opportunities it offered, had given me the boost I needed for getting to work for what I really felt passionate about: the inclusion of marginalized people in processes of development and peacebuilding and promoting their equal participation in society.

Back in the Netherlands I became a board member of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY), who promotes the voices of young people in peacebuilding worldwide. Through another volunteer position at the Dutch Coalition for Disability and Development (DCDD), I got to know about a vacancy with a Dutch NGO that works for the inclusion of people with disabilities in development programs (Foundation Dark & Light). Since January I have been working as a program coordinator for the projects we are supporting in Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Disability was only recently internationally recognized as a cross-cutting development issue (see www.un.org/disabilities). New tools, trainings and methods for mainstreaming disability are being developed for different contexts around the world, taking lessons from the movement for gender mainstreaming several years back. It is making this a very exciting field to be working in and one I hope to be able to contribute to for many years to come.



Photo 1: Visiting our new partner DPO, the National Federation of the Disabled in Nepal, May 2011.

Photo 2: Inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools in Bangladesh.



Photo: (From left to right) Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, Celia Solari, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, John J. Maresca

Photo provided by Celia Solari

DG UNOG courtesy call

By Celia Solari / Programme Manager Geneva Officer

On 30 June 2011, John J. Maresca, Rector, Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, Vice-President of the Council, and Celia Solari, Programme Manager of the Geneva office paid a courtesy call on Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the recently appointed Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

Ms. Charlotte A. Warakulle, Chief of the Political Affairs Office and acting Chef d'Cabinet, and Mr. David A. Chikvaidze, Chief Librarian and Chairman of the UNOG Cultural Activities Committee, also participated in the meeting.

UNOG will be hosting 'The view from the University for Peace' photo exhibition throughout the summer.

During the meeting Rector Maresca briefed the new Director General on activities of UPEACE, especially the Disarmament Training Program in Geneva. Maresca also thanked the Director General for making available space in the *Palais des Nations* for the photo exhibit: "The view from University for Peace" (see announcement, page 8).

Social Entrepreneurship course offered at UPEACE Asia Pacific Centre Korea

By Mohit Mukherjee / Director of the UPEACE Centre for Executive and Professional Education

For a two-week period, my Facebook friends from around the world were treated to pictures of delicious Korean food. However, the real reason I was in Seoul was not for a gastronomic tour (though it certainly felt like one) but to teach the course, 'Sustainable Development and Social Entrepreneurship' at UPEACE's new Asia Pacific Centre. This course is designed to give students the knowledge, skills, and structure to develop a business plan to start a social enterprise or to analyze an existing social venture.

The seven students at the UPEACE Asia Pacific Centre impressed me by their engagement and work ethic, often reading late into the night, judging from the timing of some of their e-mails to me. The hospitality, warmth, and generosity of both the students as well as the committed staff of the Centre touched me. They entrusted that despite my busy teaching schedule I got to see the attractions of Seoul, a city that grew on me with each passing day.

Other than the jet lag (I was perfectly adjusted to the 12-hr. time difference 2 days prior to my departure), I had no complaints. I look forward to closely following the development of the Asia

Pacific Centre as it impacts the lives of a growing number of students in the region, helping them be change-makers for a better world.



Photo provided by Prof. Mohit Mukherjee

**14 July
26 August 2011**

Palais des Nations

Passerelle
E Building, 3rd floor – Door 40

www.unog.ch/culturalactivities



Showcasing a collection of **30 photographs taken by students and faculty** of the **University for Peace** and reflecting a variety of peace and conflict situations which are part of the everyday lives of many people in today's world.

The VIEW from the University for Peace



Photo by Jason Lynch: A group brings their conversation outside on the final day of discussion sessions in these final two weeks

UPEACE and the University of California at Berkeley: A popular summer Programme

By Jason Lynch

The classroom component of the Summer Peace Institute is officially over. Students have had their final discussion sessions, completed their group papers, given their presentations, and are currently traveling to all corners of Costa Rica to begin their two-week community projects.

On Wednesday, the final lecture was given by Vice Rector Amr Abdalla, who offered a compelling interpretation of the Arab Spring and the role of Islam in today's world. His hopeful words clearly resonated with the students, as many were brought to tears and asked for further discussion. Not one to disappoint, Dr. Abdalla treated a large group of students to dinner at a local hot-spot, Che Pizza, where they shared stories, debated topics from class, and enjoyed each other's company. Several students commented that it was the perfect way to reflect back on the three weeks of classwork and transition into the more hands-on segment of the Summer

Peace Institute. (For a clip of Dr. Abdalla's emotional lecture, click [here](#).)

Thursday and Friday consisted of group presentations. Students addressed topics like rape in the Democratic Republic of Congo, conflict diamonds in West Africa, statelessness in Palestine, and child soldiers in Uganda. The presentations were extremely well-researched and engaging, especially considering the short amount of time students had to put together a final product.

Look for updates about the community projects and more interviews at the: "[UPEACE: A closer look](#)" blog.

Co-Founder of the UPEACE WCCR in Bogota Passes Away

UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE INFORMS THAT THE COLOMBIAN STATESMAN AUGUSTO RAMIREZ OCAMPO PASSED AWAY ON JUNE 14, 2011.

In 1984, Mr. Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, then Foreign Minister of Colombia, signed the Agreement with UPEACE establishing the World Center for Research and Training in Conflict Resolution in Bogotá. He was president of the Governing Board of the WCCR from 2004 - 2011 and was always a great source of inspiration.

He was the peace broker in 1992 in El Salvador and was nationally and internationally well-known for his wise council when it came to issues related to peace and conflict resolution. He always had a keen interest in UPEACE.

On Thursday 16 June, he received the honors of a state funeral. For condolence, note to the Foreign Minister of Colombia, maria.holguin@cancilleria.gov.co



Mr. Augusto Ramirez Ocampo was President of the Governing Board of the World Center for Research and Training in Conflict Resolution in Bogotá.

Upcoming Courses:

The UPEACE Institute January



The University for Peace is proud to announce the opening of a second round of Institute courses from 17 January to 4 February, 2012.

The UPEACE January Institute 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.

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 on the courses offering please click [here](#)



[Costa Rica Ejemplo de superación](#)

Diario Extra (Costa Rica)
3 June, 2011.

[Seguridad resultados del primer año de gobierno](#)

La Nación (Costa Rica)
10 June, 2011.

[UPEACE launches a New MA Programme on Sustainable Urban Governance and Peace](#)

31 May, 2011.
Sistema de la Integración
Centroamericana (SICA)

[Augusto Ramírez Ocampo: un conservador para la paz y el progreso](#)

20 June, 2011
DiarioCoLatina.com (San Salvador)



Field Trip:

Indigenous People's Rights in the Field

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).

Course Instructor: The course will be led by Ms. Adilia Caravaca (Costa Rica), an expert on indigenous people's rights. Ms. Caravaca (MA, University for Peace) works in international development as a lawyer and consultant on gender, human rights and peace and security issues. She is also an International Board member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

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.)

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

Contact Info>>

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