Voices from UPEACE - July 2020

UPEACE News

THE HIGHLIGHTS

To say 2020 has been unpredictable is the understatement of the century. Like most academic institutions across the globe, the University for Peace has been working tirelessly to adapt to the new reality imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, including a shift to online-only classes in mid-March, a virtual commencement ceremony, and the development of new, hybrid models that will allow it to continue to develop its mission of training future leaders for Peace.

Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and UPEACE Strengthen Cooperation Ties

San Jose, 9 July 2020. The Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the University for Peace signed a Memorandum of Understanding, encouraged by their mutual interest in further strengthening the links between the institutions. This MoU, which will enable the development of closer cooperation ties, will have an initial duration of 5 years and aims to promote, through coordinated action and mutual technical assistance, the strengthening of institutional technical capacities, from a comprehensive perspective. Read more here.

University for Peace Celebrates 2020 Commencement in a Virtual Ceremony

San Jose, 9 June 2020. Due to the current reality in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, the University had to rethink the traditional commencement ceremony celebrated on its campus, attended by students and their family and friends, who fly in from all over the world to celebrate our graduates. This year, Commencement consisted of a pre-recorded video that attempted to recreate, as faithfully as possible, the ceremony as it would have been celebrated on campus. The video included words by the University’s Rector, the Dean and Resident Faculty members, as well as a keynote message from Ms. Alice Shackelford, until recently UN Resident Coordinator for Costa Rica. Read more here.

UPEACE Holds Commemoration Ceremony for Beneficiaries of the China Scholarship Council Programme

San Jose, 26 June 2020. As part of the Commencement celebrations, UPEACE organized a special event to honor the first cohort of student awardees of the China Scholarship Council scholarship programme. This intimate gathering included the presence of the Chinese Ambassador, H.E. Heng Tang, who will shared his remarks along with Rector Rojas and Dean Juan Carlos Sainz Borgo. The event concluded with a tribute video for CSC awardees. Read more here.
UPEACE and UNITAR joined forces to launch a joint programme - consisting of a face-to-face M.A., an online M.A., and a Certificate - on Development Studies and Diplomacy. This interdisciplinary and holistic programme will not only broaden student’s knowledge in the field of development studies, sustainability and diplomacy but it will also equip them with the required soft skills for a successful international career in any of these areas of expertise. The programme is designed for graduate students, diplomats, government officers, NGO representatives, international civil servants or private sector specialists willing to strengthen their knowledge in development studies, sustainability, international affairs management and diplomacy. See the full prospectus here.

The World Bank has chosen UPEACE as an academic destination for awardees of the Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program, an extremely rigorous academic competition for Japanese citizens and nationals, funded by the Government of Japan. Read more about the programme here.

In order to expand the reach of the University for Peace and in an effort to contribute to the global dialogue on the pandemic from different perspectives - in this case perspectives related to the study of Peace - the academic departments at UPEACE launched a webinar series that covers a wide gamut of viewpoints on this matter. From “The Gendered Impact of COVID-19” to “Protection of Human Rights in the COVID-19 Era”, these webinars have drawn a large number of participants, ranging from field professionals, including UPEACE Alumni, to prospective students interested in pursuing their graduate degree at UPEACE. Find the webinar recordings here.
Recent publications


