To Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO

21 March 2019

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Sir/Madam,

The 206\textsuperscript{th} session of the Executive Board (3-17 April) is fast approaching. This session will cover several important items related to National Commissions, such as “UNESCO’s strategic transformation”, “Comprehensive partnership strategy”, and “Draft Programme and Budget (40 C/5)”. You may find the provisional agenda and the timetable of work under this link.

As announced in the previous newsletter, the next meeting of National Commissions will take place at UNESCO Headquarters in Room IV, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am of \textbf{10 to 12 April 2019}, in the margins of the 206\textsuperscript{th} session of the Executive Board. Please find enclosed the provisional agenda of this meeting.

**UNESCO Education Sector Monthly Digest – March 2019**

I am pleased to share with you UNESCO’s Education Monthly Digest of March, under this link, in which you can find out the latest news of the 2019 Mobile Learning Week and other interesting stories around the world. The Digest is also available in French and Spanish.

Contact: edknowledge@unesco.org


The World Summit on the Information Society Forum is a global UN multi-stakeholder platform facilitating the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines for advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, in close collaboration with all WSIS Action Line co-/facilitators and other UN organizations. It represents the world’s largest annual gathering of the “ICT for development” community.

In 2019, WSIS will celebrate its 10\textsuperscript{th} anniversary of the establishment of WSIS Forum under the theme “Information and Communication Technologies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals”.

The Forum will comprise a High-Level Track (9-10 April), a WSIS prize ceremony and the Forum Track, which will offer special tracks on ICTs and Sports, Extended Reality for SDGs, WSIS Innovation track, Youth in ICTs, ICT Solutions for SDGs, a hackathon and a new edition of TEDxGeneva. For more information about the WSIS Forum 2019, please visit its homepage via this link.
30 April 2019 – Deadline for the submission of nomination for the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development

The UNESCO-Japan Prize was established in 2014 in the framework of the Global Action Programme on ESD (GAP), and is generously funded by the Government of Japan. The Prize annually rewards three outstanding projects and programmes promoting Education for Sustainable Development.

Governments of all Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO, are invited to nominate up to three individuals, institutions or organizations engaged in ESD for the 2019 edition.

Nominations must be written in English or French and need to focus on a specific ESD project or programme of the nominee. Projects must have been running for at least four years, already show evidence of a high impact, be easily replicable and scalable and contribute to one or more of the five Priority Action Areas of the Global Action Programme on ESD as well as to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The deadline for submission is 30 April 2019 (midnight, Paris time). Nominations must be submitted at this link, only accessible to UNESCO Member States and NGOs in official partnership. User guides for the online nomination platform as well as replies to Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the Prize website.

Contact: esdprize@unesco.org


UNESCO International Water Conference, entitled “Leveraging intersectorality for sustainable water security and peace”, will provide a platform for the gathering of stakeholders and for the encounter of disciplines. Together, they will highlight the need for an intersectoral approach to the governance and management of water resources, with the aim of providing economically, socially and environmentally sustainable solutions and contributing to water security and peace.

The UNESCO International Water Conference will promote a cooperative process based on networking and partnerships between stakeholders. In order for the process to effectively operate and for collaboration to grow, participation will be diverse and will include government representatives, policy and decision makers, corporate executive officers, entrepreneurs, innovators, representatives of international organizations, scientists, donors, and civil society at large.

Registrations for the Conference are free and open to the public. National Commissions are therefore encouraged to disseminate this information with your partners and stakeholders.

For more information and to register for the event, please visit the webpage of the conference.

This Conference will be followed by the seventh World Hydropower Congress organized by the International Hydropower Association from 14 to 16 May, which you are invited to attend as well.

Contact: Mr Youssef Filali-Meknassi (WaterConference2019@unesco.org)
UNESCO and the Government of China will co-organize an International conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Education to study emerging AI technologies and innovative practices of the use of AI in education.

The Conference aims to provide a platform for Member States, international organizations, civil society, and the AI industry to:

- debate on fundamental questions about what sort of human-machine collective intelligence should be developed in order to enable human to live and work together with AI;
- exchange information on the latest trends in AI and how the trends are shaping education and learning;
- assess lessons learned from national policies and strategies for leveraging AI to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4; and
- strengthen international cooperation and partnership for promoting equitable, inclusive, and transparent use of AI in education.

The Conference is expecting more than 500 participants, including high-level representatives from each Member State, representatives of UN agencies and international organizations, leaders of the AI industry, academic experts, policy makers and practitioners. Participation in the Conference will be by nomination or by invitation.

The concept note and the provisional programme of this Conference are available under the homepage.

Contact: aied@unesco.org

UNESCO Publications

- UNESCO and the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes, working in partnership, have developed a publication *Strengthening the rule of law through education: A guide for policymakers* to assist policymakers in developing policies and programmes that promote the rule of law through education. This guide contains guidance and examples of good practices on how the education sector, as a whole, can help young people become engaged and constructive citizens, making ethically responsible decisions in their daily lives and acting with empathy and respect for others. This joint project contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda - particularly the goals for education and fostering peace, justice and strong institutions and complements other editions in the series of educational resources on specific challenges for youth.

- The No. 90 Issue of World Heritage Magazine looks at specific cases of actions at World Heritage sites that have benefited and improved their states of conservation. This issue is focusing on cases illustrating how appropriate action leads to improvements and sometimes powerful transformation, both for the site and the people living on or near it. The Magazine is available in English, French and Spanish.

- MOST Discussion Papers series publishes peer-reviewed research reports from specialists in the fields of scientific inquiry prioritized by MOST. These papers are prepared as part of the debates of the international scientific community on these questions. As the first issue of the MOST Discussion Papers series, the book *Intercultural Dialogue: A review of conceptual and empirical issues relating to social transformation* seeks to give an overview of the academic and grey literature on intercultural dialogue in the context of social transformation, in an attempt to support UNESCO’s work in the field.
Appointments of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (February/March 2018)

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

In Bhutan, Mr Jai Bir Rai has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Norbu Wangchuk.

In Brazil, Mr Paulo Vassily Chuc has been appointed Chief of the Division of Cultural and Multilateral Agreement (DAMC), succeeding Mr Gustavo da Veiga Guimarães.

In British Virgin Islands, Mr Natalio Wheatley has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Myron V. Walywn.

In Brunei Darussalam, Mr Dato Hamzah Sulaiman has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Pehin Dato Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, and Ms Shamsiah Zuraini Kanchanawati Haji Tajuddin has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Hajah Romaizah Binti Haji Md Salleh.

In Cambodia, Mr Lim Bunhok has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Tan Theany.

In France, Mr Yves Saint-Geours has been appointed President, succeeding Mr Daniel Janicot.

In India, Mr R. Subrahmanyam has been appointed Secretary-General (since December 2018), succeeding Mr K. K Sharma.

In Jordan, Mr Walid Maani has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Mr Omar Al Razzaz.

In Kenya, Mr George Albert Omorere Magoha has been appointed Chairperson, succeeding Ms Amina C. Mohamed.

In Maldives, Mr Ahmed Mausoom has been appointed Acting Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Aminath Namza.

In Mexico, Mr Esteban Moctezuma Barragán has been appointed President, succeeding Mr Otto Granados Roldán, and Ms María Edith Bernáldez Reyes has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Benito Mirón López.

In Trinidad and Tobago, Ms Sheriza Ali-Sarran has been appointed acting Secretary-General (since May 2018), succeeding Ms Susan Shurland.

In the United Arab Emirates, Ms Noora Al Kaabi has been appointed President, succeeding Mr Hussein bin Ibrahim Al Hammadi, and Ms Salma Al Darmaki has been appointed Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Amal Mohammad Al Koos.

Yours sincerely,

Firmin Edouard Matoko