

AFUCA

NEWSLETTER

September, 2010

Asian Pacific Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations
c/o National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan
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Greetings by Mr. Masatake Matsuda

There are 11 members affiliated to AFUCA now. In your respected countries you have been conducting various kinds of activities which promote the UNESCO ideals and various projects in the field of Education, Science and Culture. As president of AFUCA I would like to express our sincere appreciation to you all for your valuable activities to disseminate UNESCO ideals in your local communities through Non-Governmental UNESCO Movement.



Recently UNESCO has been promoting the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). We all understand ESD is a very important theme for our future. For example, "the Heritage for the Future Movement" and "the World Terakoya Movement" are typical programmes for ESD. However, at the same time, it seems to be important to further elaborate the concept of ESD. So I think it is necessary for us to share our experiences regarding ESD activities and to discuss the new ideas and activities which could promote concretely ESD with a view to reaching minds of people in our daily life. Through our newsletter, seminars and e-mail communications we could strengthen the exchange of our information on ESD to more articulate our own activities.

This September we will organize the Executive Board Meeting of AFUCA in Nara, Japan. On behalf of the host country, the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan, I would like to welcome all of you and expect your active participation in the meeting. Especially this year we are celebrating the 1300th anniversary of Nara-Heijyokyo capital (710) which is the Japan's first international capital where Japanese ancient culture was blended with various Asian cultures introduced through the Silk Road. I hope this venue will help us to discuss our common Asian future in terms of ESD and world peace. I am looking forward to seeing all of you soon in Nara.

Masatake Matsuda

Masatake Matsuda
President of AFUCA

Recent AFUCA Activities

Korean Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (KNFUCA)

- 1) The number of associations of the KNFUCA has increased to 23 by including Hangang, Ansa, Garung associations in order to work briskly. Each new association held the first inaugural meetings and celebrated with performances, and is working actively. The KNFUCA will try to establish associations in each region in order to perform UNESCO duties better.
- 2) The 25th Korea National Convention of UNESCO Movement 2010 will be carried out at Pohang Philos Hotel from October 8th to October 9th, 2010. This National Convention has been held and represented by each regional association every year. This year UNESCO Gyeongsangbuk-do Association will organize the conference. During the National Conference, a board of directors meeting, lectures with various subjects, and introducing culture will be held.



(Photos by KNFUCA)

Ural-Siberian Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations

The basic efforts of the Ural-Siberian Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations in 2009 have been directed on assistance in development of UNESCO movements in national republics – Bashkortostan, Yakutia, Buryatiya, Udmurtiya, Tatarri and others. Cultural uniqueness of each region and its temperament of each person give an impulse to UNESCO movements with dialogue of cultures.

We applied serious efforts under the decision of Executive Board of WFUCA in Ekaterinburg on opening the route across Ural-Siberian region “World Cultural Heritage. Dialogue of Cultures, Dialogue of Civilizations”. We prepare for the presentations of more than 800 routes. Thousands of museums, unique objects of history, and roadside complexes will appear on the routes. We also took part in the project organized by the Romanian Federation of UNESCO clubs “Youth and Museums” and we had a presentation for the conference in Bucharest and circular table in Paris in October, 2009.

The details of other activities in 2009 are as follows:

- 1) Translation of “the Practical guide for UNESCO clubs” into Russian language
- 2) Participation on a) Executive Board of World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations in Egypt in July, b) Partner’s forum during UNESCO General Conference in Paris in October, c) Executive Board of the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations in Malta in May and in Paris in October, d) the International Children Festival “Ode

for peace” in August, organized by UNESCO Clubs of China, e) United Nations Model in Moscow in April, f) Realization of the Ekaterinburg’s strategic plan about tourism (with Ekaterinburg Administration).

3) holding a) conferences for presidents of UNESCO Clubs in October. b) rating conferences of UNESCO International Youth Leaders in Ekaterinburg. c) Consultation for pupils about the UNESCO Clubs.

4) Partnership with Association of victims from political repressions, women union, etc.



(Photos by Ural-Siberian Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations)

National Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations of Nepal (NAFUCAN)

A project entitled “the Empowerment of UNESCO Clubs” was conducted in five development regions of Nepal under the auspices of National Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations of Nepal in 2009. The project was financially supported by Nepal National Commission for UNESCO. During the period of this project, the NAFUCAN organized two day long orientation and seminar on “the Empowerment of UNESCO Clubs” in all five development regions of Nepal. These seminars held under this project came out fruitful and meaningful, and contributed to empowerment of the UNESCO Clubs activists of all the regions.

The NAFUCAN organized the following activities:

- 1) Orientation Workshops on “Strengthening UNESCO Clubs for UNESCO Clubs Movement” and on “UNESCO Associated Schools Networking: Development and Expansion” in February and in July 2009 respectively. Seminar on “Rapprochement of Cultures: The Basis of Peace and International Understanding” in April 2010, with the presence of Minister for Education Honorable Sarvendra Nath Sukla, Culture experts, UNESCO Representative in Nepal and former Ministers. They highlighted the need of cultural connectivity and unity among the cultures.
- 2) Celebration of “The Importance of Mother Language Day” in February 2009.
- 3) Talk programmes on a) “The Role of Youth in Promoting Unity in Cultural Diversity” in May 2009, b) Promoting UNESCO Clubs Movement in Nepal” on the occasion of its birthday on June 9th, 2009, c) Peace Rally on the occasion of the International Day of Peace (in cooperation with UNESCO Kathmandu), d) “Promoting Education for Peace and Nonviolent” to celebrate International Day of Peace on September 21st, 2009 (jointly organized with United Nations Associations of Nepal), e) “Global Warming, Climate Change and Power Crisis” in January 2010, with the presence of State Minister for Environment, Science and Technology Honorable Mr. Indra Prasad Dhungel, f) “UNESCO Club: Partners of UNESCO” in July 2010 for the 63rd

Anniversary of the Establishment of First UNESCO Club in the World, and the chief guest was Minister for Education Honorable Sarvendra Nath Sukla.

Chinese National Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (CNFUCA)

From May 17th to 22nd 2010, Mme. Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, paid an official visit to China. During her stay in Beijing, she met Premier Wen Jiabao and attended the high level working meeting with Mme. Liu Yandong, State Councilor. After the meeting, an official signing ceremony of MOU between the government of P.R. China and UNESCO was held. She had also met with Mme. Chen Zhili, Deputy Director General of the NPC Standing Committee, and the Minister of Education, Vice Minister of Culture and Vice Minister of Science.

On May 19th 2010, Mr. Tao Xiping, Honorable President of AFUCA, Vice President of WFUCA, welcomed Mme. Irina Bokova in the Beihai Park. They exchanged opinions on the issues concerning further strengthening the cooperation between UNESCO and CNFUCA and promoting UNESCO Movement. The CNFUCA together with the educational circle in Beijing co-hosted the welcoming banquet for Mme. Irina Bokova for her first official visit to China.

On May 20th, Mme. Irina Bokova took the flight to Shanghai for opening the UNESCO week of Shanghai Expo and depart from Shanghai to Korea on the 22nd.

Vietnam Federation of UNESCO Clubs (VFUA)

Since April 2009, Vietnam Federation of UNESCO Clubs (VFUA) has been approved by the Government of Vietnam to change the name to Vietnam Federation of UNESCO Associations (VFUA). The activities of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations in Vietnam are continuously promoted at the community and positively supported by the Government of Vietnam. It is the second time in November 2009 when the VFUA honorably received the Labour Medal by the Government of Vietnam (the first time was in 2004). This is the noblest reward which recognized the contributions of the VFUA devoted to development of the country.

On September 18th 2009, the Vice Prime Minister cum Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E Pham Gia Khiem paid an official visit to Vietnam Federation of UNESCO Associations. The Vice Prime Minister highly appreciated the great efforts of the VFUA in overcoming variety of obstacles and difficulties through 17 years of its history to promote UNESCO grass-roots movements. Accordingly the coordination between the VFUA and the National Commission for UNESCO of Vietnam and UNESCO Hanoi Office has been strengthened with successful cooperation.

From July 2009 to June 2010, the VFUA has organized more than 60 activities for the communities in which some events gathered thousands of participants. Some activities are highlighted as following:

- 1) The year of 2010 is commemorating 1000 years of Hanoi's foundation. The VFUA has promoted an exhibition on Hanoi's antique, exhibitions on fine-art and photographs of Hanoi, art performances, and poetry competitions on Hanoi etc. Tang Prosody Poetry Festival.
- 2) The project on researching Buddhism features in Quan ho culture was carried by UNESCO

Center for the Culture of Quan ho. Quan ho is recognized by UNESCO as the World Intangible Heritage. Also, we held ISO Cup Ceremony to grant certificates for the enterprises which are friendly to the environment in January 2010.

- 3) Nearly 10 seminars and workshops have been organized for the members in concerning with traditional cultural preservation, indigenous culture and spiritual life. The National Seminar on “The business culture in globalization” with Award Ceremony on the occasion of International Day for Cultural Diversity in May.



(Photos by Vietnam Federation of UNESCO Associations)

Confederation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations of India (CUCAI)

Confederation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations of India (CUCAI) together with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), New Delhi, observed the International Day of Peace on 22nd September 2009 by organizing a Peace March and performances by school children on the theme of “Peace” at India International Centre (IIC) complex, Lodi Road, in Central Delhi. About 1400 children and teachers from 26 schools in and around Delhi participated in the event. These children and teachers shouting peace slogans and carrying placards marched for about 5 km around the UN Complex at Lodi Gardens.

In the previous years, the CUCAI together with the Institute of Archeology, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Government of India, celebrated the Cultural Heritage Week by organizing a Drawing/Painting Competition for School Children at the famous World Heritage site “Lal Quila” (Red Fort of Delhi). About 800 children of VI and VII std. from 30 schools in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) participated in the programme. After the Competition, children were divided in small groups and taken for the Heritage walk together with the experts and officials of ASI, who explained to them the distinct architectural features and the historical background of the monument.

The CUCAI is conducting Cultural Exchange Programme with other countries. Groups of students, teachers and UNESCO Club Associations from China (2 groups), South Korea and Thailand were received by the CUCAI in 2009-2010. Similarly groups comprising of students and teachers were sent to China and Thailand. Groups to South Korea and Italy will be sent later in the year. Also, organizing National and Regional Seminars for the UNESCO Club and Association Leaders is a regular activity of the CUCAI. One programme was organized at Alwar, Rajasthan State from 7th to 9th August 2009 and the other was organized in Guwahati, Assam State from 8th to 10th January 2010. Participants were selected from different parts of the country to discuss variety

of topics related to UNESCO and United Nations. Next programme will be organized from 6th to 9th September 2010 at Amritsar, Punjab State.



(Photos by Confederation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations of India)

National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh (NAUCB)

The National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh (NAUCB) was founded during a convention of UNESCO Clubs and Associations in Bangladesh held at BANBEIS Bhaban, Ministry of Education, Dhaka on January 1, 1985. Formation of the NAUCB received support of the Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNUC), Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

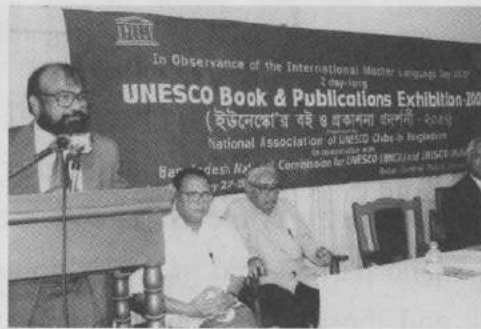
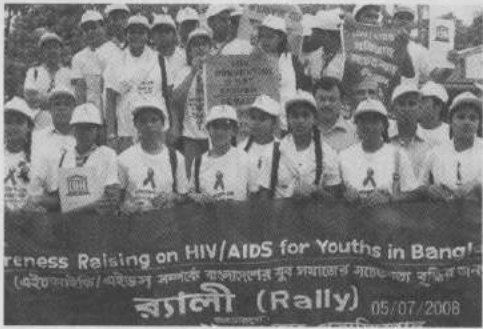
With this introduction, a few objectives of the NAUCB may be mentioned. The NAUCB wants to foster active civil society and to make people conscious about the existing social structure and social dynamics. We are also trying to raise mass awareness through publications, workshop, seminars, study circles, documentary film shows, networking activities and literacy programs for both children and adults, as the NAUCB believes that a nation cannot progress without sustainable socio-economic development. The NAUCB also has an objective to develop the intercultural communication through cultural exchange programs at home and abroad.

Prize distribution among the children for recognition of their talents in various fields of culture and science; organizing cultural shows, painting exhibitions; distributing medals in memory of the renowned scholars and artists for their life long contributions are some of the scheduled activities of the Association, alongside Seminar-Symposium on mass literacy, social services, human rights, drug abuse, bad effects of dowry system of the society being held regularly. Moreover, training camps, conferences, training workshops, social services, educational tours, campaigns on family planning, poster exhibition, poster and essay competition are some of the compulsory function of the UNESCO clubs of the district brunches. Moreover, tree-planting program for environmental protection is another important and effective work of the UNESCO clubs.

Recently training on development of ICT capacity, Media related programs have been organized. The NAUCB is also engaged in distributing stipends to the poor and meritorious students, distributing medicines through free private clinics and relief materials to the affected people during flood and natural disasters. We also organize programs for the ASPnet Schools students and also contribute to the preservation of cultural heritages in Bangladesh.

Finally, the latest venture of the NAUCB has been to organize a national training workshop on press freedom, freedom of expression and democracy to be participated by media personnel from

all over the country. The NAUCB have recently organized HIV/AIDS awareness programmes, Open discussion on Anti-drugs, Seminar on EFA Global Monitoring Report, UNESCO Club Children's Painting Competition-2010, Photography Contest on Child of Bangladesh and IKEBANA Competition-2010.



(Photos by National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh)

National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ)

National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ) launched a new project in the nation level called “Heritage for the Future Movement (Mirai-Isan Undo)” in 2009, and 50 organizations from 32 prefectures applied for the first “Heritage for the Future Project”. This “Project” accepts the non-profit projects by local people that have been planned and conducted to preserve the local culture or natural heritages for the future. The standard for the contest in 2009 was whether the projects’ objectives are set to activate their local communities, and whether the projects were exciting enough to be able to rediscover the attractiveness of their areas. The significant theme for 2009 was “endangered heritages” and “biological diversity”. After the juries evaluated all the projects, they chose 10 projects from 10 prefectures and registered these projects as “Heritage for the Future Project” that the organizer and sponsors are going to support for the next two years.

The prize-giving ceremony was held in March 2010, and the NFUAJ will start to support their promotions, to give financial assistances, and to introduce organizations or companies that might sponsor their activities. The NFUAJ hopes that this “Heritage for the Future Movement” becomes a good opportunity for local people to recover the great value of their regions and the importance to develop and preserve them for the future. Also, activating local culture and nature would contribute to economic growth. At the same time, the NFUAJ hopes that this project will let Japanese people be aware of the global issues and the significance to contribute to building peace, through being aware of regional issues and the attitude to overcome their challenges.

The NFUAJ is going to implement “Heritage for the Future Movement” annually, expecting more people involved year by year.



Centre for International Understanding (CIU), Thailand

CIU has been co-operating with the Ministry of Education, Human Rights Education Department, and Bureau of International Cooperation, running the project of “Human Rights in Young Hands” from October 15th to 30th 2009. The project focused on the young people’s understanding of Human Rights. We set up competitions on:

- Picture paintings on Human Rights for primary students
- Essay on “Human Rights in my family” for primary students
- Animation on “What are your Human Rights?” for both higher secondary and college students

Also, at the exhibition, we had the expertise to share their experiences in Human Rights cases. About 50 schools around Thailand participated in the exhibition, and we organized an exhibition for all to present their work and those who won the competitions were awarded by the Vice-Minister of Education Ministry.

The result of the project came out interesting. First, it turned out that not many young people truly understand what Human Rights really mean and it seems to them that Human Rights are not concrete. Although they can communicate what they think about the Human Rights, they can be very superficial. Those experiences made us think of how to make the Human Rights be truly known and understood among children.

After the competition and the exhibition, we organized a seminar among teachers and educators on “Human Rights in School: Positive Disciplines”. It was a one-day seminar at Pakkred Secondary School on March 23, 2010. At the seminar, we had learned that some schools have been accomplishing great achievement on Human Rights by integrating the Human Rights Education in their class room, such as English, Social Studies, Physical Educations and Arts.

We have planned to do more competition again next year. If possible, we will wish to share with other member countries on this Human Rights Education.



(Photos by Centre for International Understanding)

AFUCA OFFICE BEARERS

Honorary Presidents: Mr. Tao Xiping (China), Mr. Kim Ran-Soo (Republic of Korea)

President: Mr. Masatake MATSUDA (Japan)

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Lee, Pyung Wou (Republic of Korea), Mr. Dambar Bir Thapa (Nepal)

Auditor: Nguyen Xuan Thang (Vietnam)

Secretary-General: Mr. Noboru Noguchi (Japan)

* This newsletter was edited by the secretariat based on the contributions from each country.