The year 2017 started with many positive developments for Africa spearheaded by the 28th Ordinary Session of Heads of State and Government and the African Union Summit. This year, new chairpersons were elected for the African Union and the African Union Commission (AUC) as well as commissioners of several departments. UNESCO also participated at the 18th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) with the theme ‘UN System Support to Harnessing Demographic Dividend through Investments in the Youth’ from the 25th - 26th of March 2017 in Dakar, Senegal.

Regarding programmes, it is worth mentioning that a lot was done and is featured in this issue.

Yumiko Yokozeki
OIC, UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office; Director, IICBA

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A meeting was organized from 28 February - March 01 aiming at refining the CSE draft annual work plan for 2017 of 12 Colleges of Teacher Education (CTEs) in Oromia, formulated in August 2016. Total of 25 participants attended the meeting of which 23 were from the CTEs of the Oromia Regional State. The meeting was officially opened by Ms Malebogo Bowe, the UNESCO Liaison Officer on behalf of the Director of the office. In her speech, Ms Bowe, highlighted the importance of CSE and the responsibilities of the participants in formulating a refined and doable plan. CTEs were clustered into four groups for their future CSE undertakings and in order to develop their work plans:

1: Robe, Bule Hora and Adola
2: Assela, Chiro and Fiche
3: Jimma, Mettu and Sebeta,
4: Nekemte, Dembi dolo and Shambu

The cluster groups discussed the draft work plan and developed their own respective plans. Each group presented its final CSE plan, which was discussed in a plenary session. It was agreed that the CTE cluster leads will finalize and share the work plans with UNESCO.

Why CSE? UNESCO’s new strategy, Education for Health and Well-being, provides the overarching framework for concerted action by UNESCO and its partners at global, regional and country levels during 2016-2021. While the strategy reflects UNESCO’s continued commitment to HIV, it also reflects the shift towards situating HIV within the framework of comprehensive sexuality education. Furthermore, UNESCO recognises that the education sector cannot achieve better health and well-being alone and thus will support education sector collaboration with other sectors and with the health sector in particular.

Consultation Meeting on CSE

A consultation meeting on CSE was held on 27 March 2017 attended by UN agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO), government institutions, such as the Federal Ministry of Education and religious institutions like the Muslim Development Agency and other partners. The meeting was officially opened by Professor Alaphia Wright, the Director a.i. of UNESCO Addis Ababa Liaison Office.

The aim was to strengthen the stakeholders’ common understanding and build a first phase consensus on CSE.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation country representative, Mrs. Yemeserach Belayneh also made a key note address highlighting the genesis of the Foundation, why they have an interest in CSE and why it preferred to work with UNESCO.

Radio Talk Show on the challenges of reproductive health for youth

Fully cognizant of the role the community plays in mitigating the challenges of the reproductive health of the youth, a talk show was organized by UNESCO with Radio Fana, a national radio station, with wide coverage and many listeners.

The programme was transmitted in Afan Oromo on 5 regional FM stations in the last week of March and early April of 2017 for two weeks at intervals, which included spot messages as well.

The participants of the talk show were the CSE focal persons in the three pilot CTEs, experts from the Oromia Education and Health Bureaus, families and individuals who follow the programe.
World’s Largest Lesson

24 April 2017, Butajira, SNNPR: H.E. Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minister of Education, delivered a lesson on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to students in Meqicho Primary School, SNNP region as part of the World’s Largest Lesson initiative.

The primary aim of the initiative is not only to raise awareness but also engage children across 100 countries in an effort to achieve the SDG’s. Interestingly, Ministers of education in the respective countries are also engaged to create a more realistic and hands on approach.

It is imperative to note that the implementation of SDGs takes up a more Societal approach comprising of members such as education official to teachers.

H.E. Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam, stressed that SDGs are paramount international commitment as highlighted by the Ethiopian Government, which has outlined in the 17 SDGs in its Growth and Transformation Plan.

In addition, Dr. Yumiko Yokozeki, the Director of Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), explained the key role of UNESCO in the achievement of SDGs in areas such as Education, Natural Sciences and Human Sciences.

Importantly, the General Education Quality Improvement Project and a National Gender Equity Strategy, which strengthens the position of the girl child to access education, compliment the plan. Ethiopia has made progress towards universal primary education with a net enrollment of averagely 94% for boys and 90% for girls. However, the progress is challenged by regional disparities and the low rate of completion of the programme.

“...The Ethiopian Government has reflected the 17 SDGs in the Second Growth and Transformation Plan to realize its implementation. Today, we need to underscore the importance of all SDGs for the students who will have the big stake.”

H.E. Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam

H.E. Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam, Minister of Education, delivers a lesson on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to students in Meqicho Primary School.
The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) in partnership with the Swedish UNESCO National Commission, Swedish Embassy in Addis Ababa and UNESCO Bureau of Strategic Planning visited the Addis Ababa Liaison Office, end of March 2017. Programmatic presentations on the main ongoing activities were made to the delegation.

The purpose of the field trip was to better understand how UNESCO operates in the field and how results generated at the country level are reported upon.

SIDA visited the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Lake Tana, a school, as well as the UNESCO Green Academy in Bahir Dar, including boats-trip on Lake Tana and to the Zege Peninsula.

The visit gave SIDA, the Swedish Embassy and the Swedish National Commission an insight of the ongoing UNESCO work and plans in Ethiopia.

The Quest 4 Africa Steering Committee produced concept note for external communication and Terms of Reference were developed, and approved by member organizations.

Meetings were held at the Horn of Africa Regional Environmental Center & Network (HOAREC), Ethiopian Young Academy of Sciences (EtYAS), the European Union Delegation and the UNESCO Liaison Office.

Tentative dates of **16-17 February 2018** has been set for Quest 4 Africa IV.

Quest for Africa is an annual event series with major youth participation that allows young people to actively contribute to achieving the UN SDGs based on ‘turning from rhetoric to action’.
Publications, feasibility studies, reports, guidelines produced


CULTURE

Capacity-Building Workshop for Experts on the World Heritage Sites

A Capacity Building Workshop for experts working on World Heritage sites was co-organized by UNESCO and ARCCH in Debreberhan from 6 to 10 March 2017. A number of professional research papers related to conservation of cultural heritage were presented from AAU, ARCCH and UNESCO. The workshop participants benefited from the capacity-building workshop in the fields of conservation, protection and promotion of the World heritage sites. Upon completion of the training, certificate of participation was handed over to participants.

The EU Funded Project: Promoting the Contribution of World Heritage for Sustainable Development and Reinforcing Capacities for Protection and Conservation

In the framework of “Promoting the Contribution of World Heritage for Sustainable Development and Reinforcing Capacities for Protection and Conservation of Paleontological Sites in Ethiopia”, funded by the European Union (EU), a team of Consultants undertook a mission to conduct a baseline study.

The study was done by a team of consultants who have produced and submitted the first draft, which is currently under review.

The study contains, defining the actual and potential areas mapped with GPS co-ordinates, propose the core and buffer zones; identify traditional and legal frameworks needed for the protection of the site; identifying additional values; identify tourism attractions for tourists and educational purposeless; Analyze and interpret information related to the sites values and landscape attractions; and prepare a sketch plan for the establishment of the two interpretation centers at the Lower Valley of Omo and Lower Valley of Awash.

Celebration of the Victory of Adwa

On March 02, 2017, Assistant Director General of UNESCO, Culture, and Director of UNESCO Liaison Office participated in the 121st Anniversary of the Battle of Adwa. The Battle was fought between the Ethiopian army under the command of Emperor Menilek II and Italian colonial forces on 1 March 1896, at the plateau of Adwa located in north-central Ethiopia.

The victory had further significance for being the first defeat of a European power by African forces during the colonial era. The Government of Ethiopia would like to establish the Pan-African University in commemoration of African anti-colonial struggle.

SOME UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN ETHIOPIA

Town of Yeha

While a lot of emphasis is given to the likes of Axum and Lalibela as historical attractions in Ethiopia, little is said or written about the town of Yeha.

Fasil Ghebbi Gondar

(Royal Enclosure) is the remains of a fortress-city within Gondar, Ethiopia. It was founded in the 17th and 18th centuries by Emperor Fasilides.

Battle of Adwa

The Battle was fought between the Ethiopian army under the command of Emperor Menilek II and Italian colonial forces on 1 March 1896, at the plateau of Adwa located in north-central Ethiopia. The victory had further significance for being the first defeat of a European power by African forces during the colonial era.

Fasil Ghebbi Gondar
Since its inception in 1999, the RCM has evolved to become the instrument for coordinating United Nations System support to Africa. A development of a framework for a renewed UN/AU Partnership on Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA) has also spearheaded the initiative.

UNESCO participated in the 18th session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) held in Dakar, Senegal, from 25-26 March 2017 under the theme “UN System Support to Harnessing Demographic Dividend through investments in the Youth.”

RCM AFRICA

UNESCO is a member of the following RCM Clusters:

Cluster 1-Sustainable and inclusive economic growth, industry, trade, agriculture and agro-processing and regional integration
Cluster 3-Human capital development, health, nutrition, science, technology, and innovation
Cluster 5- Gender Equality, women, and youth empowerment
Cluster 7- Environment, urbanization and population
Cluster 8- Advocacy, information, communication, and culture (UNESCO is leading a sub cluster on culture)
Cluster 9- Governance, Peace, and security

AISEC Youth Speak Forum

On 30th and 31st March 2017 a group of 350 young Ethiopians gathered in Africa Hall at the UNECA compound to take part in the 2017 AIESEC Youth Speak Forum. This Forum was organized for the purpose of educating the participants on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

On the first day of the forum keynote addresses from various stakeholders were made such as United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President, Mr Peter Thompson, the UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa-Onochie, the European Union (EU) Delegation in Ethiopia Mr Sandy Wade, and Prof Alaphia Wright (UNESCO), and Helen Gamdode, British Council.

Two panel discussions on “Critical Role of Youth in Achieving the SDGs” and “Volunteerism” were held. On the second day, which was a half day event, focused on the most pressing issue faced by youth in our time – the issue of employment. Hence, an “employability skill training” was given by one of Ethiopia’s active recruitment companies, Ethiojobs. Workshops on the basics of entrepreneurship were given. Topics covered during the workshops were Decision Making; Team Management & Coaching; Customer Centered – Creative – Critical Thinking; Data Collection & Analysis; and lastly, Mobilizing Funds (where the Global Money Week was celebrated as well).
UNESCO HOSTS ITS FIRST AFRICAN UNION YOUTH VOLUNTEER (AUYV)

Okwaroogoma, Ononuju, from Nigeria is a development enthusiast and a passionate volunteer who is committed to creating positive change through volunteering. He is an African Union Youth Volunteer (AUYV) with the UNESCO Liaison Office to the AUC and ECA. He is a graduate of International Law and Diplomacy and has a Masters degree in Peace and conflict studies. He started his placement with UNESCO on 1 March 2017, for a period of 1 year.

This pilot placement is planned to be replicated to other UNESCO field offices in the future, as part of UNESCO support to the AUC programme and its contribution to capacity building of skilled African youth in the continent.

AU-YVC is a continental development program that recruits and works with youth volunteers, to work in all 54 countries across the African Union. It promotes volunteering to deepen the status of young people in Africa as key participants in the delivery of Africa's human development targets and goals.

Friendly football match played by UN vs French and the Italian Embassies

UNESCO (together with other UN Staff), played against the Italian and French embassy (community) on Thursday 1st June 2017, at the Italian Cultural Institute compound. After having a total of 7 Matches played with two teams for 10 minutes or 2 goals base result, UNESCO emerged in the 2nd position (won 3, draw equal 2 and lost 2 matches) following the winners French team, while the Italian team took the 3rd position.