Ref.: ERI/MSP/15/26

Sir/Madam,

The 38th session of the General Conference is fast approaching. I have recently sent you by email the invitation to the Second Interregional Meeting of National Commissions on 2 November with its draft programme, as well as the invitation to the welcome dinner hosted by the Korean National Commission on 1st November. I look forward to meeting you soon to have fruitful discussions.

Let me also take this opportunity to draw your attention to one of the important events to be organized during the forthcoming General Conference, i.e. the World Science Day for Science and Development to be celebrated on 10 November. The UNESCO Science Report will be launched at UNESCO Headquarters on that occasion, at an event beginning at 6:30 pm. The Report will be analyzing which development path countries are choosing and how they are balancing support for public good science with the imperative of industrial development and international competitiveness. The UNESCO Science Report will first be published in English, with Executive Summaries in all official languages. Please see more details under this link.

I would like to invite National Commissions to organize a national launch of the UNESCO Science Report in your respective countries. In this connection, please let us know as soon as possible if your National Commission would like to organize such an event in your country.

Contact: Ms Susan Schneegans (s.schneegans@unesco.org) for the UNESCO Science Report.

19 November 2015 - World Philosophy Day 2015

By celebrating World Philosophy Day each year, on the third Thursday of November, UNESCO underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual.

A range of activities will be held around the world to celebrate the 2015 World Philosophy Day. In Paris, discussion will focus on the languages and spaces of philosophy, which cannot be purely academic if it is to contribute to managing social transformations and to intercultural dialogue. Other initiatives are foreseen, for instance, in Dakar, Senegal in partnership with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), in Mexico City at the initiative of the UNESCO Mexico Office, or online at the initiative of the UNESCO Brasilia Office.
This Day concerns everyone for whom philosophy matters and if your National Commission organizes activities or events related to this Day, do not hesitate to inform us.

For more details on this Day, you can consult the following website: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/philosophy/philosophy-day-at-unesco/

Contact: Mr John Crowley (j.crowley@unesco.org)

30 November - 11 December 2015 - 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/CMP11)

Hosted by France in Paris-Le Bourget site, COP21 will bring together more than 40,000 participants, among delegates representing countries, observers and civil society representatives. It will be a crucial conference, as it needs to achieve a new international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C.

Throughout 2015, UNESCO has worked in close collaboration with the French authorities and the overall UN system, including the UNFCCC Secretariat, to prepare a series of conferences, events and exhibits, including at the COP21 venue (Paris-Le Bourget), which you can find under this link.

Please note also that a civil society dedicated space will be organized in Paris-Le Bourget, conceived as a place for debates and knowledge. National Commissions will be duly informed about our programme at our ‘space’ (UNESCO Pavilion) as soon as it is finalized hoping that representatives of National Commissions who will attend COP21 will pay a visit to that space.

Do not hesitate to visit the website of the COP 21 host country (http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en) and the UNESCO COP21 page (http://en.unesco.org/themes/cop21) to get additional information.

Contact: Co-Chairs of the UNESCO Task Force on COP21 and Climate Change: Ms Marie-Ange Théobald, Bureau Strategic Planning (ma.theobald@unesco.org) and Mr Peter Dogse, Sector for Natural Sciences (p.dogse@unesco.org).

30 November - 4 December 2015 - Tenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Windhoek, Namibia

Composed of 24 States and elected by the General Assembly of the States Parties to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Committee meets once every year.

During this session, chaired by Ms Trudie Amulungu (Namibia), the Committee will examine periodic reports of States Parties on the implementation of the Convention and on the current status of elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. It will also consider the inscriptions on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and granting financial assistance from the Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund.

The provisional agenda for the session and all of its working documents are available at the webpage of this session: http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/10COM/

I know that many of you are actively involved in the implementation of the 2003 Convention, and wish you fruitful discussions and achievements at the forthcoming Committee’s session.

Contact: Mme Cécile Duvelle (c.duvelle@unesco.org)
UNESCO Publications

- The new publication *Mobile Phones & Literacy: Empowerment in Women’s Hands* was launched at the Asian Summit on Education and Skills (ASES) 2015 in Bangalore, India on 8 and 9 September and is available in English only under [this link](#). Based on a cross-analysis of nine mobile learning projects in Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal and Somalia and targeted women in rural and slum areas, it sheds light on the extent to which mobile phones can enhance women’s literacy and lead to their empowerment.

- The ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development ‘State of Broadband 2015’ report is available in English only under [this link](#). It provides a global snapshot of where the telecommunications/ICT industry stands with regards to fixed and mobile broadband deployment, affordability and usage, as well as the use of broadband for achieving development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Through the book “Art for Peace”, you will discover the UNESCO art collection. This UNESCO collection came about through gifts from artists, representatives of the member states, visitors and personalities who wanted to support UNESCO. The collection is global and, unencumbered by any thematic constraints, includes all kinds of styles and forms of expression. The publication will be multilingual, being available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and German under [this link](#).

Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (September/October 2015):

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

- In Australia, Mr Adam Illman has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Andrew Thakrah.
- In Cook Islands, Ms Gail Townsend has been appointed Secretary-General succeeding Ms Sharyn Paio.
- In Ecuador, Mr Andrés Arauz has been appointed Minister for Coordination, and Ms Amparo Miranda, Secretary General.
- In Georgia, Mr Giorgi Kvirikashvili has been appointed President, succeeding Ms Maia Panjikidze.
- In Luxemburg, Mrs Simone Beck has been appointed President succeeding Mr Jean-Pierre Kraemer and Mrs Catherine Decker has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Alex Langini.
- In Malaysia, Mr Hon Dato’Seri Mahdzir bin Khalid has been appointed Chairman, succeeding Hon. Tan Sri Muhyiddin Bin Yassin.
- In San Marino, Ms Sara Mancini has been appointed President succeeding Ms Patrizia Di Luca and Ms Silvia Marchetti has been appointed Acting Secretary-General.
- In Singapore, Ms Grace Fu has been appointed Chairperson succeeding Mr Lawrence Wong.
- In Suriname, Mr Robert Peneux has been appointed Chairperson, and Ms Anuradha Kamtasing has been appointed Secretary-General (since August 2015).

Yours sincerely,

Eric Fall