



**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/MSP/INO/2015/2

15 January 2015

Dear Partners,

At the beginning of this New Year, which will also mark the 70th anniversary of UNESCO, I would like to express my best wishes for health, success and happiness to all of you.

Before updating you on forthcoming events that could be of interest to you, allow me to come back to a major event in the relationship between NGOs and UNESCO, which ended the year 2014 – the 2014 International Conference of NGOs, held from 15 to 17 December last.

You were many to take part in the Conference, which demonstrates its importance. 120 NGO partners were represented; about 40 observers among NGOs and representatives of Member States; 340 participants; 30 NGOs participating in the open-space session; 24 nominations for the Liaison Committee.

“Mobilize, raise awareness, to convince and change” were the words resonating throughout the panels taking place around the themes that are important to us such as quality education, youth and safeguarding of cultural heritage, water and sustainable development, or the protection of the environment. The speakers' interventions and the interaction with the audience, as well as the resolution and the recommendations adopted as the outcome of the Conference, lay the foundations for our shared actions for the next two years, nourished by this new momentum.

NGOs also conducted the election of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. As you are aware, Mrs Martine Levy was elected Chairperson of the Conference for a two-year term. The new composition of the Liaison Committee (see enclosed) includes organizations from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America in accordance with the provisions of the Directives, thus confirming our commitment to expanding and strengthening our partnership with NGOs worldwide.

I wish to reiterate to the entire new Committee team the support of the Secretariat, and especially of my Sector, in the fulfilment of its future tasks. We will have soon the opportunity to meet at the first meeting of the Committee to discuss future activities.

If you are interested in learning more about the conference, the results of the election and the texts approved, please visit [this page](#) as well as the [Liaison Committee website](#).

2015 Annual badges

I would like to remind you that representatives of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, whose duties require frequent visits to UNESCO, can have annual badges to facilitate their access to our premises. Thus, the leadership team of an NGO in official partnership with UNESCO may ask for annual badges for its representatives, up to five badges per NGO (except for NGOs whose headquarters are located in UNESCO House). Feel free to send your requests for badges to the Section for Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations (INO) (UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07SP, France, email: ngo@unesco.org).

2 February 2015 - Nominations for the Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science 2015

UNESCO invites non-governmental organizations in official partnership with UNESCO to propose candidates for the UNESCO Avicenna Prize for Ethics in Science 2015. Deadline for the submission of candidates: 2 February 2015 at midnight (Paris time).

The purpose of this Prize is to reward the activities of individuals and groups in the field of ethics in science. The Prize encourages ethical reflection on questions raised by scientific and technological advances - a goal that coincides with UNESCO's priorities. The Prize consists of a gold medal along with a certificate, the sum of US\$10,000, and a one-week academic visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Established in 2003 by the Executive Board of UNESCO on the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Prize owes its name to the renowned 11th-century physician and philosopher of Persian origin known in Europe as Avicenna (980-1038). A healer and a humanist, Avicenna developed an exemplary holistic approach that captures the essence of ethics in science and has thus come to serve as a source of inspiration for the promotion of this concern, which is of central importance to UNESCO.

You will find all information on the Prize and the submission of candidatures following [this link](#).

Contact: Mrs Dafna Feinholz (avicenna.prize@unesco.org)

23 – 27 February 2015 - Mobile Learning Week (MLW) 2015 - UNESCO Headquarters, Paris

Co-organized by UNESCO and UN Women, MLW 2015 will explore how mobile technology can be leveraged to improve education and accelerate the learning of women and girls. The event will support discussion around four focus areas: equitable access, gender-sensitive content and pedagogy, literacy and skills development.

The principal aim of MLW 2015 is to ensure that newly affordable technologies -- from basic mobile handsets to the newest tablet computers -- open doors to educational opportunities and promote gender equality, both in education and

beyond. The planned events during this week will feature: workshops (Monday, 23 February); symposium (Tuesday and Wednesday, 24-25 February), policy forum (Thursday, 26 February) and research seminar (Friday 27 February).

MLW, now in its fourth year, attracts participants from around the world. UNESCO and UN Women look forward to welcoming you to Paris for this important event. You can register now!

Additional information is available at the following website:
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/themes/icts/m4ed/mobile-learning-week/>

Contact: mlw@unesco.org

8 March 2013 – International Women’s Day

On the occasion of this Day, UNESCO joins forces with international and regional partners to launch the annual “Women Make the News” (WMN) initiative, which aims at fixing attention on an issue relating to gender equality in and through the media, driving debate and encouraging action-oriented solutions until global objectives are met. Annually, UNESCO and its partners invite a diverse range of print and broadcast media, as well as NGOs working in the field of gender and media, to debate a particular theme, to share their stories and experiences, articles, interviews, and TV and radio programmes dedicated to the year’s theme.

Other events will be also organized at UNESCO Headquarters and in our Field Offices, including an International Conference on the theme “Beijing +20” on 4 March in Paris followed by a concert of women composers.

Celebrated over 100 years ago and proclaimed by the United Nations in 1977, International Women’s Day has grown into a global celebration of past struggles and accomplishments of women, and more importantly, an opportunity to look ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.

I encourage NGOs to join in the events that will be organized within the framework of this Day and during the WMN campaign and then to report to us on their respective experiences. Your events will be posted in the section dedicated to NGOs on the web site of Member States: www.unesco.int.

For more information concerning the WMN Initiative, please consult [this site](#). Relevant information on the celebration of the Day will be available soon on UNESCO website.

Contacts: Mrs Gülser Corat (gender.equality@unesco.org) and Mr Alton Grizzle (a.grizzle@unesco.org) for the WMN Initiative.

UNESCO Publications

- The *World Heritage Web Calendar 2015* (28 pages) is available in Japanese, Chinese, French, English and Spanish. Done in cooperation with Panasonic, it presents beautiful photographs of World Heritage sites and can be easily downloaded for personal computers, Ipads and Android

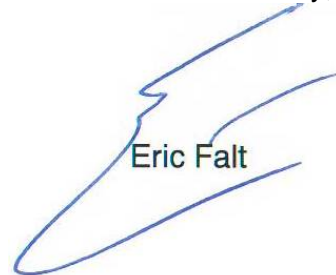
devices. More information and downloading instructions are available at the following website:

http://panasonic.net/promotion/UNESCO_worldheritage_calendar/en/index.html

- The second Ebook, titled *Gender Perspectives in Case Studies Across Continents: Volume II*, published by the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender, is available in English. This volume comprises case studies from nine countries that address challenging global priorities: gender gaps in education, women's livelihoods and political voice, confronting domination, and activism across the decades. The authors are UNESCO Chair-holders, and Partners and affiliates of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture and Development. You can access the document [here](#).

Finally, I am pleased to announce the admission of [Ramakrishna Mission](#), an organization based in India, to official relations with UNESCO as a foundation. By clicking on its name, you will be redirected to its website for more information. I welcome them and this opportunity to extend even further our network of partners.

Yours sincerely,



Eric Falt