



University for Peace Universidad para la Paz



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PRESS RELEASE

RECTOR JOHN J. MARESCA MEETS THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO MR. KOICHIRO MATSUURA

Paris, 18 February 2009. **Rector John J. Maresca met today with Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to report on the expanding activities of the University for Peace (UPEACE) around the world. The Director-General, who is a key element in the governance structure of UPEACE, has spoken often on the importance of education, especially in the developing world. The meeting was intended to strengthen and expand the relationship between UPEACE and UNESCO as the University approaches its thirtieth anniversary year.**

UPEACE has a strong institutional linkage with UNESCO in its organizational structure. The UPEACE Council, which is the governing body of the University, includes an ex-officio representative of the Director-General of UNESCO, and ten other members of the Council are appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations in consultation with the Director-General of UNESCO.

Besides the structural linkages, the two institutions have many areas of interest in common, since the focus of UPEACE on peace and conflict studies includes subjects such as international law, human rights, and mutual respect among different cultures. The Rector and the Director General discussed possibilities for further collaboration in such subject areas.

After the meeting, Rector Maresca noted that UPEACE, which was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations, is at the forefront of a growing worldwide movement among educational institutions which are increasingly focused on peace studies and the many subjects which are part of the study of peace.

UPEACE is actively expanding its course offerings, its partnerships with other institutions, and the methods it uses to make such courses available to students. In its next school year, UPEACE will offer a new MA degree programme in “Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development.” UPEACE has a main campus in Costa Rica, cooperative agreements with universities in all of the world’s regions, and a distance-learning programme for students who cannot travel to pursue their studies.

For further information on UPEACE, please visit the university’s website, at www.upeace.org , or contact:

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