**WORLD PHILOSOPHY DAY 2010**

in the framework of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures

18 November 2010

UNESCO House
7 Place de Fontenoy /125 Avenue de Suffren
75007 Paris

**Preliminary Programme**

as of 02.11.2010

9:15 a.m. Opening ceremony by the Director-General of UNESCO
*Ségur Hall*

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Symposia and Side Events of World Philosophy Day

5 p.m.-7:15 p.m. International Forum on Philosophy, Cultural Diversity and the Rapprochement of Cultures
Introduction by the Director-General of UNESCO
*With the participation of:* Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Tanella Boni, Barbara Cassin, Mezri Haddad, Sergey P. Kapitza, Edgar Morin, Ghassam Salamé, Tu Weiming, as well as Assia Djebar, Juliana González and Karan Singh (to be confirmed)
*Room I*

7:15-7:30 p.m. Closing remarks by the Director-General
*Room I*

7:30-8:30 p.m. "Philosophy and Music" Concert
by H.E. Mr Miguel Angel Estrella, piano accompanied by Cuarteto Dos Mundos, and
by H.E. Mr Jacques Sagot Martino, solo piano
*Room I*

For further information, please consult the website [www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy](http://www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy)
**SYMPOSIA OF THE DAY**
10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

**Women philosophers and “political correctness”**
10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Room II

*Jointly organized with the International Network of Women Philosophers*


Now that gender has become, in a number of societies, a central or, more precisely a “politically correct”, issue that can no longer be ignored, is it not politically correct to give women philosophers a voice as a basic right that may be claimed even though it is still in fact difficult to enforce that right? Is the Network of Women Philosophers itself not now politically correct? Is this not already a view that makes the Network less unsettling?

With this in mind, we should now like to examine the concept of political correctness itself. It cannot simply be applied to a field of study combining intellectual endeavour and the issue of gender. In particular, it inevitably raises the issue of standards: are the current standards of intellectual work so well (too well?) integrated and internalized by some of us that they prevent us from seeing and thinking?

**The work of Mohammed Iqbal, a proposal for human achievement**
10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Room IV

*Jointly organized with the Esprit and Philosophie Magazine journals*

*With the participation of:* Leili Anvar-Chenderoff, Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Abdennour Bidar, Kais Hammami and Antoine Sfeir

What is the relevance of Mohammed Iqbal’s philosophical thought today? The work of the Indian subcontinent’s most renowned twentieth-century Muslim poet and philosopher is particularly valuable to us today owing, above all, to its outstandingly unique humanism. By undertaking a permanent dialogue between the Islamic and the Western thought, Iqbal places human dignity at such a level of sublimity and sacredness, that its meaning finds a new foundation and future therein. What could be more necessary than such thoughts at the beginning of the twenty-first century when the legacies of civilizations meet and feed each other, no longer rivals but rather friends in dialogue?

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Questioning the notion of civilization: conceptual, cultural and political challenges
10 a.m.-1 p.m. – Room IX
Organized by the Culture Sector (CLT)
With the participation of: Michel Agier, Abdesselam Cheddadi, Blaise Dufal, Christian Jacob and Angelica Montes
The “Civilization in Question” research project, carried out as part of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2010), aims to develop scientific reflection on the idea of “civilization”. This concept, which is being revived in media and political language, encompasses many themes such as culture, society, identity, religion, globalization and progress. In comparing views on classical antiquity, India, the Arab world, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, the research project allows for a fresh approach to this topic and highlights the main intellectual, cultural, ideological and political issues concerning the use of the notion of “civilization”. Such reflection aims to provide political decision-makers and various social partners with critical knowledge and thus improve their grasp of the issues relating to this concept as it is used in various strategies to promote intercultural dialogue.

Questions on the universal and diversity
10 a.m.-4.30 p.m. – Room I
Jointly organized with the journal Insistance
With the participation of: Paul-Laurent Assoun, Jacques Barbier, Serge Barbuscia, Fethi Ben Slama, Jean-Jacques Blevis, Michel Cazenave, Judith Cohen Solal, Jean Daviot, Alain Didier-Weill, Anne Dufourmantelle, Eva Füzesséry, Paolo Lollo, Claude Maillard, Denise Maurano, Mitchéléée, Patrick Landman, Eric Marty, Jean-Luc Paliès, Franklin Rausky, Jean-Michel Rey, Frédéric de Rivoyre, Baldine Saint Girons, Bertrand Vergely, Jean-Michel Vives, Kyran Vyas and Jean-Pierre Winter
The notion of universal humanity is historically a recent development. The way in which it first appeared in Europe, in Athens, clearly highlights the difficulty experienced by human minds when confronted with this notion, itself contested in the light of cultural diversity. The history of civilizations repeatedly evinces such opposition, as though, each time, the unveiling of the universal also implied its veiling. The challenge today is to devise ways and means of overcoming the “universal/diversity” dualism by explaining, with the assistance of philosophers, psychoanalysts and artists, how the diverse, the different, the other, can be seen as originating in a universal that is more complex than those bequeathed to us by history.

10th International Meeting on New Philosophical Practices
10 a.m.-5 p.m. – Rooms III, VI, VII, VIII, IX and XII
Jointly organized with the University Institute for Teacher Training (Institut universitaire de formation des maîtres – IUFM) of Créteil and the “Philolab” Association
With the participation of: Marie Agostini, Jean-Pierre Carlet, Pierre Carrique, Claire de Chessé, Edwige Chirouter, Véronique Delille, Nathalie Frieden, Didier Geiger, Gunter Gorhan, Catherine Halpern, Romain Jalabert, Jean-François Nordmann, Jean-Charles Pettier, Nicolas Piqué, Angélique del Rey, Jean Ribalet, Michèle Sillam and Michel Tozzi
The Meeting on New Philosophical Practices affords an opportunity for everyone interested in the practice of philosophy to meet and exchange views. The goal is to make philosophy accessible to the largest number of people in a wide range of places.

For further information, please consult the website www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy
namely in primary and secondary schools, hospitals, prisons, cafés, adult education centres, multimedia libraries, theatres, cinemas, companies, organizations and so on. During the two days of meetings, demonstrations of philosophical practices, round tables, communication and research workshops, film projections and stands will be organized.

**Reason and its struggles: Enlightenment, modern rationalism and revolution, yesterday and today**
10 a.m.-5 p.m. – Room XI
Jointly organized with the Gabriel Péri Foundation, the journal La Pensée, the Study Group on Rational Materialism, the Centre for the History of Modern Thought Systems and the Centre for Studies in Rhetoric, Philosophy and the History of Ideas, from Humanism to the Enlightenment (CERPHI)

*With the participation of:* Alain Billecoq, Olivier Bloch, Antoine Casanova, Jean-Luc Guichet, Jean-Pierre Jouffroy, Jean-Pierre Kahane, Hélène Langevin, Frédéric Lordon, Domenico Losurdo, Claude Mazaucir, Christiane Menasseyré, Pierre-François Moreau, Michel Paty, Pascal Picq, Yvon Quiniou, Magali Rigaill, Jean Salem, Zeev Sternhell, Michel Tort, André Tosel, Yves Vargas and Michel Vovelle

The symposium “Reason and its struggles: Enlightenment, modern rationalism and revolution, yesterday and today” will be a forum for historical and theoretical debate on a struggle that has continued unabated since the advent of the philosophy of the Enlightenment and, even more so, from the French Revolution to the present day. It has been a struggle against irrationalism and, chiefly, against those schools of thought that have taken many forms in the last 200 years in their endeavour to condemn any prospect or likelihood of any in-depth transformation of the dominant order. Since 2000, irrationalism has made inroads into various areas such as politics, social and human sciences, economics, philosophy, natural sciences and the psyche. Depending on its path, irrationalism has taken the form of Providence, biblical creation or subjectivity seen ontologically – both founded upon and causing ontological disorder – as well as insidious forms such as the mathematization of unidentified objects and the modelling of ideological interests.

**Al-Fārābī and the European Renaissance**
2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. – Room X
Jointly organized with the Permanent Delegation of Kazakhstan to UNESCO

*With the participation of:* Shamshiden Abdraman, Suleiman Aldaher, Jakipbek Altayev, Francesco Bandarin (UNESCO), Christian Bonaud, Reza Davari Ardakani, Honoraire Albert Fischler, Rafael Ramón Guerrero, H.E. Mr Papa Momar Diop, Nargiz Pashayeva, Ulrich Rudolph, H.E. Mr Olzhas Suleimenov

Born in the ancient city of Otrar (present-day Kazakhstan), al-Fārābī (872-950) studied science and music in Baghdad, as well as philosophy through the Greeks' *translatio studiorum* to the Arab world. His contribution to world thought will be examined, with emphasis on his study, commentaries and dissemination of the works of ancient philosophers, in particular Aristotle, thus building bridges among different cultures and worlds. Analyses and debates led by renowned specialists will certainly highlight the objectives of the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures.

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LAUNCHING OF TWO UNESCO PUBLISHING BOOKS
2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. – Room II

Launch of the “Intercultural Vademecum” programme, carried out by UNESCO within the framework of the cooperation with the Alliance of Civilizations

Scientific, philosophical, literary and artistic itineraries between the Arab-Muslim and Western worlds (from the seventh to the nineteenth centuries)

*Culture Sector (CLT)*

*With the participation of:* Abdesselam Cheddadi, Alain de Libera, Ahmed Djebbar, Ferial Ghazoul, Katerina Stenou (UNESCO) and Michel Terrasse

Disseminated in print and electronically, this pedagogical toolkit presents, in a straightforward and stimulating way, an intercultural vision of history bringing the Arab-Muslim and Western worlds together. Particular emphasis is laid on the need to recognize the intense interaction among all peoples in the Mediterranean Basin and the ties between them and cultures farther afield in India, Persia, the Arabian Peninsula and Africa.

Arab-Muslim civilization in the mirror of the universal: philosophical perspectives

*Sector for Social and Human Sciences (SHS), in cooperation with the Education Sector (ED)*


This publication, a collection of documented, analytical and illustrated educational fact sheets designed for use in education, the media and civil society, takes a comparative approach as philosophers and educators examine, among other topics, the philosophy of history, the philosophy of religion, the philosophy of sciences and the philosophy of art, in addition to their teaching of intercultural skills.

Composed of five projects, the intersectoral programme “Intercultural Vademecum” is supported by Spanish funds.

For further information, please consult the website [www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy](http://www.unesco.org/shs/philosophy)
SIDE EVENTS
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Exhibition of photographs on the links between the East and the West
Miró Rooms 1 and 2
by the Martin Bodmer Foundation
The exhibition presented from 15 to 25 November 2010 and the debate taking place on 19 November 2010 aim at mitigating the existing ignorance of the impact of both Jewish and Muslim cultures on the development of Europe and reflecting on the issue of their common roots. The public will be able to admire the treasures of the Martin Bodmer collection, one of the most important private collections in the world of papyri, manuscripts and books, situated in Cologny, Geneva.

Philosophy café
Salle des Pas perdus – 3 sessions
Since philosophy is the quest for truth and wisdom, World Philosophy Day will afford an opportunity to provide a public forum for a philosophy café in which the public can engage in dialogue with philosophers on topics of interest. Three sessions are foreseen as follows:

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. – Philosophy, youth and social networks, moderated par Pierre-Laurent Boulanger and Fabien Delmotte, philosophy PhD students, Paris X Nanterre University
12:00-1.30 p.m. – Is philosophical thinking as varied as human cultures?, moderated by Daniel Ramirez, Café des Phares
3-5 p.m. – The role of philosophers in changing societies, moderated by the Association Rencontres et Débats Autrement, with the participation of Geneviève Fraisse and Dany-Robert Dufour, philosophers

Workshops on philosophical practices for children
Miró 3 – 3 workshops
Since the 1990s, UNESCO has endeavoured to draw the attention of the educational community to new philosophical practices for children and to their impact on the quality of education. Practical workshops, in which primary-school pupils will participate, will be held to demonstrate to the general public new philosophical practices designed for children.

10:15-11:15 a.m.: pupils aged 10 to 15 years, Collège international Honoré de Balzac, Paris – Agsas method workshop, moderated by Michèle Sillam
11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: pupils aged 6 to 7 years, Gabriel Péri School, Romainville – Lipman method workshop, moderated by Véronique Delille
2:30-4 p.m.: pupils aged 8 to 9 years, La Source School, Meudon – Tozzi method workshop, moderated by Michel Tozzi

Philosophical e-forum with young philosophers
Miró Room 1 and 2
The e-forum with young philosophers, an innovative initiative, will be launched on Facebook and Twitter a few days before the official celebration of World Philosophy Day to provide, through social networks, a worldwide forum for philosophical discussion by
and for young people. On 18 November 2010, communication tools will be made available to young participants in World Philosophy Day to continue the dialogue started on line on philosophical topics selected before hand by the moderators of the e-Forum.

**Book fair**
**Foyer to Room I**
Stands will be dedicated to booksellers and publishers specialized in philosophy, philosophy for children, anthropology, cultural diversity and the rapprochement of cultures. This book fair aims to emphasize the great variety, including linguistic, of books and documents addressing social and human sciences topics.

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