



**The Assistant Director-General
for External Relations and Public Information**

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

**To Non-Governmental Organizations,
Official partners of UNESCO**

Ref. : ERI/NCS/NGO/2013/154

20 November 2013

Dear Partners,

The major event of this month of November is, of course, the ongoing 37th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.

More than one hundred NGOs have registered to participate this year to the General Conference and I have noticed with pleasure that the NGO corner is much appreciated. Several representatives acknowledged the hospitality, the friendly character, the dynamism of activities that are organized therein and the resulting visibility for our partnership. I am glad of this positive response.

The General Conference has had the opportunity to review the report of the Director-General on the contribution made to UNESCO's activities by non-governmental organizations. I will inform you of its outcome and of other salient events this Conference in my next letter.

Meanwhile, you are kindly invited to consider the upcoming events organized by UNESCO to the end of the year. I am certain some of you will find these events of interest to your own fields of competence.

27-29 November 2013 - International Conference on Digital Libraries (ICDL 2013), New Delhi, India

Under the auspices of UNESCO, the ICDL 2013 provides a platform to national and international experts to exchange experiences, views and skills to focus on bridging digital divide and to discuss problems and issues in digital libraries.

Digital libraries are an important mechanism to allow users across the world to access, share and apply knowledge and to continue quality research. While overcoming digital divide is a challenge, global librarians and knowledge workers have a role to play in bridging the digital divide through creation of digital libraries.

I strongly encourage library and knowledge professionals, IT service providers, academics, students, archivists, museologists and publishers to participate in this conference.

Do not hesitate to visit the website: <http://www.teriin.org/events/icdl/index.php>, where you will be able to register online.

Contact: Ms Iskra Panevska (i.panevska@unesco.org)

3 December 2013 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

On this occasion, UNESCO, in cooperation with *Aide et Action*, is organizing a panel discussion on 'Building the bridge between research, policy and practice' at UNESCO Headquarters (Room IV, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.).

The intent is to foster communication among researchers, policy makers and practitioners and to discuss innovative ways of bridging the disconnect between research and practice on inclusive education for persons with disabilities. Panelists, with distinct backgrounds and experience, will present their work and generate ideas on how to better align research findings with pressing policy questions and programme implementation in the field of inclusive education for persons with disabilities.

More information on inclusive education is made available at: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/inclusive-education/>
Please also find hereafter the link to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=14&pid=150>.
Contact: Ms Florence Migeon (f.migeon@unesco.org) and Ms Mariana Kitsiona (m.kitsiona@unesco.org).

28 November 2013 - UNESCO Meeting to Support a National Law on Disability Rights in Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

Organized by the UNESCO Jakarta Office, this meeting provides an opportunity to discuss a Bill on disability, bringing in disabled people organizations' voices to the drafting process, and mobilizing the People's Representative Council to gauge Members' support to disability rights.

No less than 150 participants will gather on the eve of the International Day of People with Disability (3 December), at which UNESCO will present the result of research on the current legal framework and propose recommendations to the Bill.

I have no doubt that many organizations active in the field of disabilities will be interested in this event, and I encourage you to inform your national branches or national representatives in Indonesia who could eventually participate.

More information can be found [under this link](#).
Contact: Mr Charaf Ahmimed (c.ahmimed@unesco.org)

2 to 4 December 2013 - Global Forum on Media and Gender, Bangkok, Thailand

This forum is a pioneering global event that intends to address gender equality and women's empowerment in and through the media. A key outcome of the forum will be the establishment of a Global Alliance on Media and Gender, which will coordinate systematic follow-up to one of the critical areas of concern of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) "Women and the Media Diagnosis".

It is expected that representatives of media houses, broadcasting and journalists' unions/associations, NGOs advocating for gender equality and women's empowerment, and other related training institutions, policy makers, relevant government bodies will attend this event.

For more information on this event please [click to view](#) the official website for the forum, or our website [under this link](#).

Contact: Mr Alton Grizzle (a.grizzle@unesco.org)

UNESCO Publications

- The *United Nations Creative Economy Report 2013, Special Edition* was just launched on 14 November at UNESCO Headquarters. This report which UNESCO is co-publishing with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) focusses on creative economy at the local level in developing countries. It analyzes and showcases policy and practice, trends and cases drawn from developing countries. It is available in English at the following address: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/pdf/creative-economy-report-2013.pdf>.
- The *World Social Science Report 2013*, entitled "Changing Global Environments", was also recently launched on 15 November at UNESCO Headquarters. Co-published by UNESCO, the Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the Report includes 100 articles written by 150 authors from 41 countries all over the world. The authors find that the impacts of climate change cannot be grasped without understanding the human context in which they unfold. It is available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002233/223388e.pdf>
- The publication *World Heritage agricultural landscapes - N° 69* is available in English [under this link](#). The 19th-century coffee plantations in Cuba, Stari Grad Plain in Croatia, Konso Cultural Landscape in Ethiopia, and the *subak* water management system in Bali (Indonesia): all of these are exceptional examples of an enduring and harmonious interaction. This issue will also present the new sites inscribed onto the World Heritage List in June 2013.
- The publication *The Sacred Garden of Lumbini - Perceptions of Buddha's birthplace* is available in English and Nepali [under this link](#). This publication presents eight perceptions based on the experts' studies. It also incorporates additional information collected from various sources to provide a comprehensive and updated image of Lumbini. Lumbini is one of the most sacred places in the world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric Falt', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Eric Falt