Sir/Madam,

It is a pleasure to present you the latest of our monthly letter (February 2014), which seeks to provide you with UNESCO news that is relevant and might be of interest to you.

Non-Governmental Organizations

2014 will be rich in events regarding our cooperation with civil society. Indeed, some thirty NGOs organize on 6 March 2014, in partnership with UNESCO, an important event at Headquarters under the theme "Education, Sport, Cultural Diversity: new attitudes to promote human rights in the world." Ten project leaders from 5 continents are invited by the NGO Liaison Committee to present before 1000 young people from 18 to 35 years, their successful experience in the field of human rights. I encourage you to mobilize NGOs in your country, official partners of the Organization, for the success of this event.

In addition, an International NGO Forum on the theme of access to safe drinking water for all will take place in Côte d'Ivoire, on 29 and 30 July 2014. A second International Forum on the role of youth in the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage will be held in Sozopol, Bulgaria, from 27 September to 1 October 2014.

To keep you regularly informed of the activities of NGOs, I invite you to visit the Liaison Committee website: www.ong-unesco.org.

8 March – International Women's Day

(Contact: gender.equality@unesco.org)

International Women's Day seeks to shed light on international issues related to the empowerment of women and promotion of gender equality. You are invited to celebrate in your country and share with us your initiatives, which we will post on the Forum of National Commissions (http://www.unesco.org/new/en/member-states/national-commissions-news/).

On this occasion, the Director-General, Irina Bokova, will inaugurate from 7 to 21 March a series of exhibitions of works from the following countries: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Peru and Russia.

The agenda of this celebration will include two conferences at Headquarters. The first conference will be held on 5 March in the presence of the President of the Foundation Quebec Native Women, Ms Viviane Michel, who will honor the women of the First Nations of Quebec and Aboriginal women living in urban areas. The second International Conference on "Women's equality is a Progress for All" will be held on 7 March and will be discussed from the perspective of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). UNESCO has chosen to put the focus on this issue in the context of the UN International Year of SIDS and the 3rd International Conference on SIDS to be held in Apia (Samoa) from 1 to 4 September 2014.

On 8 March, like every year on this Day, UNESCO and its international and regional partners will launch the initiative "Women Make the News". This global initiative seeks to attract the attention of the international community on issues of gender equality in and through the media, to lead discussions on these issues and to support practical solutions until the objectives are met.
21 March – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

This year, the celebration of this day seeks to encourage discussion on how to fight against discrimination, while respecting the individuality of each and every one of us. This is also an opportunity to reflect on ways to fight against multiple forms of discrimination and to find in these differences and individualities forms of equality and recognition of the rights and dignity of all. These topics will be discussed at a special event at UNESCO in Room XI.

I am sure that many of you will celebrate this day, and I urge you to share with us the events you organize, in order to put them on our site Internet unesco.int.

21 March – launch of the 2014 UN Report on the World Water Development


With this latest edition, the flagship report of UN-Water, there is the first in a new series of short thematic reports that will focus each year on various strategic water issues related to the theme given by the UN at the World Water Day (22 March).

The WWDR 2014 provides a detailed analysis of the complex linkages between water and energy in the context of sustainable development. The report describes the possible constraints to water challenges, impacts and possible links with different type of energy production.

Any activity aimed at contributing to the launch worldwide on this day is encouraged. I am sure I can count on your participation in the celebration of this important event in your respective countries.

It is important also to remember that the WWAP is hosted and led by UNESCO and coordinates the work of 28 UN Water members and partners to produce the UN World Report on World Water Development (WWDR).


As a clearinghouse for information and depositary of the best innovative practices organization, UNESCO is a partner of the Netexplo Forum since 2011. It recognizes the increasing importance of the role of digital technologies in its fields of competence.

The next edition will take place at Headquarters of the Organization from 26 to 28 March 2014 to reveal the best of a year of observation of the global digital innovation and imagine new uses for the company. On the agenda, in addition to exclusive interventions of Laureates of Netexplo 100 awards distinguished by its Observatory, international experts will provide insights into the digital world events during the 2014 edition of the Forum.

There will be invited 2,000 guests, 80 participating institutions and companies, the ten 2014 Netexplo Laureates, policy makers and the revelation of the 2014 Netexplo Grand Prix. You are invited to follow the 2014 edition on the website of the event.

UNESCO publications

- 2013/14 Education for All Global Monitoring Report - Teaching and Learning: Achieving quality for all is currently available in English. It describes how policymakers can help and maintain a quality education system for all children.
Climate change in Africa: a Guidebook for journalists is available in English: this practical guide has been written by four media specialists, who took the problems of climate change and the practice of journalism in the African reality.

Appointment of Presidents and Secretaries-General of National Commissions (mid-January - February 2014)

In Comores, Mr Abdoulkarim Mohamed, Minister of Education, Research, Culture and Arts, has been appointed as President, succeeding Mr Mohamed Issimail.

In Curaçao, Ms Irene Dick, Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, has been appointed as Chairperson, succeeding Mr Carlos Monk.

In Denmark, Mr Jens Dalsgaard has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Bodil Mørkøv Ullerup.

In Gabon, Prof. Léon Nzouba, Minister of Education and Technical and Vocational Education, has been appointed as President, succeeding Mr Seraphin Moundounga.

In Liberia, Mr Samuel Hare has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Ms Yah S. Kialain.

In Mozambique, Ms Elia dos Anjos Vaz Bila has been appointed as Secretary-General, succeeding Mr Januário Mutaquiha.

In Myanmar, Dr Kaw Khin San Yee, Minister of Education, has been appointed as Chairperson, succeeding Dr Mya Aye.

In Tunisia, Mr Fathy Jarray, Minister of Education, has been appointed as President, succeeding Mr Salem Labiadh.

Yours Sincerely,

Eric Falt