

# UPEACE NEWSFLASH

## Gender and Conflicts: Early Warning and Early Response Mechanisms

By Dina Rodriguez / Director of the Department for Gender and Peace Studies



From 28 November to 03 December, 2011, in Dakar, Senegal, the University for Peace in coordination with Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS), through its PanAfrica Centre and the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (UCAD) held the 4th Short Course on “Gender and Conflicts: Early Warning and Early Response Mechanisms”.

This educational activity is part of a series of courses organized by the three organizations, in preparation for a new Master Degree in Gender and Peacebuilding that will be offered in 2012.

The Course provided opportunities for professionals, women and men, from across African countries, to enhance their understanding of factors such as Gender biases and discrimination that cause conflicts, and to be able to identify rising conflicts and take early warning measures. This was a very interactive course, drawing on the participants’ specific knowledge and experience. Delivering the course was under the responsibility of UPEACE Prof. Mihir Kanade with the collaboration of Prof. Dina Rodriguez and from UCAD, Prof. Fatou Camara and Prof. Nourou Tall.

In parallel, a technical meeting took place for the development of the MA in Gender and Peacebuilding with the presence of members of the World Bank, the African Capacity Building Foundation, the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, the University Cheikh Anta Diop and UPEACE.



Photo provided by Foundation Alliance for the University for Peace

"...IN ADDITION, THE ALLIANCE FOR UPEACE HAS BEEN ONE OF OUR MOST SUPPORTIVE ORGANIZATIONS IN RECENT YEARS, REFLECTING THE STRONG INTEREST IN THE CONCEPT OF EDUCATION FOR PEACE WHICH IS PRESENT IN THE NETHERLANDS", SAID RECTOR MARESCA.

## New UPEACE Center in The Hague

The University for Peace and the Alliance for UPEACE signed an agreement towards the establishment of a UPEACE Center in The Hague. This Center will serve the objectives of providing education to students and professionals in areas related to Peace studies; contributing to the promotion of the Masters' programmes offered by UPEACE in Costa Rica; and having a UPEACE representation in The Netherlands and the European Union.

The Agreement was signed on 17 November 2011 by the Rector of the University for Peace, John J. Maresca, by the President of the Alliance for UPEACE in The Hague, Marius Einthoven, and by the Secretary of the Alliance, Berma Klein Goldewijk.

In the words of Rector Maresca:

"UPEACE has had a long and useful relationship with the Netherlands, and The Hague, in particular, has an historic identification with peace and justice. In addition, the Alliance for UPEACE has been one of our most supportive organizations in recent years, reflecting the strong interest in the concept of education for peace which is present in the Netherlands," "We are well aware of the presence of a

number of institutions in The Hague which offer programmes relating to issues of peace and conflict, and we plan to take care not to duplicate what they are already offering. At the same time, we are very proud that the Alliance has decided to develop a UPEACE Center in The Hague, and we look forward to working closely with the new Center to ensure that its programmes are useful, innovative, and add to the intellectual life of the city, and The Netherlands in general. As of now, UPEACE has a Centre in The Hague, similar in form to our Centers in South Korea and Belgrade".

# Sixth Course on Disarmament in Geneva

By Celia Solari / Programme Manager Geneva Officer

From 28 November to 03 December, 2011, UPEACE offered another of its specialized training courses in disarmament, at the campus of the Geneva School of Diplomacy. John King, Director of the UPEACE Disarmament Training program, and Hans Coetzer, Director of International Relations and General Manager of the Geneva School of Diplomacy presided at the opening. This week-long survey course was designed to provide a general overview of the specific issues relevant to the field of arms control and disarmament as it exists today. Gender issues in disarmament were specifically addressed, including gender perspectives on small arms and weapons of mass destruction.

The course covered the complex interaction between 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.

Participants received a joint UPEACE/GSD Certificate upon completion.

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## Council Member Professor Jisi Wang Visits UPEACE

From October 30 to November 2, UPEACE had the honor of welcoming UPEACE Council Member Professor Jisi Wang and his wife. Professor Wang is the Dean of the Faculty of International Affairs at the University of Peking. He is currently a visiting scholar at Princeton University in the USA.

During his visit, Professor Wang gave an interesting lecture on "A Rising China and a Status Quo America", which was well-attended by students, faculty, staff and visitors. Wang's visit gave UPEACE the opportunity to discuss possibilities for increasing the number of Chinese students at UPEACE, and to brief Professor Wang on the wide range of UPEACE activities currently taking place throughout the world.



Photo by Claudio Montesano Casillas



Photos by Mariela Solís

# UPEACE and University of Connecticut Partner on Women's Empowerment Exchange Program

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The University for Peace (UPEACE) in Costa Rica and the Global Training and Development Institute (GTDI) at the University of Connecticut (UConn) are working in partnership to develop and facilitate a multi-year, two-way educational and cultural exchange program entitled "Empowering Women through Social Entrepreneurship," funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through its Professional Fellows Program. As part of the program, 20 young professionals from Costa Rica and 20 young professionals from the U.S. will receive fellowships to increase their knowledge on how to become effective social change agents using a social entrepreneurship model.

The competitive selection process will identify 20 emerging Costa Rican leaders and mid-career professionals employed by government or healthcare agencies, women-owned businesses, civil society organizations and educational institutions. These fellows will spend four weeks in the U.S. as part of the fellowship.

The first 10 participants are scheduled to visit the U.S. from 9 April through 5 May 2012. During their first week, the Costa Rican fellows will attend workshops and lectures by UConn faculty and other experts on relevant topics including women's studies, social entrepreneurship and leadership. Fellows will then participate in a two-week internship hosted by a U.S. government agency, civil service organization, women-owned business, healthcare agency or educational institution similar in nature or mission to each participant's home

organization. Fellows will spend their last week visiting places of cultural significance in the US, including Ellis Island, Independence Hall, and Gettysburg. They will also participate in a three-day Professional Fellows Congress to be held in Washington, DC to conclude their visit.

The 20 American professionals selected will participate in fellowships program activities in the United States and Costa Rica.

Fellows from both countries will work together in a dynamic online environment to plan for the implementation of 10 team-based social change projects located in indigenous and Afro-descendant communities in Costa Rica. These small projects, supported by mini-grants, will empower women to address a variety of health, environmental sustainability and economic development issues.

UPEACE will serve as the lead partner in Costa Rica, with responsibilities that include implementing the pre-approved exchange participant recruitment and selection process; The Professional Fellows Program is one of a number of professional exchange programs funded by the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), designed to foster mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Annually, approximately 50,000 foreign and US participants take part in a wide range of exchange programs funded by the State Department, including the Fulbright Program and the International Visitor Leadership Program.

The application deadline is 4 January 2012. For more information please visit

[http://upeace.org/academic/spec\\_programmes/wep/index.cfm](http://upeace.org/academic/spec_programmes/wep/index.cfm)

# International University of Monaco at the 5th Annual Peace and Sport International Forum

Reporting from Monaco, Professor Moïse Louisy-Louis

Students enrolled in the [Masters Programmes in Sustainable Peace through Sport](#) (MSPS) and Sport Business Management (MSBM) had the pleasure of attending this year's edition of the annual Peace and Sport International Forum, which gathered nearly 500 individuals.

Between 26 and 28 October, students of the joint programme with UPEACE, and faculty had the opportunity to meet and interact with eminent personalities, including Heads of State, Ministers, presidents of Sports Federations, and representatives of organizations actively involved in peace and sport endeavors. The forum, organized into several workshops, allowed students to participate in debates, ask questions and learn from experts in the field of peace and sport. For instance, Hossam (Egypt), who is currently enrolled in the MSPS

program, participated enthusiastically in a workshop addressing the Middle East conflict, which is undoubtedly a topic dear to his heart.

His classmates, Jacquelyn (US), Dana (Czech Republic), David (US) and Professor Rinaldi-Larribe attended the session dedicated to sports for persons with disabilities. Students were impressed by the energy and charisma exhibited by the panelists, who shared their experiences and views on the role of sports for persons with disabilities in the peacebuilding process.

Tsegezab (Eritrea), Etienne (France) and Professor Louisy-Louis attended a workshop that addressed how sport can be used as "an effective tool in overcoming trauma following natural disasters". The debate was stimulating, as the moderator, Ms. Margaret Talbot (President of ICSSPE), and her

accompanying team of experts discussed best practices from previous interventions and helped participants better understand the challenges faced by NGOs and federations in the field.

Also present at the Fairmont Hotel for the event was Dr. Antonella Petras, Dean of IUM's, who closely followed a panel discussing the role of sport in challenging urban environments.

Source: Peace and Sport, L'Organisation pour La Paix par Le Sport, [www.peace-sport.org](http://www.peace-sport.org), 2011

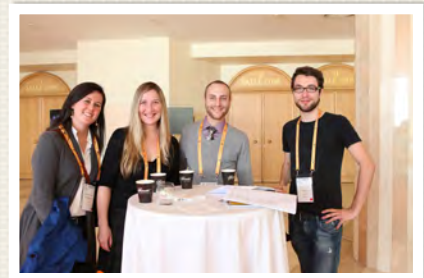


Photo provide by Peace and Sport, L'Organisation pour La Paix par Le Sport.

## UPEACE-Biological Weapons Convention (BWC): Preparatory Workshop for Review Conference

By Celia Solari /Programme Manager Geneva Officer

On 8-9 November at the UN Palais des Nations in Geneva, the UPEACE Geneva office organized a preparatory workshop for the upcoming Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). The meeting covered organizational and procedural issues related to the conference, as well as the elements of the BWC process, an ongoing activity that focuses constant attention on ways to improve compliance with the treaty. The workshop also covered future BWC work after the Review Conference.

The workshop was organized and moderated by Dr. John King on

behalf of UPEACE, in partnership with the UN Institute for Disarmament Research and the BWC Implementation Unit.

It was attended by almost 50 diplomats from 39 Missions accredited in Geneva who will be participating in the Review Conference. Post-workshop comments from participants indicate that the workshop helped significantly in drawing their attention to preparations for the Review Conference and in providing useful information concerning the BWC process.

"Success at the Seventh Review Conference will depend upon

thorough preparations. Meetings like this play a key role in those preparations, and I would like to thank the organizers of this meeting in both UPEACE and UNIDIR for this important initiative." --Ambassador Paul van den IJssel, President-designate, Seventh Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention.

This workshop is a part of UPEACE's ongoing effort to improve disarmament education and training in accordance with a specific mandate from the UN General Assembly.

# UPEACE hosts the 2nd annual CRiterio environmental film festival

By Mariela Solís / Marketing and Communications Officer

From 20-26 November Costa Rica hosted the second international environmental film festival in Costa Rica. This Festival sought to accomplish a double mission, to increase awareness of the pressing need to preserve our habitat, and to contribute to with the enrichment of the cultural diversity in Costa Rica.

The CRiterio Ambiental Film Fest brought together filmmakers from Europe, the United States and Latin America, whose works advocate for the protection of the natural world.

On Sunday 20 November, a special screening of the film “Polvere” by Niccolo Brunna (Italy-Switzerland, 2010) opened the CRiterio Ambiental Film Fest at the UPEACE campus. The film was followed by a panel discussion composed of visiting and resident professors and was open to all members of the UPEACE community.

The festival was sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and organized by Costa Rican filmmaker Gustavo Solís-Moya.

“For this year’s second edition of the festival, we had around 40 movies that conformed the Programme... I am very happy of the fact of starting this year’s Festival at UPEACE, we will surely continue from now on with this fantastic collaboration”, said Gustavo Solís-Moya.

For more information on the Festival visit <http://www.criteriofilmfest.org/>



## Sixth Meeting of International Academic Council

By Mayeni Aguilar / Project Management Office, Office of the Vice Rector

On 24-25 November, 2011 the Sixth Meeting of International Academic Council (IAC) was held at the UPEACE Rodrigo Carazo Campus in Costa Rica, with the attendance of Prof. Ofelia L. Durante (Philippines), Prof. Leila Abdul Hamid Sharaf (Jordan), Prof. Jerry Sanders (USA), Prof. Peter Leuprecht (Austria/Canada), Prof. Ryokichi Hirono (Japan) and Chaired by Prof. Gabriel Macaya (Costa Rica). The meeting was also attended by Rector, John J. Maresca and Vice Rector, Amr Abdalla.

IAC is the highest academic instance responsible for reviewing and ensuring the academic standards of the programmes at UPEACE. They reviewed the external evaluations of the Masters programmes in International Peace Studies, Media Peace and Conflict Studies, International Law and Settlement of Disputes, International Law and Human Rights and Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development. They also approved the new UPEACE online Master programme ‘Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World’ and the Masters Programme on Sustainable Urban Governance and Peace.

IAC members were also updated about academic matters and the accreditation process. They also had the opportunity to discuss with students their UPEACE experience.



Photo by Gerardo Romero

# Distance Education Programme: New Online Spanish Courses!

by Mariane Silva / Karen Visoná Coordinadoras del Programa de Educación a Distancia en español

In April of 2010, the University for Peace initiated its first online course, as part of the Distance Education Programme. This created the possibility for English-speakers all around the world to benefit from UPEACE knowledge and experience in the area of Peace and Conflict Studies, without having to travel. After experiencing great success and receiving requests for more online courses, UPEACE has decided to expand its audience and offer peace-related online courses in Spanish. These Spanish courses will begin in January of 2012. Director of the Distance Education Programme, Dina Rodriguez comments, “Providing online courses in Spanish represents a great accomplishment for UPEACE; approaching Spanish-speaking students has been one of the main goals of the institution, and this is a good opportunity to share issues related to the main topic of UPEACE expertise with this audience.”

During the first months of 2012, UPEACE will be teaching three online courses in Spanish, corresponding to issues of current interest to many academics and practitioners in the Latin American region and elsewhere. These topics have been selected to meet the specialized needs of a wide range of professionals interested in strengthening their knowledge and professional capacities. By offering these courses in Spanish,

UPEACE widens the forum for discussion and stimulates debate in the area of Peace and Conflict Studies, attracting the attention of more specialists and policymakers in the field.

The first course, Transformation of Environmental Conflicts, will be facilitated by UPEACE Emeritus Professor Rolain Borel, from Switzerland, who has vast experience working in Latin America in environment-related issues. This course will begin on 16 January, 2012 and will continue for six weeks, ending on 26 February. The course can be taken for credit (\$400 fee) or not for credit (\$200 fee). Upcoming Spanish courses include International Law and the Responsibility to Protect, taught by Venezuelan Professor Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo from 27 February to 6 April 2012, and Human Security and Urban Violence in Latin America, taught by Salvadoran Professor and UPEACE Associate Vice-Rector Dr. Victor Valle from 16 April – 25 May, 2012. The same costs and credit details apply for all three of these courses.

For more information on our online Spanish courses, visit our website <http://www.upeace.org/academic/distancia/index.cfm>, follow our facebook page “Universidad para la Paz”, or e-mail us at [admisiones@elearning.upeace.org](mailto:admisiones@elearning.upeace.org).

## 2012 UPEACE-IDRC PHD FELLOWSHIPS AND DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARDS

The Africa Programme of UPEACE has secured funding from the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) to offer 15 PhD Grants in two categories: PhD Fellowships and Doctoral Research Awards. Both grants are specifically for African students pursuing PhDs in Governance and Security Studies in Universities in Sub-Saharan Africa. In the category of PhD fellowship, 4 grants will be offered with a maximum award of \$45,000 over a period of three years. This grant is intended for freshly enrolled candidates and will cover expenses including tuition, living expenses and a semester abroad at a Canadian university.

In the category of Doctoral Research Awards, 11 grants will be offered with a maximum award of \$10,000 over a period of two years. This award is intended to support PhD candidates in the final stage of their PhD studies, to cover expenses including field research, data analysis, associated travel, and production costs.

Deadline for application is 28 February 2012. Female applicants are especially encouraged to apply. For further information, please visit [www.upeace.org](http://www.upeace.org) or [www.africa.upeace.org](http://www.africa.upeace.org)

# UPEACE Students Attend Workshop at United World College: International Day for the Elimination of Violence

University for Peace students from the Department of Gender and Peace Education participated in a workshop held at the United World College (UWC) on 16 November, 2011 in commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The workshop was organized by UWC-Costa Rica, in collaboration with Colectiva por el Derecho a Decidir, a nongovernmental organization. More than eighty students from UWC participated in the workshop. Five UPEACE students—Maria Fernanda Novelo Duarte from Mexico; Monica Salas Hernandez from Costa Rica; Thanh Trung Pham from Vietnam; Bridgitt Sloan McMullen from Canada; and Shahbaz Israr Khan from Pakistan—helped facilitate group activities, including the creation of charts depicting structural violence against women in our society. The Director of UWC admired the

participation of UPEACE and showed interest in further collaboration between the two institutions in co-curricular and extracurricular activities.

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BY SHAHBAZ ISRAR / MARIA FERNANDA NOVELO DUARTE / BRIGID TEVYA WHITE GLUSTEIN / THANH TRUNG PHAM

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## UPEACE IN THE NEWS

[«Cinco de noviembre de 1811: dos siglos de luchas por la independencia y la dignidad en El Salvador»](#)

DiariocoLatino.com  
16 November, 2011

[Universidad de Connecticut becará a profesionales ticos en salud, sostenibilidad y economía](#)

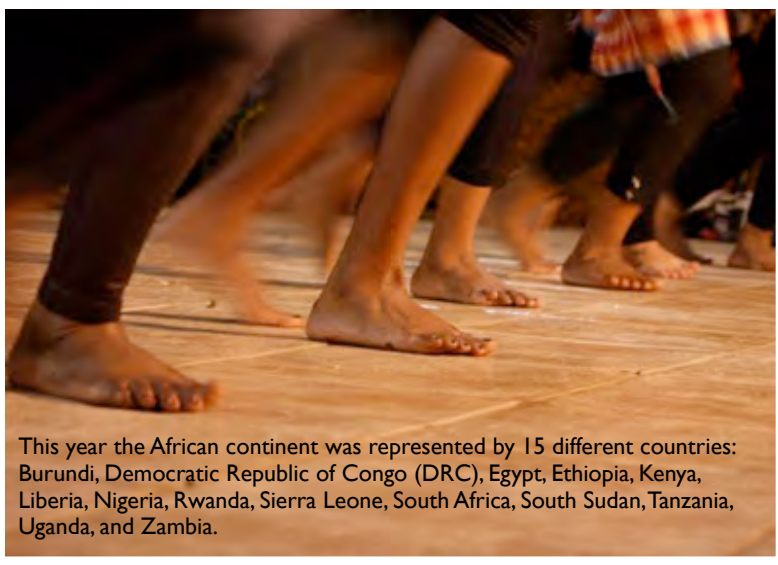
24.3 Radio Reloj  
13 November, 2011

[Universidad para la Paz y la Universidad de Connecticut se asocian](#)

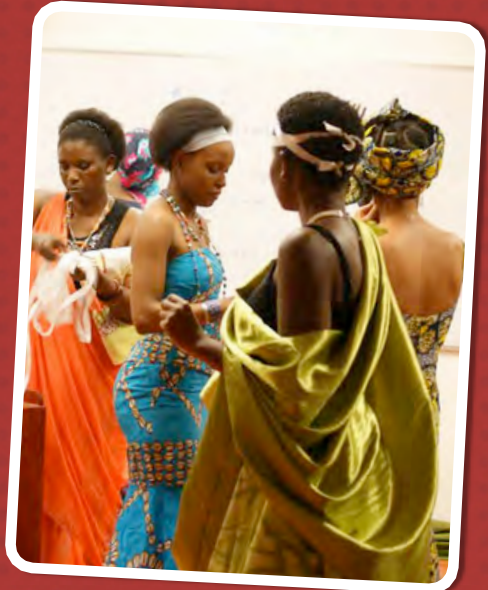
La Fragua  
11 November, 2011



# STUDENT LIFE



This year the African continent was represented by 15 different countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.



## -AFRICA WEEK-

By Fatima Kyari / MA Candidate in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development (2012)

From 14-18 Nov 2011, African students at UPEACE organized a culture-rich experience, bringing the African continent to Costa Rica. The theme for this year was in the spirit of 'UBUNTU - I am because we are'.

Throughout the week a number of events were organized to provide an opportunity for non-Africans to learn more about Africa, including a series of lectures covering different topics concerning Africa today as well as a documentary on Ethiopia and a political satire from South Africa. The highlight of the week was a guest speaker, Mr. Maurice Bryan, who gave a lecture titled: 1000 Generations of Innovation and Endeavour: Re-envisioning Africa's role as a world leader in the social, cultural and intellectual enrichment of Planet Earth.

The grand finale was a cultural night where students, staff and other guests were treated to a fun-filled, culture-rich night of fashion - where attendees wore attires from across the continent - dances, music, and traditional cultural experiences from all over Africa. Guests were then invited to taste a number of sumptuous dishes prepared by the students themselves. Dishes included Jollof Rice and Peppered Chicken from Nigeria, Bobotie from South Africa, Beans Stew from Congo, Isombe for Rwanda, Vegetable Pilau from Tanzania, Ringo Otwo and Odii from Uganda, and Nshima from Zambia, etc.



"This is a very important event in the year because students away from home feel nostalgic," said a participant "One of the ways to remind them of home is to wear the clothes, eat the food, meet and see other people from their own countries and to overall be surrounded by the African atmosphere. A cultural night not only creates that environment but it also unites several cultures into one evening."

# STUDENT LIFE



## -NORTH AMERICAN NIGHT-

by Pamela Rose Kovacs / MA Candidate International Law and Human Rights (2012)

With the theme of "Diversity Makes Us One", North America Night, on 2 December, 2011, was the culmination of a fun-filled week with movies, dress-up activities, a red carpet event, and bake sales. The week started with a night of Canadian comedy with funny videos from the Great White North and kept rolling with "sports team" and "famous North Americans" dress up days and classic Americana movie afternoons. A Hollywood style red carpet event complete with paparazzi and fancy cocktails was the main draw mid-week, while interspersed during the week were informative presentations on environmental problems, diversity, and first nations dance traditions within North America.

The main show opened with a tribute to the First Nations Aboriginal people of North America, followed by some friendly United States-Canada banter. Dancing through the decades highlighted the many dance fusions and styles of North America, with time in between dance routines for poetry, quotes by famous North Americans, jokes, and even a curling demonstration, made complete with active crowd participation. The show ended with a tribute to the French settlers in North America and all of the North Americans present sharing their roots and highlighting the diversity that makes up North America.

The main show was followed by a dinner cookout spread of BBQ delights, sides, desserts, and drinks. While eating, guests had the option of viewing a slide show of photos and images from North America or heading down to a roaring bonfire for campfire songs and smores for dessert!

After dinner, party games drew a large crowd while other guests continued to enjoy the bonfire or made their way to the dance floor to try out the dance moves they witnessed during the cultural presentation. Thanks to all for a great North America Night 2011!

# Changing Rifles into Notebooks: What is the University for Peace?

By Prof. Mary Elizabeth King

Every experienced teacher knows that the line between the teacher and the taught can be a thin one. My students at the University for Peace's main campus in Costa Rica come from Burma, Canada, Costa Rica, Fiji, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, the Philippines island of Mindanao, Pakistan, the United States, Vietnam and Zambia. Largely mid-career graduate students, they often bring experience in human rights and civil society organizations. One is a medical doctor who quit a postdoctoral program in healthcare administration because he decided that neither of these degrees would help him make a genuine difference in his country. The university—called UPEACE—may be the most multicultural institution of higher learning in the world, in terms of both faculty and students.

Why, one might ask, is it located in Costa Rica?

To make a long story short, Edgar Cardona, Minister of Security in the junta that ruled Costa Rica from 8 May, 1948, to 8 November, 1949, proposed the abolishment of the armed forces as a permanent institution. In December of 1948, the head of the Junta, José Figueres Ferrer, later President of the country, declared that a nation that was not rich could not simultaneously afford good education, health care, and a military. The funds dedicated to the armed forces should instead be destined for education, Figueres said in a speech, and in a symbolic act, he handed the key for a military fortress to the minister of education. In November 1949, a new constitution recognized the ideal of “changing rifles

into notebooks.” This perspective of valuing education over militarization has become part of Costa Rica's national memory and aspiration, to be materialized in UPEACE.

In 1976, a rancher named Cruz Rojas Bennett promised the aspiring President, Rodrigo Carazo, a donation of forested areas of his farm for a university dedicated to peace studies, on the condition that the institution would eternally protect what was the last virgin forest in Costa Rica's central valley. It was approximately 15 miles southwest of the capital San José, in the coffee-growing highlands at El Rodeo, Cantón de Mora. Rojas Bennett was partly motivated by a fear that environmental degradation worldwide had become akin to a war against nature. After his untimely death, the Rojas Bennett family gave 303 hectares, and 100,000 additional trees were planted on what is now the main campus.

By 27 September, 1978, under President Rodrigo Carazo Odio, Costa Rica proposed the creation of the University for Peace at the General Assembly of the United Nations. Finally, on 5 December, 1980, the 35th General Assembly approved Resolution 35/55, formally creating UPEACE. Its charter, approved by the General Assembly's founding resolution with no opposition, calls upon UPEACE to:

**“Provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace ... to stimulate cooperation among peoples, and to help lessen obstacles and**

**threats to world peace and progress in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations. To this end, the University shall contribute to the great universal task of educating for peace by engaging in teaching, research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge, through interdisciplinary study of all matters relating to peace.”**  
**Article 2, Charter of the University for Peace, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 35/55 5 of December 1980.**

The new university was to be a U.N. treaty organization, although receiving no funding from the world body, and it retains autonomy and academic freedom.

UPEACE took possession of the land donated by Rojas Bennett in 1981, placing it under protection as he had intended. Aided by educator Robert Mueller, and with support from UNESCO in Paris and the UN University in Tokyo, the new university began with its first degree in Media and Peace. Its first donor was the industrialist Ryoichi Sasakawa of Japan.

The study of peace is inherently multidisciplinary, since no discipline can address its numerous components. Fifteen disciplines may need to be at the table for serious study. **(Cont.)**

**(Cont.)** How then to help lessen the obstacles and overcome threats to world peace and progress?

Today, UPEACE offers 11 masters degrees in fields ranging from environmental security and peace, to gender and peacebuilding, to international law and human rights. Each of these programs explores the trends and forces that give rise to violent upheaval and discord, all in an attempt to push through the limitations in existing theory and practice. Students come from 52 countries, and the faculty is similarly diverse. Teaching with me this month is Jan Pronk, for instance, who formerly held governmental ministerial portfolios for The Netherlands in defense, development, and environment, and was head of peace operations in Sudan. A new distance learning program is allowing people across the world to work toward masters degrees online. This is one of many ways in which the university is a global institution, not limited to its Costa Rican base.

The UPEACE Africa Programme—based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia—does not have students, per se. It works with academicians from the continent's 800 universities and some 26 institutes for peace studies. These are people who want to develop their capacity to respond to the clamor of youth who want to learn how to build more peaceable societies. With assistance from The Netherlands, in 2002–2003, consultative missions visited instructors in 50 universities in 15 African countries, and met with 50 nongovernmental institutions (I was privileged to be part of the team.) As observers in my classroom this year, I've

had Senior Fellows from the Great Lakes Programme—instructors in Burundian and Ugandan universities. Junior Fellows from Kenya and Zambia are taking my course, preparing to teach upon their return. In addition, Canada's International Development Research Centre assists the Africa Peace and Conflict Journal, which gives voice to African practitioners and researchers while offering African perspectives on international issues.

On the other side of the planet, this year more than 1,800 young people under 30 years of age applied for 30 slots in the Asia-Pacific Leadership Programme, which is supported by the Nippon Foundation. The Bank of Brazil recently brought staff to the campus and then to New York City for a short course.

My own course at UPEACE in nonviolent transformation of conflict is always a two-way street for me, as we study the extensive history, theory and methods of nonviolent action. In class, we've heard a firsthand account of the 2007–2009 Lawyers Movement in Pakistan, which succeeded in the reinstatement of the chief justice through nonviolent action by barristers, students and human rights activists. Another student has been telling us about the continuing impact of the national nonviolent movement that deposed Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 in the Philippines. From Tiananmen Square to Tahrir Square, we examine failures and vulnerabilities of nonviolent movements, as well. Some students arrive with skepticism about civil resistance, which they have heard disparaged as a solely Western phenomenon, and they are intrigued to

learn that both Mohandas K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. formulated their thinking based on active study of nonviolent struggles occurring contemporaneously in Africa, and that if anything, knowledge moved from East to West.

Regrettably, one country that pronounces itself indispensable for and committed to democracy and the pursuit of peace—the United States—has never given any funds to support this practical, global educational organization, which prepares specialists to build peace in their home countries around the world. Lessening the obstacles and overcoming threats to world peace and progress need less lip-service and more concrete contribution to institutions like this, ones that are preparing world leaders to be principled as well as pragmatic.

Article taken from: <http://wagingnonviolence.org>