The Assistant Director-General
for External Relations and Public Information a.i.

To Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO

29 August 2018

Ref. : ERI/MSP/2018/22

Sir/Madam,

I hope you enjoyed a nice summer break.

As mentioned in our email on 2 August, the report of the 5th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions held from 19 to 21 June last, in Diani, Kenya, as well as the presentations made during the meeting are available now at UNESCO.int under this link.

The 205th session of the Executive Board, which is scheduled from 3 to 17 October 2018, is fast approaching. While the provisional agenda and timetable of work for this session will be available online soon, I would like to inform you that the traditional morning meeting of the National Commissions will take place immediately after the plenary session, on 9 and 10 October, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am, in Room IX at UNESCO Headquarters. More details of the meeting will be communicated to you in due course.

I should be very grateful if you would confirm your participation through the network of National Commissions mailbox (natcom@unesco.org).

UNESCO Education Sector Monthly Digest – August 2018

I am pleased to share with you UNESCO’s Education Monthly Digest of August, under this link, in which you can find out notably how UNESCO is preparing the future programme for Education for Sustainable Development. The Digest is also available in French and Spanish.

Contact: edknowledge@unesco.org

UNESCO ICT in Education Prize call for nominations now opens

The UNESCO King Hamad Bin Isa Al-Khalifa ICT in Education Prize recognizes innovative approaches in leveraging new technologies to expand educational opportunities by enabling access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, in line with the Education 2030 agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Funded by the Kingdom of Bahrain and established in 2005, the Prize rewards individuals and organizations that are carrying out outstanding projects to improve teaching and learning in the digital age. It calls attention to excellent models, best practices and creative uses of ICTs to enhance overall education performance.
This year the Prize will highlight projects that use integrated solutions that blend commonly used technology with frontier ICT applications, such as breakthrough technology to overcome infrastructure barriers; solutions to reduce the cost of access; online learning innovations; intelligent learning management systems; machine translation; big data; and imagery technology.

Two awards will be granted, and each recipient will receive a monetary award of US$ 25,000 during the Award Ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

Individuals, institutions and non-governmental organizations are invited to approach the National Commissions for UNESCO of their countries or NGOs in official partnerships with UNESCO and complete the online submission form. National Commissions for UNESCO are therefore encouraged to disseminate the relevant information about the Prize, select the best projects and submit up to three nominations to the Secretariat.

Submissions and nominations should be received in English or French via the online nomination platform no later than 31 October 2018. New users should first register.

For more detailed information on eligibility criteria, submission and nomination process, please visit UNESCO ICT in education Prize website.

Contact: ictprize@unesco.org

10 September 2018 – Revive the Spirit of Mosul: International Conference for the Rehabilitation of the City of Mosul, Paris, France

This International Conference is part of the "Revive the Spirit of Mosul" Initiative launched in February 2018 by the Director-General of UNESCO.

Organized by UNESCO in collaboration with the Government of Iraq, this conference will bring together representatives from the Iraqi Government and Member States, leaders of relevant international and regional organizations, development cultural and educational institutions, UN organizations, and representatives of relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations.

The objective of the conference is to mobilize the international community for the reconstruction and recovery of Mosul, to take stock of the current situation on the ground, to announce the creation of the Mosul Revival Trust Fund, and to present a list of major projects that will contribute to the rehabilitation of Mosul's heritage sites, reviving its cultural life and its educational institutions.

You may find out more information about the project via this link.

Contact: Ms Youmna Tabet (y.tabet@unesco.org)


The conference aims at synthesizing recent scientific progress on ocean and climate interplays; evaluating the latest ocean-climate trends within the context of increased ocean action; and reflecting on ways to move “from science to action”.

Organized around four sessions, the event will bring together scientists from multiple disciplines, civil society, businesses, decision-makers and UN entities, to share their expertise on ocean and climate related issues.

More information about this conference is available via this link.

Interested participants are invited to register online.

Contact: Ms Rejane Hervé (r.herve@unesco.org)

11-12 September 2018 – Partners’ Forum - Structured financing dialogue, Paris, France

UNESCO is showing its willingness to open up more actively to all its governmental and non-governmental partners with the involvement of civil society and the private sector, by organizing the first Partners Forum for two days at its Headquarters.

This event will allow existing and potential partners to learn about concrete cooperation opportunities with UNESCO.

During these 2 days, participants will be able to attend 11 Thematic Forums, around the objectives of sustainable development with testimonies of current partners and examples of financing.

Participants can also make an appointment to take part in “Speed dating” meetings during which the teams at headquarters and in the field offices will present the various programmes and projects to be supported, such as the Education for Girls and Women programmes, the Creative Economy, safeguarding endangered properties, programmes for young people or supporting communication campaigns.

An exhibition at UNESCO Headquarters will highlight achievements realized with partners but also audio testimonies from beneficiaries in the field.

Online registration is open to all members, without restriction of the number of participants.

Contact: Ms Jessica Jeavons (J.Jeavons@unesco.org)

National Commissions’ Community Board – sharing initiatives

- As a follow-up to the 5th Interregional Meeting of National Commissions in Kenya, the 2018 Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO will be jointly organized by the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and the UNESCO Office in Bangkok, from 19 to 21 September in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea. Topics to be addressed at the meeting include: “UNESCO’s place in a changing world”, “Priorities and focuses of UNESCO’s work in the Asia-Pacific region”, “Strengthening cooperation between National Commissions and UNESCO’s Category 2 Centers in the region”, and “Creating synergies and raising the visibility of National Commissions through regional networks”.

UNESCO Publications

- Based on in-depth research conducted by UNESCO-IIEP between 2010 and 2016, in collaboration with its partners, and an analysis of other experiences, the technical guide *Designing and Implementing a School Grant Policy* explores the issues and constraints surrounding the design and implementation of these policies, and presents potential options and approaches. This guide is chiefly intended for planners and administrators (working in ministries in charge of education), policy-makers, and technical and financial partners. This Guide is available in English and in French.

- Themed “Artificial Intelligence: The promises and the threats”, the latest issue of *UNESCO Courier* presents its investigation to the reader, elaborating on several aspects of this cutting-edge technology at the frontiers of computer science, engineering and philosophy. An international regulatory instrument is essential for the responsible development of AI, a task that UNESCO is in the process of undertaking. *The Courier* lends this initiative its support, by exploring different avenues of thought on the subject. The latest Issue is available in six languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabia, and Chinese) under this link.

- The publication *UNESCO’s Commitment to Biodiversity – Connecting People and Nature for an Inspiring Future* highlights some of UNESCO’s biodiversity-related actions and solutions, based on the Organization’s unique mandate and its diverse normative instruments, networks, programmes and partners. These actions have reduced biodiversity loss and improved the lives of many people around the planet. For each thematic challenge, the publication highlights current actions and solutions that have been successfully implemented, as well as suggestions for improvement and innovation. This publication is an invitation to positive action and to trust in our collective capacity and creativity to transform our relationship with biodiversity, by sharing values, solutions and knowledge for our common future. The publication is available in English and in French.

Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (July / August 2018)

I am pleased to welcome to the National Commissions network the following new members:

In Australia, Ms Sue Moore has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Adam Illman.

In Belgium, Mr Lukas Van Damme has been appointed Secretary-General of the Flemish Commission for UNESCO, succeeding Ms Eva Haverans.

In Cabo Verde, Ms Bruno Soumah has been appointed acting Executive Secretary, succeeding Ms Stephanie Brito Duarte.

In Colombia, Mr Carlos Holmes Trujillo Garcia has been appointed President, succeeding Ms María Angela Holguín Cuellar.

In Denmark, Ms Anna Enemark has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Jens Dalsgaard.

In Dominica, Ms Gretta Roberts has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Chandler Hyacinth.

In Georgia, Mr David Zalkaliani has been appointed President, succeeding Mr Mikheli Janelidze.

In Germany, Ms Maria Böhmer has been appointed President, succeeding Ms Verena Metze-Mangold.
In Kiribati, Ms Bwakura Metutera Timeon has been appointed Permanent Secretary, succeeding Ms Kaaro Neeti.

In Panama, Mr Ricardo Pinzón has been appointed President, succeeding Ms Marcela Paredes de Vásquez.

In Sri Lanka, Mr Premalal Ratnaweera has been appointed Secretary-General (since June 2018), succeeding Ms Dhammika Wijayasinghe.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Nicolas Kassianides