The Assistant Director-General
For External Relations and Public Information

To Secretaries-General
of National Commissions for UNESCO

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6 September 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are fast approaching the 192nd session of the Executive Board (24 September – 11 October 2013) as well as the 37th session of the General Conference (5 to 20 November 2013).

Furthermore, we are in the process of completing the cycle of regional seminars for National Commissions with the last meeting to be held in Dakar, Senegal (11-13 September).

Let me also inform you about other events that may be of interest to you.

Global Forum on Media and Gender (2-4 December 2013, Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand)

Preparations are underway for the Global Forum on Media and Gender (GFMG), which will take place in Bangkok (Kingdom of Thailand) from 2 to 4 December 2013, spearheaded by UNESCO in partnership with other organisations.

This Forum is a pioneering global event that aims to address gender equality and women’s empowerment in and through the media. One of the key outputs of the Forum will be the establishment of a Global Alliance on Media and Gender, which will coordinate systematic follow-up to one of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, namely "Women and the Media Diagnosis".

The objectives of this initiative are to empower women to express themselves in a better way and to increasingly participate in decision-making processes in and through the media and new communication technologies. It is also meant to promote a balanced and non-stereotypical image of women in the media.

National Commissions are invited to support and encourage their country's participation in this event, notably by bringing the Forum to the attention of senior government officials and other stakeholders who may wish to attend as delegates or as possible speakers.

(Contact: Mr Alton Grizzle, Programme Specialist at A.Grizzle@unesco.org)


The Conference will carry out a stock-taking of the implementation of the Decade and showcase initiatives, actors, networks and ideas that were stimulated by the DESD, as well as examples of good practice.

Just three years before the target date fixed for the Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All (EFA) objectives, and two years after the Rio+20 conference, the Conference will highlight the relevance of ESD for the next set of global education and development goals. It will make concrete contributions to the post-2014 education and sustainable development agendas.

The Conference will be preceded by Stakeholder Meetings in Okayama, Japan, from 4 to 8 November 2014.

The meetings will bring together key groups such as UNESCO ASPnet schools, youth and higher education institutions and provide inputs and recommendations to the World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development.

National Commissions are invited to participate actively in preparations for this global conference. For further information, you may consult the explanatory note of the conference.

New UNESCO publications

_Free Flow. Reaching Water Security through Cooperation_ will be published in English by the UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector with Tudor Rose as co-publisher.

_Free Flow_ will contribute to the objectives of the International Year of Water Cooperation, in particular to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. The publication will draw upon experiences around the world, reflecting how people are changing their interaction with water to improve the sustainability of their development.

The publication will be available in print and electronic forms and will be launched during the IYWC event - Budapest Water Summit 2013 (Hungary, 8-11 October).

_World Social Science Report 2013: Changing Global Environments with Executive Summary_ will be launched in November 2013 on the occasion of the UNESCO General Conference. It will be published in English and French by UNESCO with ISSC (International Social Science Council) and OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) as co-publishers.

Global environmental change – including climate change – has potentially grave consequences for the well-being and security of people all over the world. Warnings about an impending global humanitarian emergency need to be taken seriously by the social sciences. The report urges the international social (including economic and behavioral) science community to engage more directly, effectively and efficiently in societal responses to global environmental change. It is unique, for it showcases the different ways in which social scientists are working on global environmental change issues.

The publication is a compilation of the presentations given on the occasion of the “Pan-African Forum: Sources and Resources for a Culture of Peace”, held in Luanda (Angola) from 26 to 28 March 2013. Through the communications and Action plan adopted by the participants, the Forum proceedings provide a diagnosis of the situation as well as concrete proposals for action.

The publication will be available electronically and will be launched on 21 September 2013 during the International Day of Peace at the African Union in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

Appointment of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (August 2013)

In Argentina, Ms Juliana Burton has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Miguel Vallone.

In Egypt, Dr Hossam Issa, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Higher Education, has been appointed as President, succeeding Dr. Mostafa Mosa’ad.

In the Czech Republic, Mr Karel Komárek has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Michaela Andresová.

In Paraguay, Ms Marta Justina Lafuente, Minister of Culture and Education, has been appointed as President, succeeding Mr Horacio Galeano Perrone.

Yours sincerely,

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