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GARRY ASLANYAN

Rédacteur en chef par intérim/interim Editor-in-chief

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Un partenariat solide pour un magazine fort

Ce magazine est le fruit de partenariats solides. On imagine difficilement qu'il aurait pu survivre plus de 65 ans sans la bonne volonté et l'esprit des organisations qu'il représente: l'association du personnel de l'OMS et le conseil du personnel de l'ONUG. J'ai accepté d'en assumer le rôle de rédacteur en chef par intérim avec ce même esprit et ce même engagement pour garantir que les liens entre nos deux associations perdurent et prospèrent.

Les partenariats consistent à donner et recevoir, ils cherchent à réunir les meilleures compétences et ressources, ils doivent surtout trouver des terrains d'entente et préserver les intérêts des lecteurs du magazine. Dans mon travail, je mets chaque jour en relation différentes parties prenantes pour m'assurer qu'elles progressent dans le traitement de certaines des maladies les plus négligées, et c'est aussi ce que je ferai pour ce magazine.

Dans ce numéro, nous proposons une grande variété d'articles dont plusieurs sur les technologies de l'information et les Nations Unies. Soyez assuré que chacun y trouvera de son bonheur.

Revue des fonctionnaires internationaux des Nations Unies à Genève et de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé

Strong partnership. Strong magazine.

This magazine is the result of very strong partnerships. It is hard to imagine that it would have survived for over 65 years had it not been for the good will and spirit of its owners – the Staff Association of WHO and UNOG's Staff Council. I have agreed to step into the role of interim Editor-in-chief with that very spirit in mind and with a commitment to ensure that the ties between the staff of the two organizations continue and flourish.

Partnerships are about give and take, they are about bringing the best skills and resources together, they are about finding common ground and keeping the interests of the magazine's audience in mind. In my day job, brokering different stakeholders in global health to ensure they continue to address some of the most neglected diseases is what I do, and that's what I will do for this magazine.

We have a wide variety of articles in this issue with a slight focus on information technology and the UN but be sure that there is something for everyone.

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A New Formula for Innovation: F4F = F²

Usually our minds immediately leap to the world of latest technologies, drones, robots, space launch systems, 3-D printing, smartphones and other hi-tech developments that are shaping the future and changing the world we live in today. You may equate innovation with ingenuity and new products.

**YANA TROFIMOVA, JOINT UNECE/FAO
FORESTRY AND TIMBER SECTION**

**When you hear the word
“innovation” what do you
think of?**

What if I say that innovation is often simply a creative way of experiencing existing products and changing habits?

Would you believe that you can find a new formula for innovation in areas such as food and forests?

As UNECE and FAO celebrated the International Day of Forests 2015 on 20 March 2015, dedicated to the special theme of “Forests for Food – Food for Forests” (F4F or F²), the links between the forests and the food industry were explored, looking for innovative solutions to increase food security, value forest products, support livelihoods of forest communities and prevent deforestation.

With a growing global population, food security is focused on increasing and expanding agricultural production often at the expense of natural ecosystems. Such agricultur-

al expansion combined with the increasing demands for certain food products have detrimental and far-reaching consequences on forests. It has a direct impact on soils, air, water cycle, biodiversity and finally on the CO₂ sequestration potential, thus decreasing the mitigating effect on climate change.

With the issue of food security and nutrition high on the global agenda, it is crucial to explore how forests can contribute to a food secure and nutrition-sensitive world. Forests play an important role in this area through their abundant supply of berries, mushrooms, nuts, honey, herbs, leaves, saps, oils, syrups, fish, wild game, etc. They also provide enormous benefits by protecting soils, preventing erosion, purifying water and conserving biodiversity. Forests also serve as a source of inspiration and food supply for the food and the gastronomic industry.

The celebration of the “International Day of Forests 2015” consisted of a series of events, including a press conference,



Photo: Matthew Fonseca, UNECE Forestry and Timber Section



Photo: Luisa Cassaro, ITC

Italian corner

a conference featuring two roundtables, food tastings from the Italian San Francesco's Woodland, the opening of the "Learning from Forests" exhibition, launching of a new publication and infographic video on forests in the ECE region and the Forest Gala reception, which provided an exceptional opportunity to get a taste of the forests.

The cross-sectoral nature of the event brought together a great number of key experts and senior government officials from the forestry sector, food and beverage industry, gastronomy, academia, international organizations, NGOs, press and media.

Some of the innovative approaches to prevent deforestation and increase food security explored during the conference included:

- being mindful of our eating

habits and promoting a more conscious food culture;

- using certification schemes to ensure that forest products are sustainably sourced;
- shifting from being resource users to environmental stewards through behavioural changes and locally-led solutions to environmental depletion;
- adopting sustainable business practices to reverse deforestation and using forest products in a sustainable way, while enhancing food security, generating economic benefits and improving livelihoods of forest-dependent population;
- exploring the links between food diversity and new gastronomic flavours, yet unknown to the general public; and
- looking for a source of delicious gastronomic inspirations in the forests.

During the celebration of the International Day of Forests 2015, the joint UNECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section also launched a new publication on "Forests in the ECE region: Trends and Challenges in Achieving the Global Objectives on Forests". The publication was based on a study developed as a regional contribution to the session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to be held in May 2015 in New York.

Analysing the key findings from this newly published study showed that while forest cover has been expanding in the UNECE region over the last 15 years (with an increase comparable to the size of the United Kingdom), the income generated by forests and forest-related sectors is declining, the job force is shrinking, and most environmental services of forests are not monetized. Global economic recession, decreasing demands of the housing sector and a decline in newsprint and paper products caused by rapidly developing electronic media have also contributed to a drop in timber production. Employment in the forest sector has fallen sharply throughout the region notably because of higher labour productivity, which is drastical-

ly affecting the livelihoods of people in many indigenous communities and rural forested areas. The study identifies a list of 13 major challenges as well as ways and means to address them. Urgent reforms and innovative solutions are needed to reverse these trends, adapt to the needs of a changing society and realize the potential of increasing wood availability.

Another event organized on the occasion of the International Day of Forests is the "Learning from Forests" Exhibition in the Salle des Pas Perdus from 20 March to 16 April 2015.

The exhibition resembles a walk through the forest and recreates forest ecosystem with examples of its biodiversity. The showpieces provided by the Polish State Forest Agency visualize six values and functions of forests and their essential role in our society (one for each letter in the word "FOREST"), including:

- General characteristics of Polish forests;
- Biodiversity;
- Ecological wood products;
- Tourism and recreation;
- Forest education;
- Nature protection.

The letters are surrounded by 110 living trees supplied by l'Ecole d'Horticulture de Lullier in partnership with the Clean Forest Club. At the end of the exhibition all trees will be donated to the United Nations and planted on the UN Premises.

Don't miss this opportunity to walk through our forest, to listen to the birds in the Salle des Pas Perdus and perhaps you will also invent a new formula for innovation in the forestry and food sectors. But as for now, $F4F = F^2...$ ■

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Umoja

A New Enterprise Resource Planning Software for the Global Secretariat

DANIELA WUERZ, UMOJA GENEVA SITE TEAM

Umoja, which means “unity” in Swahili, is an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution that includes software designed to facilitate and streamline information between all administrative functions of the United Nations Secretariat. The UN Secretariat community intently watches the progressive roll out of Umoja, the once-in-a-generation opportunity for the United Nations to operate more effectively by integrating and streamlining business processes. Umoja will replace multiple and frag-

mented legacy systems, such as IMIS, the previous ERP system, and will also transform how the organization does business and manages its resources.

“Umoja... it is far more than an IT project, it is an organizational transformation that will enable high quality and cost effective service delivery around the world.” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Umoja is already live in all Peacekeeping and Special Political Missions world-wide with more than 300 locations and over 4,000 colleagues global-

ly already using the system to process and manage finance, procurement, and logistics and supply chain transactions.

Currently, Cluster 3 entities (OCHA, UNON, UNEP UN-HABITAT, and ESCAP) are preparing for their Umoja go live date of 1 June 2015. UNOG is in a unique position with one of its clients, OCHA, already going live as part of Cluster 3, while being included in the overall go live of Cluster 4 entities on 1 November 2015. UNOG is investing a lot of efforts in support of the go live of its client OCHA, which directly impacts

operations and service provision in procurement, budgeting, finance, travel and human resources.

As one of the oldest and largest client service centres, UNOG early demonstrated a strong commitment to the implementation of Umoja with the establishment of a Site Deployment Team in November 2013. The site team, which comprises eleven key members, coordinates between UNOG, OCHA and UNHQ in preparation for Umoja deployment. The site team plays a key coordinating role for data analysis, prepara-

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tion, data clean-up, testing and implementing lessons learned from earlier deployment activities to name but a few. Besides the Umoja Site Team, there are more than 50 process experts in UNOG and OCHA Administration that work closely with the Geneva Site Deployment Team, acquiring expertise in their areas of knowledge to

support deployment tasks and train others. As the 1 June 2015 goes live date for OCHA Geneva approaches, UNOG is confident that the support provided to OCHA through Umoja will be efficient and offer a better client service.

The Umoja implementation is accompanied with thorough

training to ensure staff and managers are ready for the transition. Umoja uses a “blended learning approach”, including computer-based training for all staff and instructor-led courses for end users. A Train-the-Trainer approach is also used for end users, whereby designated process experts are trained by the Umoja Project

Team and, in turn, then train end users at their locations.

The Umoja implementation constitutes one of the biggest and most challenging projects the UN Secretariat is currently engaged in and its most important asset is of course its immensely qualified and motivated staff! ■

Where can I find more information on Umoja?

Umoja Website: <https://umoja.un.org> (English & French)
– Deployment Timeline
– News and Announcements
– Project Information
– Videos and Demos
– Staff Resources
– Newsletter
– FAQs
– Training Material

Umoja Page on iSeek: <https://iseek.un.org/umoja>

– Umoja Dashboard Log-In
– Job Aids & Reference Material
– Support Information
– How-to Guides

Umoja on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unumoja>
Umoja on Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/unumoja>
Umoja on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/UnitedNationsUmoja>

What will Umoja achieve?

– Provide the organization with an integrated transactional system
– Replace or integrate numerous existing legacy systems such as IMIS
– Reduce time and resources spent on manual, paper-based processes
– Increase time and resources directed toward programmes that make a difference in the lives of UN beneficiaries

– Equip UN staff with modern technology and enhanced skills
– Enhance accountability, transparency and internal controls for all types of resources
– Improve decision-making and planning capabilities by providing up-to-date reports and data
– Allow staff to learn a new system and a more effective and efficient way to work.



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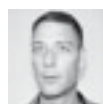
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Nouvelles technologies pour une conduite saine et intelligente

Les voitures au gaz naturel se conduisent comme n'importe quelle autre véhicule. La différence réside dans l'emploi du gaz naturel à la place de l'essence ou du diesel.



© UN Photo / Jean Marc Ferré

EVELINA RIOUKHINA, UNOG

Le fait de substituer les hydrocarbures liquides classiques par le gaz naturel offre de précieux bénéfices environnementaux: comparé au diesel et à l'essence, le gaz naturel, par kilomètre parcouru, émet beaucoup moins de dioxyde de carbone (CO₂), de soufre (SO_x) et d'oxydes d'azote (NO_x). Les émissions de CO₂ s'abaissent notamment quand du bio-méthane renouvelable y est incorporé (40% de CO₂ en moins à concurrence de 20% de bio-méthane). La réduction des nuisances sonores par rapport aux véhicules diesel fait du gaz naturel un carburant idéal pour le transport en zones urbaines.

Dans cette optique, la Commission économique pour l'Europe des Nations Unies (CEE-NU) a organisé un événement inhabituel au Palais des Nations, un test de conduite écologique dont le but était de démontrer que le «bleu» (le gaz naturel) pourrait devenir le «nouveau vert», à condition qu'il soit utilisé de manière innovante et intelligente. Cet événement a été conjointement organisé par M. Branko Milicevic, Secrétaire du Groupe

d'experts du gaz de la CEE-NU, en collaboration avec l'Association européenne du gaz naturel pour véhicules (ENGVA). Les voitures ont gracieusement été prêtées par Gazmobil: Audi A3 SB g-tron, Fiat 500L NP, VW Golf GTI Bluemotion et la Mercedes B200 NGD. Tout le monde a pu découvrir et essayer les voitures. M. Scott Foster, Directeur de la Division de l'énergie durable a lui-même ouvert ces essais. Bien que fervent cycliste, Monsieur Christian Friis Bach, Secrétaire exécutif de la CEE-NU et Sous-Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, s'est également laissé convaincre de prendre le volant d'une de ces voitures au gaz naturel, promouvant ainsi l'exemple pour une conduite intelligente et durable.

Le gaz naturel pourrait être utilisé comme carburant pour n'importe quel mode de transport: véhicules routiers, scooters, poids-lourds, navires, locomotives, et également les avions. Il est certain que les véhicules au gaz naturel ne sont pas des véhicules zéro émissions. Le travail de recherche plus fin en matière des fuites de méthane est nécessaire.

Néanmoins, en raison de leurs avantages environnementaux, économiques et de leur disponibilité, ils sont un substitut prometteur aux véhicules utilisant des combustibles liquides issus du pétrole. Ils représentent également un pas dans la bonne direction: le déploiement du «gaz naturel véhicule» (GNV) crée l'infrastructure qui pourrait être utilisée pour les futurs véhicules électriques ou à hydrogène.

Nous espérons sincèrement que cet essai de véhicules aura permis d'attirer l'attention sur le rôle important du gaz naturel pour un avenir énergétique viable. Nous espérons également que chacun d'entre nous développera une nouvelle réflexion sur une conduite écologique plus intelligente et par conséquent plus saine. Un des moyens de développer la conduite écologique et d'assurer un environnement sain pour chacun d'entre nous est de reconnaître la valeur du gaz naturel, dû à son faible impact polluant, comme alternative réelle et abordable face à l'essence et au diesel. ■



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Access to medicine initiatives

How are pharmaceutical companies increasing access to medicine?



Novartis AG: Mark Tuschman

**DANNY EDWARDS, SENIOR RESEARCHER,
ACCESS TO MEDICINE FOUNDATION**

As the developers and manufacturers of life-saving products, pharmaceutical companies undoubtedly have a role to play to increase the accessibility of medicine and healthcare in low and middle-income countries: they control products that can greatly alleviate disease; they have the expertise to meet the need for new and adapted innovative products; and they have the capacity and ability to strengthen local supply chains and support often-fragile healthcare infrastructures.

But the issue of access to medicine is complex, raising a set of perennial questions, both for the global health community and the pharmaceutical companies themselves: 'How is the pharmaceutical industry performing when it comes to access to medicine?'; 'What are the opportunities for the industry to do more?'; 'What trends are emerging in access-to-medicine policy and practice?'; 'What does good practice look like?'; and 'Which company is the most effective at increasing access to their products?'.

The Access to Medicine Index

To address such questions, the Access to Medicine Index analyses the top 20 research-based pharmaceutical companies and ranks them according to their efforts to improve access to medicine in developing countries. A total of 95 indicators make up a framework within which company performances relating to 47 high-burden diseases in 106 developing countries are compared. The Index analysis brings out best practices and examples, highlights areas where progress has been made and areas where action is required. The Index also acts as

a benchmark for companies to compare their own contributions to improving access to medicine with their peers. In November last year, the Access to Medicine Foundation published the 2014 edition of its analysis.

Point-by-point analysis

The 2014 Index is based on companies' responses to a detailed survey of their policies and practices regarding access to medicine, validated against external sources where possible and appropriate. Following a verification process, the data was assessed at both the indicator and the company level by independent analysts. The task then for the in-house Index research team was to compare these assessments, indicator-by-indicator, company by company, in order to explain the relative rankings, identify trends and isolate important findings and innovations from industry. The resulting analysis was reviewed with the support of external experts, including from the global health, investor and business perspectives.

2014: Key Findings

In 2014, GSK topped the ranking, followed by Novo Nordisk and Johnson & Johnson. Overall, companies were found to be doing increasingly more to improve access to medicine in developing countries, with a raft of new initiatives, scale-ups and innovations launched over the two years of analysis. However, progress wasn't all forward moving. We found it to be static in two important areas: how companies mitigate corruption, and how transparent they are around patenting information.

R&D focuses on 5 diseases

The top 20 pharmaceutical companies are developing 327 relevant products, with five

of these companies accounting for more than half the products in the pipeline. Five diseases within the Index scope (lower respiratory infections, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS and malaria) are targeted by more than half the products in the pipeline. Most companies struggled to demonstrate how new compounds for non-communicable disease would be made available in the countries included within the Index scope. More than half of the 20 Index companies are developing medicines tailored for children, with 7% of the overall research pipeline devoted to "child-size" medicines.

Consideration for socioeconomic factors

When setting prices for their products, more companies than previously are paying attention to socioeconomic factors such as people's ability to pay. Importantly, more are tailoring their prices to different segments of the population within countries. However, issues were found regarding the market registration of products – on average products are registered in 17% of countries in the Index's geographic scope, and in only 8% of low-income countries covered by the Index.

Licensing moves beyond HIV/AIDS

While conservative attitudes remain in some aspects of patenting behaviour, licensing agreements with generic manufacturers increased in number, transparency and flexibility, and two more companies engaged in licensing for the first time. While the overwhelming majority of licenses remain in the HIV/AIDS environment, one company (Gilead) has begun to engage in licensing for hepatitis C.

Donations and capacity building

In other areas such as product donations, the Index found that neglected tropical dis-

eases are the major focus of activity, with more than half of the companies measured addressing one or more of these conditions through structured programmes. Most companies are building a range of local capacities in low and middle-income countries, but many of these activities are short-term collaborations. In addition more companies are supporting local pharmacovigilance systems.

2 billion to go

These findings bring a new level of clarity as to how different pharmaceutical companies approach the complex question of access to medicine: all companies address access issues in different ways – and all

companies have different opportunities for doing more. By illuminating and comparing these differences, the Index determines a set of benchmarks for pharmaceutical companies to use as they adapt and expand their access-to-medicine approaches. By creating a relative company ranking, the Index seeks to stimulate competition among pharmaceutical companies to do more for the 2 billion people worldwide who still lack access to the medicine and healthcare they need. ■

The 2015 Methodology Review

Since publishing the Index, we have been discussing these findings with the companies we measure, and with various stakeholders such as the WHO, at the European Parliament, with governments and with NGOs and Foundations. While we continue these discussions, we have also begun reviewing the Index methodology in preparation for the next edition of the Access to Medicine Index. This involves a re-evaluation of the countries, companies, products and diseases that are included within the Index analysis, as well as an indicator-by-indicator review, to ensure that the Index continues to capture the most relevant data on the changing access-to-medicine landscape in the most effective way possible.

A central plank of our 2015 Methodology Review is engagement with a wide range of people from the global health community with specific technical expertise in the areas covered by the Index. If you are interested in contributing to this process, please contact Danny Edwards (dedwards@atmindex.org). Our research team is also available for further, informal discussions about the Index, its findings and insights.



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A Handbook

The Global Impact of the Maternal and Child Health

In 2000, the United Nations member states adopted the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to set a global agenda for human development.

SHAFI U. BHUIYAN, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
AND RYERSON UNIVERSITY, CANADA

The eight MDGs identify key areas that require international attention including education, environmental sustainability, poverty and health. Goals 4 and 5 specifically address the health of children and women who bear children. These two goals represent a global commitment to reduce the mortality rate for children under-five and the rate of mothers that die giving birth by two-thirds by the year 2015. We are rapidly approaching the MDG's 2015

deadline. Progress in Goals 4 and 5 has been modest, despite the increased investment and efforts of developing nations. For instance, while maternal deaths worldwide have decreased by 47 per cent from 1990 to 2010, the maternal death rate in developing nations remained 15 times higher than developed regions of the world. As such, the global community has already begun establishing the post-2015 agenda in another ambitious push towards addressing the poor health outcomes plaguing mothers and children globally.

It is vital to reflect on the solutions and ideas that have helped the global community make progress in maternal and child health in the past 15 years. We must build off of this progress and learn from the successful innovations of the past to direct development in the future.

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Handbook is one example of how a simple innovation at the community level has had a global impact. Since its inception in Japan

in 1948, the MCH Handbook has become an important tool for improving maternal and child health service delivery. The MCH Handbook contains essential information, kept by the family, to promote and maintain the health of mothers and children. Today, it can be found in more than 20 countries. This simple yet effective tool demonstrates how innovation that is designed with the user in mind can yield impressive results.

Many women and families in developing nations are ill-equipped to access quality maternal, neonatal and child health services. In areas where healthcare is available, there are barriers to access such as low levels of health education and a lack of continuity in maternal healthcare among women and their families. These barriers contribute to poor maternal outcomes, such as increased maternal mortality rates and higher child mortality rates.

Health literacy has been shown to play a vital role in improving these poor outcomes among mothers in developing nations

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where access to healthcare is available. The MCH Handbook is a health literacy tool that equips mothers with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions related to their health and their pregnancy.

The Handbook includes pictorial descriptions and culturally relevant messaging, making maternal and child health knowledge accessible to mothers and families. This knowledge allows individuals to participate in their own care and the care of their children. Studies conducted in Bangladesh, Japan, Palestine, Indonesia, Mexico, Brazil, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and South Korea, among other countries, have documented the impressive impact this tool has had in enhancing the health literacy and knowledge. Are there any numbers that support this claim?

The MCH Handbook is also a two-way communication tool. The MCH Handbook provides users with the opportunity to document health concerns, symptoms and timelines to assist in monitoring their health progress over time. It allows mothers and families to communicate their needs to healthcare providers, becoming active participants in their health decisions.

Moreover, the MCH Handbook allows healthcare providers to document reminders for when expected mothers or children are to access particular health services, for example vaccination. This reciprocal exchange of information between healthcare provider and mother increases the provider's capacity to monitor health status and increases the patient's capacity to understand when to seek medical care. It empowers women to transcend their identities as patients and become active agents and decision-makers in their healthcare. Thus, by mobilizing mothers as the champions of their own health, the MCH Handbook is every bit an empowerment tool, as it is a health literacy tool.

What is perhaps the most impressive about the MCH Handbook however, is the simplicity of its design and the flexibility with which it can be adapted to multiple nations. Because it employs a teaching approach that puts the mother at the centre, the MCH Handbook is a tool that can be adapted for mothers in different regions of the world. Furthermore, by increasing access to maternal health services, the MCH Handbook increases the ability to

record the number of new births in the country's vital statistics and health system and helps the "invisible" babies in these countries become visible. This perhaps provides some insight into why the MCH Handbook has been taken up so enthusiastically by a number of nations around the world.

Today, there is a global community of MCH Handbook scholars (www.mchbook.org) that are documenting and assessing the significant impact this tool has had in both improving health literacy and empowering local mothers. Both of these outcomes will become paramount in addressing maternal and child health needs in the post-2015

MDG agenda. Thus, the Maternal and Child Health Handbook demonstrates how local capacity building, through simple, sustainable innovation, can be used to address global challenges like community health, nutrition education, birth planning, women's empowerment, vital statistics including birth and death registration and health system strengthening, to name a few. This lesson is one that must resonate with global leaders as we enter a new decade of health priorities. ■



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UNOG Assembly Hall Energized by CNN

It is hard to remember when was the last time that the Assembly Hall at UNOG was more energized than at the UNOG hosted Sergio Vieira de Mello debates this past March.



Photo: Garry Aslanyan

**GARRY ASLANYAN, WHO
GUILHERME SANCHES LIRA,
UNIVERSIDADE ANHEMBI MORUMBI,
BRAZIL**

This year, the theme of “Leadership Challenges in a World in Turmoil” attracted big crowds. CNN’s Christiane Amanpour examined current global issues with two United Nations High Commissioners – António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The world in turmoil and some would say on fire, lacks leadership to deal with all of the challenges. That was the scene setting for the debate.

The presence of the CNN’s Chief International Correspondent, Christiane Amanpour, herself a veteran reporter from conflicts all over the world, as the moderator of the debate was unprecedented. The episode was filmed right there and then broadcasted later the same evening. The joint organization of this Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation jointly with the Geneva Graduate Institute was in honour of thinking, philosophy and at work of Sergio Vieira de

Mello. Sergio, a Brazilian, had a long and distinguished UN career and dealt with refugee and human rights issues in dozens of places around the world: from Bangladesh, Cyprus and Mozambique in the 1970s, through to Peru, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Timor Leste in the 1990s. After many years with the High Commissioner for Refugees, he was appointed UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2002. One year later, while also acting as the UN Secretary General’s Special Representative in Iraq in 2003, he was tragically killed in a Baghdad terrorist attack. The fact that he worked with both men who were interviewed by Christiane made it very close and personal for them and provided for an honest and open debate.

António Guterres worked with Sergio when he was Portuguese Prime Minister (particularly on the Timor Leste issue at the turn of the millennium) and Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein worked with Sergio when he worked for the UN in Bosnia in the early-1990s. Finally, it is more than likely that Christiane Amanpour also

met Sergio several times during their postings in the Balkans, through the break-up of Yugoslavia.

Christiane skilfully made sure that both Commissioners brought their views from their different roles and positions. They covered some difficult issues such as the crisis in Syria and how the world is getting an F grade in handling it, to immigration to Europe and human rights in the Middle East and elsewhere. The two High Commissioners gave their views on how we can get better leadership to address this human suffering much more effectively and in an extremely diplomatic and positive manner. It was a privilege to be in the room and feel the energy with the questions, answers and discussions. It was clear that bringing UN issues to CNN and CNN to the UN made the messages stronger and louder for the audiences. This was especially that way because the way it was done by Christiane Amanpour who has reported from so many of these humanitarian emergencies. ■

SWISS EDUCATION GROUP REVOLUTIONISES HOSPITALITY EDUCATION BY TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES



Staying true to the excellence of the Swiss hospitality tradition, the Swiss Education Group (SEG) is a world-class hospitality education network, held in high esteem by the tourism and hospitality industry. Clearly focused on the future and aware of the challenges that upcoming young professionals will face in a world where technology is reshaping the design and organisation of work, SEG has made it a priority to innovate and adapt to the market trends. With the goal of fostering the development of skills required in the hospitality industry today and the future, SEG is committed to offering the best educational experience through an innovative approach that sets new educational standards. Recently SEG embarked on an ambitious programme providing its entire student and teacher body upgraded infrastructure, high tech equipment and knowledge while further rejuvenating dedicated learning and teaching content. This Educational Revolution is taking place throughout all five Swiss Education Group schools. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure that students and faculty accelerate their education experiences with direct applications to the hospitality industry while remaining at the forefront of cutting-edge teaching and learning technology.

One student, one iPad

The Swiss Education Group was the first hotel school worldwide to offer a 1-1 tablet education. By the end of 2014, it had equipped its entire student body with advanced iPads with dedicated educational content that revealed a revolution in the field of hospitality education. The project aims to transform the educational experience for students, bringing the latest technological advances to the classroom and aligning education with the realities of the industry today. Although the core of a hospitality education will remain unchanged, introducing the tablets supports and enhances teaching practices and makes for a far more personalised, interactive and rewarding learning environment. All iPads are pre-installed with a set of applications for managing and manipulating documents, multimedia and educational content-based applications. Other applications can be added according to each individual's needs and content will be generated in each area of learning through using the technology.

Lecturers merge industry experience

SEG's lecturers share a firm commitment to excellence and a passion for hospitality education as they have worked in the hospitality industry around the world bringing their knowledge to the classroom and enriching the learning experience with a practical perspective. Continuing education programmes have been implemented with hotel groups and the University of Derby enabling faculty to experience new industry practices. This allows students to receive information on what is happening in the markets today with an insight of what may happen tomorrow and which measures and planning should be implemented in future projects. The Learning & Training pillar of the SEG Educational Revolution has inspired a huge rush of energy moving into the classrooms, demonstrating a clear pedagogic shift from traditional lecturing to student-centred learning. Across SEG schools, students are no longer viewed as consumers of knowledge but rather active producers of information that are engaged, supported and equipped for their future.

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The United Nations and Harnessing the Might of Technology to Advance Humanity

The United Nations has a foremost role in leading the world to provide better living conditions to more than 7 billion inhabitants of planet.

MAHMOUD HAMMOUD, UNOG

Almost all of modern life improvements are obtained through modern technologies such as the internet, mobile phones, drones and robots. That in mind, it does seem to be contradictory that the UN itself is using at its Geneva headquarters some software that is many decades old and unarguably largely outdated like the infamous Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). Hopes are that the new "Umoja" would ensure "streamlining of UN administrative processes facilitated by the implementation of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software".

IMIS is too old and user unfriendly. But once you have learned how to use it for the specific function you need it for, it does the job at the end of the day. It is painful, and learning how to use it takes mostly place at the time-monger "Trial and Error Academy".

The UN has been long promising its staff that the new Umoja will solve the IT issue and make the working much easier. I am sure you are now wondering what on earth Umoja stands for. Well it is not an acronym. Umoja means 'unity' in Swahili,

a wonderful language derived from Arabic and Bantu, widespread in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and other East African countries. There is a dedicated Facebook page for the new system, and it says that "the name reflects its goals: to improve our business processes, to align them with commonly accepted best practices and thus enable us to work together more effectively". That page was created back in 2008, but looking at unmoja.net, it seems like the first deployments of 'the script', as Information Technology (IT) gurus call it, only started in 2013. To this date, Umoja has not been deployed in New York or Geneva headquarters. It is scheduled for November 2015, seven years after the software was announced on the major social media (which itself maybe only came many years after Umoja was conceived in the womb of the UN IT Department in New York).

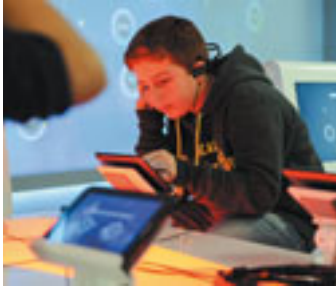
According to the same Facebook page, "Umoja will harmonize and centralize access to important data across all UN duty stations." As this sounds to be a 'real big thing', it seems that MINUSTAH, (United Nations Stabilization Mission

in Haiti) in Port-au-Prince and UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi) in Kenya had to serve as test labs back in 2013 and 2014, before it is rolled out to Geneva or New York. It is indeed common practice to first roll out new software to a small group of users called the "pilot" before going for deployments to large groups, potentially with far more reaching impact on the organisation. But if that is the case, why are hundreds of UN offices from Geneva to New York all planned to go live on 1 Nov 2015?

Through the plethora of its services, UN has done amazing work in helping thousands of organizations around the world come up with fabulous technology advances for improving the life of people. The Secretary General, Kofi Annan, in his Millennium Report strongly encouraged developing countries to harness the might of the digital revolution in order to benefit from opportunities emerging from that. The United Nations Information Technology Service (UNITeS) was specifically created to focus efforts on information and communications technologies for development. Mobile phones have



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become common even in countries with the highest rates of dearth (and death). This opens a fabulous window of opportunity for technology to play a permanent role in resolving development challenges. In order to drive global change, the UN signed many high level partnerships with major players in the communication field such as global Vodafone in 2005. Those partnerships, collectively, had a major impact on UN worldwide efforts in various fields, and allowed the UN to support hundreds if not thousands of non-profits and UN agencies. DataDyne, for example, got support to build and implement a digital health data surveillance system operating on mobile devices even in very poor countries. Télécoms Sans Frontières, the UN World Food Programme and World Health Organization (WHO) also received major support. Africa has naturally become the world lab for applying knowledge to development challenges such as scarcity of resources and pressing needs. Technol-

ogy in Africa faces particular challenges that would never be overcome without multilateral efforts mostly concerted by the UN. Those efforts helped in the adoption and implementation of new technology which in turn helped accelerate the transformation process to improve the quality of life in those countries.

UN efforts have also helped in technology transfer to support economic transformation and human resource development, key factors in empowering the economy anywhere, while having long lasting effects on the economic, social, political, and security of those countries. In this regard, the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) was created as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). CSTD provides the General Assembly and ECOSOC with high-level advice on relevant science and technology issues.

UN Bodies such as The Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as well

as Global Programmes, such as Technology, Innovation and Trade Logistics (UN Conference on Trade and Development), Technology, Industry and Economics (UN Environment Programme), Scientific Centres (UN Environment Programme) and Science, Technology and Society (UN University), all show clearly how much the UN cares for harnessing the might of technology to advance humanity. Regional Programmes such as ICT, Science and Technology (Economic Commission for Africa), Information and Communications Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), Trade and Investment (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific), Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business and Sustainable Energy (Economic Commission for Europe) only add up to the glorious record of the organisation in this reign.

We must admit that great progress has been made in implementation of the outcomes of the various World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS). Harnessing science and technology to address development challenges and improve human rights in various regions, has systematically appeared on various UN agendas. The UN has regularly stressed the key role of science, technology and innovation and information and

communication technologies for development and advancing development endeavours and human rights in general. There has always been at UN conferences a note or conclusion on the need for greater policy efforts to harness science, technology and innovation to serve developmental goals.

It is not unfair to argue whether that was all the UN could do or it could do even more. By recognizing the voices of those who ask for more efforts, the UN can only grow greater. I am confident that many, probably including the UN General Secretaries and high seniors, wish the UN could do more. So let us keep our faith in the UN and its (and our) future. Let us hope, for as Russel Crowe beautifully puts it in his marvellous "The Water Diviner", 'hope is a necessity where I come from (Australia)'. In fact, hope is a necessity everywhere, Russel. The UN has provided to Science and Technology beyond what this short article can describe. The UN not only assumed its role as the world leader of leveraging technology to serve its humanitarian efforts, but also helped tens of countries benefit from technological advances to improve the life of their own citizens. It is fair to say that the UN has been a champion at harnessing science and technology to spur development. But it is also fair to say we wish it did even more. ■



Progrès technologique et humain

Chaque jour, le champ des connaissances humaines s'élargit, engendrant son lot de nouvelles questions suivant l'adage «plus je sais et moins je sais».

OLIVIER BORIE

Nous sommes engagés dans une interminable exploration de territoires toujours plus vastes. Parallèlement, les savoirs et les techniques se développent à un rythme qui semble s'accélérer sans cesse.

A moins de se spécialiser, il paraît impossible d'avoir une connaissance ou une maîtrise complète et approfondie de quelque domaine que ce soit. L'époque où l'on pouvait espérer acquérir au cours de sa vie la somme des connaissances est bel et bien révolue, si tant est qu'elle n'ait jamais existé.

Nos moyens d'accès à l'information et d'apprentissage ont été démultipliés de façon exponentielle. Aujourd'hui, le savoir évolue et se transforme dans un réseau complexe et

décentralisé. Notre capacité à appréhender des quantités massives de données, les hiérarchiser et leur donner un sens reste limitée.

La vitesse des avancées technologiques et le temps de la pensée s'opposent-ils? L'outil et la technique libèrent l'Homme en ce sens qu'elle nous permet de dépasser le stade de la survie. La vie humaine prend une nouvelle dimension au fur et à mesure que la mort devient moins banale. En nous affranchissant progressivement des contraintes de temps et d'espace, la technique nous offre également plus de disponibilités pour les activités intellectuelles, artistiques et les loisirs.

Etant donné l'importance de l'évolution de la technologie sur nos modes de vie, cela fait

sens de favoriser les conditions cadres de l'innovation. On associe d'ailleurs régulièrement le progrès humain ou le degré de civilisation d'une société à son niveau de technicité et à l'avancement de ses sciences.

Jusqu'au siècle dernier, une foi presque absolue dans le progrès technique nous laissait entrevoir, entre autres, la fin des famines et de la maladie. On s'imaginait une nature humaine pacifiée, étant parvenu à canaliser, voire même contrôler nos pulsions.

Cette vision du progrès a été relativisée notamment par la pollution liée à la production et la consommation industrielles ainsi qu'à travers l'apparition des armes nucléaires, sans toutefois être totalement remise en cause. Des avancées

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importantes sont continuellement réalisées et on poursuit toujours l'idéal de la science et de ses services rendus à l'humanité.

Pourtant, les technologies les plus performantes ne sont pas celles qui sont nécessairement adoptées en premier. Parallèlement, on tente de mieux maîtriser leur développement en anticipant sur leurs conséquences et leurs impacts, même si aucun système technique ne peut échapper à l'imprévu lié à l'intervention humaine.

On notera également que la maximisation du profit est un vecteur puissant d'innovation. Chaque gain de productivité ou d'efficacité rend plus compétitif et peut donner naissance à de nouveaux marchés et, par extension, générer de la croissance économique. L'un des rôles de l'entrepreneur est de traduire une innovation en

opportunité d'affaire. Du point de vue d'un investisseur, on favorisera probablement les technologies qui ont un potentiel de maximisation du profit au détriment d'autres, même si ces dernières pourraient contribuer plus positivement à la société.

Une autre source importante de progrès résulte de l'intérêt non dissimulé de l'armée pour la technologie. De tous temps, de brillants scientifiques se sont régulièrement mis au service de leurs princes. De fait, les chercheurs qui évoluent dans un contexte militaire bénéficient d'un environnement protégé, à l'abri des pressions immédiates du marché. Pour ne rien gâcher, le complexe militaro industriel, avec les moyens considérables dont il dispose, alimente une économie importante dont d'autres intermédiaires se nourrissent sans scrupules, quitte à la stimuler.

De quoi mettre sérieusement à mal la notion de neutralité de la technologie... Il est parfois difficile de dissocier ce que nous utilisons de ce que nous sommes. Rabelais au 16^e siècle nous disait que «Science sans conscience n'est que ruine de l'âme».

Ce n'est, bien entendu, pas la seule industrie dont la course à l'innovation n'a de commune mesure que son inclinaison à vouloir engranger toujours plus de profits. On crée de nouveaux besoins, de nouvelles dépendances et, pour mieux les diffuser, on normalise et standardise à tout va. La productivité exacerbée devient un fin en soi, même si elle aboutit à une surproduction insensée. Toujours plus, c'est mieux, même jusqu'à l'épuisement, puis on recommence, en s'y prenant de façon encore plus efficace et profitable encore la fois d'après. Manifestation du

rationnel mais pas forcément du raisonnable.

Un prise de conscience s'affirme peu à peu à travers le concept de développement durable. Ce dernier tend à faire émerger de nouvelles technologies et des énergies renouvelables qui répondent plus à des aspirations de l'ordre du bien-être et de la prospérité que de notre obsession de vitesse et de croissance. En adoptant une vision moins anthropocentrique qui intègre l'ensemble du vivant, on garde présent à l'esprit qu'aucune économie, aussi avancée soit elle, ne peut survivre à l'effondrement de l'écosystème dont elle fait partie. Dans ce contexte, de grands projets de recherche tels que le CERN nous rappellent à quel point la coopération internationale fonctionne et peuvent faire avancer une humanité diverse et rassemblée. ■

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Reducing Risk

The Special Role of Technology in resilience and risk reduction

As clearly described in the publication prepared by ESA and CEOS, earth observation technologies play an important role in several aspects of DRR, from prevention to preparedness, response and recovery.



Flood Waters over Zambezia, Tete and Sofala Provinces (Mozambique) between 11 December 2014 and 21 January 2015. Copyright: MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates Ltd; Copernicus 2014 / ESA. Analysis produced by UNITAR-UNOSAT.

VALERIA DR. IGO, RESILIENCE AND RISK REDUCTION PROJECT, UNITAR

On 18 March 2015, at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan, delegations adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which follows 11 years after the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), adopted by the 2nd WCDRR in 2005. For the third time in 21 years, UN member states gathered to discuss and approve a global strategy to reduce the risk of disasters and increase the

resilience of communities in the face of natural hazards.

Since the adoption of the Yokohama Strategy in 1994, some big changes have taken place in the conditions surrounding the domain of DRR. One is the transformative universal paradigm shift that is about to begin with the new Post-2015 development agenda. The other is the pervasive technology revolution that is changing the way we live on our planet and interact with one another.

The strategy adopted in Sendai reflects many of the changes that have taken place around the subject of DRR. Both development and climate change aspects are mentioned, and the document shows how DRR is now relevant to a wider spectrum of stakeholders. Technology also has an important role in the Sendai Framework, which reflects a clear sign of the societal changes that have occurred since the adoption of the Hyogo Framework in 2005. In terms of presence in text, technology is mentioned 19 times in the new framework, while the HFA mentioned technology only 3 times in 25 pages.

Technology and the ongoing data revolution are continuously changing the DRR landscape

and provide new opportunities for efficiency and better decision making – a point made by UNITAR also in its official statement at the WCDRR Plenary Session. Understanding risk and assessing vulnerability requires a lot of data and a lot of work to process it. Data is more valuable when is reflective of the actual reality and allows researchers and decision makers to track indicators and evaluate change. Few technologies can meet this requirement and one that is known for being both reliable and mature is earth observation technology, both from space and on the ground.

Since 2005 satellite technology has evolved tremendously, bringing to the open market solutions and imagery resolution levels that would have been hard to imagine only fifteen years ago. Similarly, geographic information systems are smarter, better and more comfortable in the cloud than ever before. A special publication by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Committee on Earth Observations (CEOS), prepared for WCDRR, illustrates the potential of satellite based earth observations for risk reduction. Several prod-



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ucts developed by UNITAR's UNOSAT programme are shown as examples. In the preface, the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for DRR, Margareta Wahlstrom, says that "it is important that we have access to satellite imagery to improve our ability to understand and reduce the impact of the rise in disaster and climate risks over the coming decades".

Historical hazards information derived from satellite images, coupled with newly acquired data, can be used to improve hazard mapping activities, in order to focus efforts and resources towards the most vulnerable areas. Earth observation can also be used to enhance risk-informed decision – making: for example, topography information derived from satellite image analysis can be used to calculate whether a specific area is potentially exposed

to hazards such as floods or landslides.

Satellites also provide observations about meteorological or environmental conditions that can be used to support monitoring of hydro-meteorological hazards that derive from natural phenomena such as El Nino events, and they can be used to improve early warnings of weather events at global level. When a disaster occurs, satellite images are used in the immediate response and recovery phase as they provide very accurate situation analyses for assessing damage and for planning the appropriate support and resource deployment.

One example of the use of earth observation data for DRR is UNOSAT's work on satellite derived flood mapping. Situation analyses are published as soon as a disaster occurs, to support early action in response and recovery, but they are also

stored and made available for risk assessment: archived maps of past events can be used to analyse trends and to better understand how risk is spread around a specific area.

The evolution of earth observation holds great potential for DRR. In parallel, the role of geospatial information to assess and monitor risk and resilience is bound to grow over time. A White Paper presented in Sendai by a number of geospatial players, including UNOSAT, illustrates some of the key advantages of satellite and geospatial technology. The paper presents the idea of a "synergy framework" through which existing networks of entities with various capacities, from space policy to data analysis, can be mobilize to realise a better global support service to beneficiaries worldwide. This means that, using distributed networks and cloud technolo-

gy, it is possible to leverage the immense amount of data that already exists and is being generated each day, and use it to support better disaster reduction policies and risk informed decisions. ■

Link to ESA/CEOS Publication: <http://www.eohandbook.com/eohb2015/>



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TOSCANE

Niki de Saint Phalle et Le Jardin des Tarots

TEXTE ET PHOTOS: CLAUDE MAILLARD

Lieu fantastique et surprenant, situé à l'extrême sud de la Toscane, près du village de Garavicchio, le Jardin des Tarots n'est pas sans rappeler le parc Guëll de l'architecte Gaudi édifié à Barcelone. C'est d'ailleurs

à la suite de sa découverte, en 1955, que l'idée d'une telle réalisation prit forme dans l'esprit de l'artiste Niki de Saint Phalle. Dans cet immense jardin sont représentés les vingt-deux arcanes majeures du tarot, sous forme de sculptures

géantes, hautes de 12 à 15 mètres, en polyester peint et béton armé, recouvertes de mosaïques, de miroirs, de céramiques multicolores et de verre coloré de Murano. Une sacrée prouesse technologique et artistique...



La mort



L'étoile



Le Soleil

Daniel Babey au cœur des réunions



Photo: Solange Behoteguy

SOLANGE BEHOTEGUY

Daniel Babey, assistant de conférence au sein de l'Unité de service des conférences de l'UNOG a tout d'un personnage de film. Il est né dans l'est de la France d'un père ouvrier et d'une mère vendeuse. Après avoir obtenu son diplôme de paysagiste il a passé quelques années dans l'armée, d'abord pour effectuer son service militaire puis dans le cadre d'un travail administratif. Le hasard l'emmène un jour à Nyon où, parcourant le journal local, il tombe sur une petite annonce. Deux semaines plus tard, le voilà serveur dans un pub à Genève. Dix ans s'écoulent, au bout desquels il devient majordome. C'est un métier qui lui ressemble: Daniel Babey paraît sorti d'un roman d'Agatha Christie, tiré à quatre épingles, discret, avec un sourire mystérieux. C'est après cette expérience qu'il a intégré le service des conférences au Palais des Nations. Malgré le temps passé, il reste en lui quelque chose du paysagiste, du serveur et du

majordome. Cela fait presque huit ans qu'il a rempli son P11 et décroché le test «clérical» et ses fameuses règles de trois.

Ses journées commencent tôt le matin. Il se balade avec son portable pour «être joignable» et sait repérer d'un coup d'œil les gens perdus dans les couloirs onusiens. «Les gens confondent les salles: il y a des personnes qui croient que 'S' veut dire 'salle' alors que ça fait référence au bâtiment 'S'. Il y a des gens qui ne sont pas très à l'aise avec les chiffres romains» dit-il. Il faut reconnaître que le Palais est un vrai labyrinthe qui compte 27 salles principales de réunion. Aujourd'hui, mardi 24 mars 2015, jour de notre rencontre, 68 réunions sont prévues. Daniel doit veiller à la logistique de 25 d'entre elles. Tout doit être prêt pour que, quand les gens arrivent, ils puissent «passer à l'action tout de suite». Cela implique que les pancartes soient placées correctement, les ordinateurs, Internet, la lumière, etc.

Nous sommes dans la salle VI, rénovée en 1995 par la Slovénie. De belles peintures nous entourent. Dans ces couloirs, il lui est arrivé une ou deux fois que des personnes s'approchent de lui et entament une conversation sur un sujet précis. Il lui a alors fallu se présenter et expliquer que non, il n'était pas l'Ambassadeur de tel ou tel pays. ■



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The mastermind of all meetings



Photo: Garry Aslanyan

GARRY ASLANYAN

Who has not met Jean-Pierre Mercier at some point? You may not know it, but he is one of the masterminds behind all key WHO meetings. Having worked for WHO since 1990, with some interruptions, Mr. Mercier's current position in conference and events coordination puts him in the backstage of the meetings!

With constant changes in WHO, the job has of course evolved in the years he has been overseeing it. Few of us know that for each World Health Assembly an additional 80 people are brought in to help out with numerous tasks and details that help make for a successful meeting (room allocation, badge preparation and distribution, ushers to help delegates and secretariat, entrance checking, water fountains, side events, bilateral meetings and special guests). But organizing a group of people around a task is nothing new for Jean-Pierre.

Prior to joining WHO Mr. Mercier

was in the French Gendarmerie nationale for 16 years. "I must have brought with me some of the security and organizational aspects of my time at the Gendarmerie to this job, but I definitely had to learn a lot for my current position, particularly how to interact with delegates from Member States and how to work in an international environment", says Jean-Pierre. But working now for WHO is not the first time Jean-Pierre has been involved with the United Nations. During his time with the Gendarmerie, Jean-Pierre was sent, among others, on two UN missions to Lebanon where he at times was involved for the security of French ambassador and as French Military Police team leader.

"I take a lot of joy of working with various departments and clusters of WHO in assisting with meeting organization. They are all different and all have their specific aims and objectives, but we work to make sure they all achieve their

goals with the most comfort possible", shares Jean-Pierre. It seems at times that it's not only meeting logistics that Jean-Pierre and his colleagues take care of. He shared some funny stories about how one of his team members had to come to the rescue of a delegate when they had a pantyhose issue and another who helped to pull a button from a bag to fix a "wardrobe malfunction". Colleagues jokingly called her Mary Poppins with a miracle bag.

Jean-Pierre's passion is to travel. He prefers to stay in hotels that are off the beaten track and dine in restaurants where the regulars are local people – "It gives me a chance to understand people, their culture, their traditions and their language". On his recent five week tour of the southern cone of South America with his motorbike, he had a chance to brush up his Spanish and to see some of the amazing scenery that this part of the world has to offer. ■

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Genre et technologie

Une enquête pour Lisbeth Salander?

Les stéréotypes à propos des femmes et de la technique pullulent: «mais vous ne ressemblez pas à un programmeur!»

SOLANGE BEHOTEGUY

Pourquoi un homme serait-il intrinsèquement plus doué qu'une femme pour se servir d'un téléphone, d'un ordinateur ou d'un lecteur MP3? Pourquoi le modèle humain à l'ère du numérique serait-il masculin? Enfin, pourquoi les filles n'ont-elles pas le même accès aux Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (TIC) que les garçons?

Des gouvernements et des organismes internationaux ne cessent de le répéter: les TIC jouent un rôle essentiel dans l'émancipation et l'autonomisation des femmes. Il est vital d'amener les femmes et les jeunes filles vers les TIC pour améliorer leurs conditions de vie et accroître leur participation au développement mondial. C'est une question particulièrement aigüe puisqu'aujourd'hui la quasi-totalité des emplois (95%) a une composante numérique. Il s'agit d'emplois hybrides qui combinent les TIC et l'entreprise dans tous les domaines imaginables (bio-ingénierie, médias numériques, développement d'applications...), sans compter des prestations telles que les services bancaires, les services de santé, la formation en ligne, le commerce électronique, qui trouvent leur essor sur la toile.

Selon le rapport «Mesurer la société de l'information» de l'Union Internationale des Télécommunications (2014), «d'importantes fractures numériques subsistent: ainsi, 4,3 milliards d'habitants sur la planète, dont 90% vivent dans des pays en développement, ne sont toujours pas connectés».

Aujourd'hui encore, dans certains de ces pays, les femmes se réunissent autour d'un puits pour bavarder et partager leurs histoires. Il se produit à ce moment-là un phénomène de communication «naturelle», sans qu'il soit question de placer cette situation dans un contexte nostalgique. Imaginez la même scène avec des femmes autour d'un puits, équipées de téléphones portables. Elles ressembleraient vite à la caricature souvent observée d'un groupe d'amies qui fêtent l'anniversaire de l'une d'entre elles dans un restaurant mais qui ne se parlent pas car elles ont le nez plongé dans leurs mobiles pour envoyer des SMS et des selfies. Le tout est d'utiliser les nouvelles technologies à bon escient. Un téléphone portable peut sauver une vie. La France a récemment mis à disposition des femmes victimes de violences conjugales un téléphone «grand danger». L'appareil dispose d'une touche de contact d'urgence. En cas de nécessité la femme appuie sur ce bouton et elle est mise en relation avec un poste de police.

Et pourtant... Les inégalités entre hommes et femmes sont toujours présentes. A l'échelle mondiale, la probabilité qu'une femme possède un téléphone mobile est en moyenne inférieure de 21% à celle d'un homme. D'autre part, les médias continuent à véhiculer des stéréotypes et l'accès des femmes à certains métiers considérés comme «masculins» est encore limité. Pourquoi? On n'aborde jamais la question de fond.

Heureusement que si dans la réalité on a du mal à réduire la fracture numérique, dans la littérature et l'art en général, on a fait des pas gigantesques. On peut prendre comme exemple l'héroïne de la trilogie de romans policiers, *Millenium*, de l'écrivain suédois Stieg Larson. La protagoniste de «Les hommes qui n'aiment pas les femmes», «La fille qui rêvait d'un bidon d'essence et d'une allumette» et «La Reine dans le palais des courants d'air» a un look qui dérange. Maigre, pâle, on ne sait pas trop si elle est adolescente ou adulte, fille ou

garçon, et pourtant on adhère et on y croit. Lisbeth Salander possède toutes les qualités pour séduire les lecteurs d'une autre écrivaine, américaine cette fois: Judith Butler, et son célèbre «Trouble dans le genre». Mais Lisbeth Salander nous renvoie surtout l'image d'une hackeuse qui maîtrise l'informatique comme personne.

Cyberféminisme

Lisbeth Salander est une héroïne des TIC, mais aussi un symbole du cyberféminisme. L'expression a été inventée par le collectif australien, VNS Matrix, qui prétendait redéfinir le rôle et l'image de la femme dans l'art et la technologie. Ce mouvement préfère se définir par défaut avec des antithèses: «ce n'est pas un parfum ni une structure», il n'est pas «sans connexion et ce n'est pas non plus un espace vide». On peut néanmoins avancer qu'il s'agit d'un mouvement politique et philosophique né à la fin du XX^e siècle qui étudie, entre autres, les interdépendances entre le genre et la technologie. Il est avant tout là pour nous rappeler que les TIC ne sont pas des jouets exclusivement destinés aux garçons (je ne fais pas référence ici aux Pokémon).

On sait, depuis l'explosion de la société de l'information et de la communication, que ce qui nous arrive dans la vie peut aussi nous arriver sur la toile. En outre, les nouveaux médias peuvent nourrir ou favoriser de nouvelles formes de violence envers les femmes sous la forme de misogynie en ligne, d'harcèlement, d'abus de faiblesse jusqu'au trafic d'êtres humains. Le «revenge porn» est un exemple criminel d'une triste actualité.

On conclura que, si les nouvelles technologies sont utiles et nécessaires à l'évolution et l'émancipation des femmes, elles véhiculent encore les défauts de l'époque qui les précède. Rappelons-nous de la phrase de Donna Haraway, l'auteure du *Manifeste Cyborg*: «nos machines sont étrangement vivantes et nous épouvantablement inertes». ■

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Thinking creatively: Cookbook recipes

What do frog legs, domestic workers, bed nets and aircraft have in common? They are all ingredients of the Recipes for Peace, Rights and Wellbeing, a Cookbook written by the partners of the International Geneva Perception Change project.

CAROLINA RODRÍGUEZ, JANA BAUEROVA,
UNOG

Cooking up perception change: putting impact of international Geneva on the table

If you had to explain your organization's work in food terms, what would be it be? For the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) it is a casserole. For the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), chutney, and for the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) a pie. Over 40 organizations and Swiss government entities sat down together to conceptualize their work in a new way.

Collectively, they have contributed to a book with recipes that shows their impact across diverse areas of human activity such as health, sanitation, intellectual property, democracy, innovation and governance. It now turns out that thinking about standards and norms as a popular millefeuille dessert is possible!

Co-writing the recipes for the Cookbook has sparked not only cooperation across the different departments of the organizations but also between colleagues in Headquarters and different offices. "It was one of the most creative exercises we have done. Our staff from offices across the world brain-

stormed ideas in what turned out to be a fun and innovative reflexion on how we see our work", said Jovan Kurbalija, Director, DiploFoundation and Head, Geneva Internet Platform.

Breaking silos: perception change

A limited edition of the cookbook was published in December 2014 by the Perception Change project, which is spearheaded by Michael Møller, Acting Director-General of UNOG, and led by Carolina Rodriguez. The project aims to communicate the relevance and value of the work done by the Geneva-based UN agencies and other international entities in an accessible, imaginative and engaging manner so people know that their own lives are touched by the work of international Geneva every day.

Continuous efforts to bridge connections between local and international Geneva include opening the grounds of the Palais des Nations for a first-ever Escalade training session and unique partnerships including the one with celebrated chefs for the Cookbook. This collaboration rendered a unique collection of world-class menus from the top hotels, including the Mandarin Oriental, InterContinental and Le Richemond, is also



Benoit Galland, Cook, Delegates Restaurant, Palais des Nations; Carolina Rodriguez, Head, Perception Change Project, UNOG; Michael Møller, Acting Director-General, UNOG; Daniela Wuerz, Coordination Officer, UNOG and Antonio Pais, Chef Delegates Restaurant, UNOG.

testament of the diversity and richness of the city.

Some may argue that refined menus of beef-cheek and scallops are no side order to poverty and human rights violations. But they are not intended to be either. This is again, one of the defining characteristics of Geneva, a city that brings the world of fervent humanitarian action, fierce defence for human rights and concerted global action for public health back to back with the world of wealth and luxury. This is an honest reality and it must be used as an advantage. The change of perception that needs to happen across the board is to no longer frame our actions in terms of 'them' or 'us'. It is 'we'.

A taste of impact: Geneva Book and Press Fair

The 29th Salon du livre in Geneva convened the world of publishers at Palexpo, Geneva's largest exhibition centre. Amidst the ocean of books, visitors came across a small Perception Change Kitchen that offered a taste of International Geneva impact. This was the kitchen's first appearance and it is scheduled to open again at the next UN Open Day on 24 October 2015. ■

If you would like to be a part of Perception Change and find out more, visit www.cooperationinternationalegeneve.ch/perception-change-project-pcp or contact us at perceptionchange@unog.ch

Follow us on social media with @Geneva Impact and #salondulivre to see 'what's cooking'.

Shadows and Lights

"When you see my works you will notice that they gain reality through light. Their intensity can vary with the impinging light and varies too according to where the observer is located. These objects demand activity on your part and in this way obtain their own vitality"

Günter Uecker, German New Generation artist

EVELINA RIOUKHINA, UNOG

The composition *De l'Ombre à la Lumière* (literally, "From Shadows to Light") is the donation by the Government of Germany, created by Prof. Günter Uecker, one of the outstanding representatives and what is known around the world as the New Generation of German artists.

The masterpiece represents the wall relieve of four spirals, of different colours, from a very dark to a very light, made with nails. Created by the artist in 1976/77, the composition was donated to the United Nations Office in Geneva by the Government of Germany in 1978. The masterpiece is placed following the request from the donator, opposite the Salle XX.

Günter Uecker was born in 1930. His avant-garde work can be seen in more than 50 important museums all over the world. Uecker was formed as an artist in many respects by ZERO, for example in the meaning he attaches to light, or in the openness of his picture

structure. Uecker increasingly used nails as an artistic means of expression – a material that, until today, stands in the centre of his œuvre. At the beginning of the 1960s he began hammering nails into pieces of furniture, musical instruments and household objects, and then he began combining nails with the theme of light, creating his series of light nails and kinetic nails and other works. Light and electricity continued to be one of the main subjects and natural materials such as sand and water were included in his installations, resulting in an interaction of the different elements to create a sensation of light, space, movement and time.

"The way in which I use nails as structuring elements implies that they should not be understood as nails. My purpose is to use these media, with their ordered interrelationship, to obtain a vibration which destroys their geometrical order and manages to irritate them. Meanwhile objects are to

be understood as a condition of extreme intensity, in continuous change as a result of light reflection".

"White is striven for by all confessing monists (known to us as monks) in a various cultures, as the absolute experience of being, where the boundaries between being and non-being become blurred and a new actuality arises". For this reason it is typical of Uecker not to concern himself merely with the nail as a structural element, since this would turn him into pure formalists. Instead, he has employed the nail also in its symbolic capacity. Uecker brings together reflection and plasticity to the extent that he tries to produce works of arts which "can be understood as tools for thought processes". Uecker's work evokes a new awareness, a new way of seeing familiar things, a larger vision of the world as a stage.

While doing the above composition, he has used not only the standard types of nails, but has designed nails in proportions to

suit his artistic purposes. The composition is made out of the big clous (nails) of different size and colours, which change the colour depending on the angle of observation. It starts from a very dark and goes progressively to a very light, almost white. Come to observe this wall composition more carefully, and look at it from all angles – starting from dark to light, or try the extreme – go to the opposite site and look at it from light to dark. Watch your feelings and perceptions. You will see different images and will feel as if you are diving into the philosophical, even spatial, depths with extreme visual borderlines between totally different zones of reality. ■

With thanks to Clara Goya for providing the archives for the article.

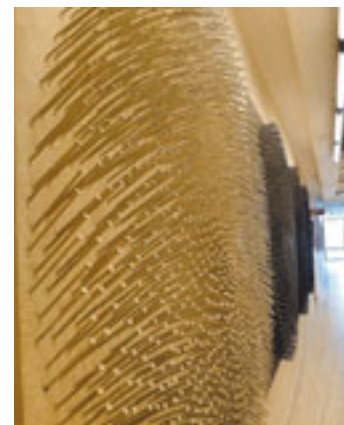


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At risk of being lost forever

This article is meant to raise awareness and to encourage a serious reflection to re-initiate and/or explore any possibility for the urgent restoration of the Temple of Peace.

EVELINA RIOUKHINA,

IN COLLABORATION WITH IAN RICHARDS

The “Peace Itinerary of Geneva” marks the year 1820 as its starting point. Some sources refer to the Temple of Peace erected by the Count Jean-Jacques de Sellon in his Villa La Fenêtre. But perhaps the Villa itself (built in 1820 and acquired by J.-J. de Sellon in 1919), where J.-J. de Sellon lived for 19 years and where he conceived many important peace initiatives and endeavors, should be taken as the most important milestone and the starting point in the “Peace Itinerary of Geneva,” which marks almost two centuries of peace actions.

Villa la Fenêtre has not been studied much from this particular angle – peace activities and the birthplace of peace initiatives. However, it should be looked at from this angle because it is at this Villa, and not at any of his other properties, that de Sellon not only carried out many of his peace ideas and initiatives, but he also conceived and erected two of the most important peace monuments. One of them was well known in the 1830s, and was indeed perhaps, one of the most outstanding and unusual peace masterpieces of the early 19th century. But today, practically no one knows about it or its whereabouts. The destiny of the other one is even more dramatic – it might be at risk to be lost forever. This second monument is the Temple of

Peace and Friendship, which was destroyed in a storm in 1946 and never rebuilt.

In the early 60s there were initiatives to restore the Temple, and as I learnt from the information graciously provided by Jean-Claude Pallas, several proposals were presented to different levels over the years, starting from the early 60s to the 80s or very early 90s. At that time, estimates for restoration were calculated, and even a mock-up/model of this Temple was prepared around 1990. Over this period, the dramatic state of the destroyed peace monument also became a matter of serious concern to the City of Geneva. In 1985 the City was also confirmed its readiness to restore the Temple, admitting its importance as a historical peace monument (article by Serge Bimpage, *Le Temps*, 1985). Unfortunately, for different reasons, none of those were implemented. Today it is either totally forgotten, or very few even know of its existence.

Even those who have worked in UN for long time, for even 30 years or more, are not well aware of it, and of course, nobody who came later knows about it, and definitely none of the newcomers. Indeed, during more than two decades this issue has never been brought up. Today we have new and dynamic forces in all echelons definitely capable of getting things moving and making

decisions. Will the restoration of this Temple become a matter of concern today?

This Temple passes on an important message of peace. If re-erected today (and logically Ariana Park or the grounds of the Palais des Nations could be an ideal location for such a memorial) this Peace Monument could re-inforce the message of Peace, Friendship and Interfaith Harmony. It is about this that Count de Sellon was dreaming about almost two centuries ago. If rebuilt today, this Temple could be a symbolic place of reflection on peace, tolerance, and interfaith harmony. In addition to its historical and heritage values, it could bring something important to our everyday lives too.

Next year we risk marking a very sad date – 70 years since this important peace monument was destroyed. Could today be a starting point for its re-birth, its re-erection and bringing this peace monument to life? It is undoubtedly a very important monument for each of us, for international civil servants, for the people of Geneva and it cannot mean anything else to any good-willed person in the world. It is a very important symbol, but if we do not do anything, nothing will happen on its own, and this article might again fall to the side and be forgotten, as many other previous initiatives and articles have in the past, for decades and decades. If we



Unique photo-Fred Boissonnas.

Archives courtesy Jean-Claude Pallas



Temple de la paix-maquette-UNOG.

Photo: courtesy of Jean-Claude Pallas

don't all work together, either in the UN or in International Geneva, or jointly do not do anything, and do not do it soon, we run the risk that again (in view of other priorities) years will pass, and then decades, and then it will again be totally forgotten. Unless something is done, we really run the risk that this important historical peace monument could be lost forever.

Follow us in the next *UN Special* to discover the whereabouts of the other Peace Monument from the Villa La Fenêtre. ■

“La Fenêtre” is the Villa built by J.-J. de Sellon personally, and he was buried there. He had a residence in Old Town of Geneva at Rue des Granges, inherited from his family. The Château d’Allaman, was his only Castle. This Castle gave him notoriety in the society, both in Vaud and Geneva, while promoting his ideas. The Castle is listed in the Grade 1 Swiss Inventory of Cultural Property of National and Regional Significance.

Theatre Ephemere:

An ephemeral theatre on the doorstep of the Palais des Nations

You may have noticed some building work in the Park Rigot, next to the number 15-tram terminus. But what you may not know is that the wooden posts currently visible and reminiscent of the remains of ancient lakeside or “lacustrian” civilisations are in fact the 350 pillars on which the floor of an ephemeral theatre will be laid. It will bear the name of our Organization: “the Nations Opera”.



Lancement des travaux de l'Opéra des Nations.

SARAH JORDAN, UNOG

But why ephemeral you may ask? In fact this theatre-to-be has an interesting past. The wooden structure, likened in the press to Lego because of the way it fits together, has already served as a temporary theatre in Paris during the renovation of the Comédie Française. Recently dismantled and transported to Geneva in 70 articulated Lorries, it will be reassembled by February 2016 as the new temporary base of the Grand Théâtre de Genève, which in turn is to undergo 2 years of renovations.

The ephemeral theatre will be subjected to certain modifications with a view to satisfying patrons of the Grand Théâtre during this intermediary period. When finished, it will have a capacity of 1,064 spectators and an orchestra pit for 70 musicians. This is slightly less than the Grand Théâtre's current offer, but will be compensated by more representations. If the eclecticism of the 2015 programme is anything to go by, the Nations Theatre promises something to suit everybody's taste in 2016.

Un théâtre éphémère sur le perron des Nations Unies

Vous aurez peut-être remarqué des travaux dans le parc Rigot, à côté du terminus du tram numéro 15. Mais ce que vous ne savez peut-être pas, c'est que les poteaux en bois visibles en ce moment et semblables aux vestiges d'anciennes civilisations lacustres sont en fait les 350 piliers sur lesquels sera posé le sol d'un théâtre éphémère. Ce dernier portera le nom de notre Organisation: l'Opéra des Nations.

Mais pourquoi éphémère demanderez-vous? En fait, ce théâtre en devenir a un passé intéressant. La structure en bois, comparée dans la presse au jeu de Lego à cause de sa façon de s'emboîter, a déjà servi comme théâtre temporaire pendant la rénovation de la Comédie Française. Récemment démonté et transporté à Genève

par 70 semi-remorques, il sera remonté d'ici le mois de février 2016 et servira de base au Grand Théâtre de Genève, qui, à son tour, entamera 2 années de rénovations.

Le théâtre éphémère subira certaines modifications dans le but de satisfaire le public du Grand Théâtre pendant cette période intermédiaire. Une fois terminée, la salle aura une capacité d'accueil de 1064 spectateurs et une fosse d'orchestre de 70 musiciens. Ceci est légèrement inférieur à l'offre actuelle du Grand Théâtre, mais sera compensé par plus de représentations. Au vu de l'éclectisme du programme 2015, le Théâtre des Nations promet des moments pour tous les goûts en 2016. ■

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The Indian Room

A spot of pristine India in Geneva



Photo: Gautam Basu

GAUTAM BASU, WHO

In this episode we bring you the story behind the story of the “India Room” in the Main Building of the World Health Organization’s headquarters in Geneva. The room is a veritable repository of artefacts and furnishings from India, each one a vivid testimony to the rich weaves and colours of Indian motifs and textures. It is perhaps the only room in WHO HQ that has been named after a Member State on account of the exclusive nature of its furnishings.

When the World Health Assembly in the early 1960s urged Member States to donate in cash or kind, including furnishings, fixtures and building material, for the construction of the new headquarters building, the Government of India responded with gifts of tapestries, furniture, carpets and other ethnic and traditionally crafted decor items. All this was placed in a single, commodious room in HQ. This room was the one adjacent to the Executive

Board Room, and was called the Executive Board lounge. The current WHO headquarters building was inaugurated in 1966.

A ‘princely’ sum for gifts to WHO

The then Indian federal finance minister allocated a princely sum of Indian Rupees 150,000 (about US\$ 1 million at today’s prices) for these gifts, a fact conveyed to HQ by Dr. C. Mani, the first Regional Director of the WHO South-East Asia Region based in New Delhi. In a letter to Geneva dated 7 January 1966, Dr. Mani says he has “great pleasure (to convey) the good news”.

A total of about 30 items of furniture and decor, including teakwood settees, marble-top coffee tables and carved cabinets, were donated by India between 1966 and 1968. There were also five large carpets of the finest Himalayan wool, dozens of cushions with embroidery in iridescent colours, and more than 200 metres of upholstery curtains. These

were sourced from the Central Cottage Industries Emporium in New Delhi, India’s state-owned handicrafts consortium. Later, India also donated two pieces of reserve carpets of the same design as a back-up replacement because, as a memorandum from HQ testifies, these would have been “impossible to replace in Geneva locally” in case of damage or disrepair.

Works of sculpture including figurines and statues of Hindu gods and goddesses carved out of the finest grain of sandal or exquisitely hewed out of stone or moulded from metal, followed over the years. There were figurines of Ganesha, the Hindu god of Wisdom, Saraswati, goddess of learning, Durga, the Mother Goddess with the lion as mount and, of course, Gautama the Buddha, the Enlightened Prince of the Orient. The last such donation, of the Ganesha statue, was made in August 2004 to Dr. Anders Nordström, then Assistant Director-General.

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A gift to mark the conquest of smallpox

The story of the India Room reached its logical climax during the time of India's conquest of smallpox in 1975, a significant milestone on the road to global eradication of the disease later in that decade. In August 1975 the then WHO Director-General (DG) Dr. Hafdan Mahler visited the New Delhi WHO regional office at the invitation of India's health minister to attend a smallpox event. The date was significant: 15 August 1975, the 28th anniversary of India's political freedom.

It was at this meeting that the Indian federal minister for health, Dr. Karan Singh, presented (in Dr. Mahler's words) a "lovely bronze statue of Nataraja" to the DG. The DG decided to install the statue in the spacious Executive Board Lounge. The

room, now distinctively and exclusively Indian with the latest addition to the repertoire, was renamed "India Room".

Dr. Mahler wrote in a letter to the Indian minister: "It was a wonderful sensation to find myself back in your country again celebrating with a small contingent of the many who have toiled to make India's freedom from endemic smallpox a reality. The statue will be cherished not only for its inspiring symbolism and beauty but also for the generosity and imagination which prompted such a gift."

Thus the Executive Board Lounge was reborn as the India Room, with the cynosure of all eyes being the serene and grandiose Nataraja that has since remained one of the highlights of any tour at WHO headquarters.

More about the Nataraja

The Nataraja is six feet high, and weighs a handsome 600 kg. It is carved in pure bronze in "Chola" style – the centuries-old genre of sculpting from India's Deep South, once the seat of the culturally advanced civilization of the Chola kings. Before its long voyage to Geneva, it was showcased at the World Exhibition in Japan in 1975. According to an Indian government source, Nataraja statues of such scale were made but once or twice in a decade.

According to Hindu mythology, the Nataraja is an incarnation of Lord Shiva, one of the trinity of supreme gods in the Hindu pantheon. Shiva, according to Vedic belief, was the father and progenitor of all music and dance forms on earth. Dhru-pad, the millennia-old genre of music, is attributed to him.

Shiva performed the tandav, or divine dance, to destroy evil and churn the forces of piety and goodness through one relentless catharsis. The Nataraja incarnation depicts Shiva performing this divine dance, whereby he crushes the demon of evil under his feet. A serpent curls around his broad shoulders, signifying the surrender of death, disease and debilitation, and his four hands point to the four corners of the earth, depicting his transcendental presence and benediction.

The Indian health authorities chose this statue to commemorate the conquest of smallpox in India to be most appropriate, since the dance in Hindu myth resonates with the theme of regeneration of humankind. ■



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Flood of information versus information security

Cloud computing and collaboration platforms are two current trends that are leading users toward end-to-end electronic business processes. As so often, the interplay of multiple factors is what is fostering this type of development. With the workplace becoming increasingly mobile, the focus is inevitably shifting to information security – also in the field of diplomacy.

URS KÜZI ¹

Mobile, networked, always available: mobile forms of communication have become more and more popular over the years. This reflects current developments in the social use of new technologies and has long since infiltrated the world of diplomacy and international relations: in a globalised information society, functionaries of international organisations and members of the diplomatic corps are faced with the development of new information and communication technologies and have to cope with increased time and media pressure. These results

in changes to both work processes and forms of collaboration: business is taken care of regardless of time and place, and information is exchanged using desktop computers, tablets and smartphones. Complex negotiations require high-speed communication channels and fast consultations with headquarters as well as with specialists and advisers who have been brought in.

The greater intensity of communication is clearly bringing about epic growth in the volume of communication. Our age is characterised by networking, by shared knowledge and by a dialogue conducted among

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many millions of people across all national borders over heavily used social media. One thing is certain: these modern ways of working and the use of new communication technologies give rise to enormous challenges.

A philosophy of “always on and connected” combined with the use of smartphones, tablets and laptops promotes a mixture of private and business data and definitely influences network security. In this context, it is worth examining the convergence of the formerly separate worlds of telephony and data networks. Landline telephony defines itself as a self-contained system for voice communication. However, a data network is an open network over which documents are transmitted in all formats, from images and films to music and voice (Voice over IP [VoIP]). Digitalised information can be delivered to any subscriber at the click of a mouse, usually without restrictions and of course worldwide. In other words, with the advent of VoIP, phone calls are suddenly exposed to all the risks emanating from ICT network dangers. This situation calls for policies that tell users how to conduct themselves to minimise risks in information security.

Needs-based information security

Although there is no generally applicable formula for information security, there are proven approaches to implementing information security in a network. For instance, it is recommended that strategic information be identified and classified according to the value it has for the organisation. The pivotal issue is this: What consequences would result from the information being published, tampered with or lost? Corresponding hierarchical classes are formed to cover the respective sets of information sharing the same attributes and needs for protection. Finally, concrete security actions are defined for each classification level.

For information within the organisation to be treated in accordance with its classification level, the information and communication infrastructure must be set up in a way that, first, is acceptable to users and second, meets the needs for protection of the given information. In actual practice, organisations implement technically separate areas known as security zones that have different degrees of protection. In other words, an adequate security zone is assigned to each classification level. For

example, a high-security zone is protected by more elaborate technical/cryptographic means than a confidential zone. With these various security zones, an organisation can consistently separate the processing, transmission and storage of differently classified sets of information.

Diplomatic communication: security has top priority

So much for the concepts underlying the highest level of information security, yet in actual practice, the primary requirement for members of the diplomatic corps or high ranking officials is for them to be able to carry out their duties and exercise their decision-making powers at any time and in any place. To do so, they must be able to rely on secure communication. They cultivate international relations at the highest level and negotiate on matters relating to peacekeeping, trade and economics, and conflicts. Consequently, sensitive information is of immeasurable value and must reach the designated recipient in an unadulterated form, even in times of crisis. This is the only way the integrity, confidentiality and authenticity of the data can be guaranteed. Encryption solutions

from Crypto AG are based on ultra-strong cryptology. They therefore protect digital communication from all cyberspace attacks. Hardware-based encryption is the basis for maximum cryptographic versatility because of speed, on the one hand, and immunity to tampering, on the other. In addition, the encryption processes run separately from network functions and automatically in the background, just as a member of the diplomatic corps or of an international organisation would want. Smartphones incorporating an encryption module, desktop encryption solutions for office communication and laptops specially designed for maximum security provide the highest representatives of a country with secure communication under normal circumstances and in extraordinary situations. ■

1 Urs Küzi is Customer Segment Manager, Crypto AG

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Climate change The Future of Yesterday

*Our world is in jeopardy.
What steps are you taking
to save life as we know it?*

PEKHCHYA SHRESTHA

Imagine the future. What do you see? If what you are seeing is disastrous, a post-apocalyptic world, you might not be very far from the truth. Considering the path this planet is on, the technology we use and the means we use to get it, Earth

is doomed for failure. However, it is not the end. It is our responsibility and our duty to fix the mistakes our ancestors have committed. We need to do this to see our children and our children's children prosper in the world that we have grown up in.

Climate change is real, it is happening, and it is happening *fast*. The last two decades of the 1900's were the hottest in 4 centuries, and according to some recent studies, may even be the hottest in the past few thousand years! The average temperature of the entire world has risen 0.8°C since 1880. You

may be thinking that 0.8°C is not a very large increase in temperature. Humans live through drastic temperature changes in some parts of the world, an increase of less than a degree won't be enough to harm us. However, humans are not the focus here. Many organisms cannot handle the changes in their habitat and often end up dying. The kinds of organisms who are sensitive to their surroundings are often at the lower end of the food chain. That makes it even worse. They are the ones who provide food for animals that are higher in the food chain, thus being the basic need for all life forms.

Keep in mind that 0.8°C is an average calculation, so some places in the world may have increased a lot in temperatures whereas other places may have become much colder than their usual climate.

Carbon dioxide is the leading cause for greenhouse gas emissions. 57% of global gas emissions come from the releasing of carbon dioxide through the use of fossil fuels alone. Human use fossil fuels for nearly everything in their day to day life both directly and indirectly. Everything from the fuel needed for most cars to run to the making of

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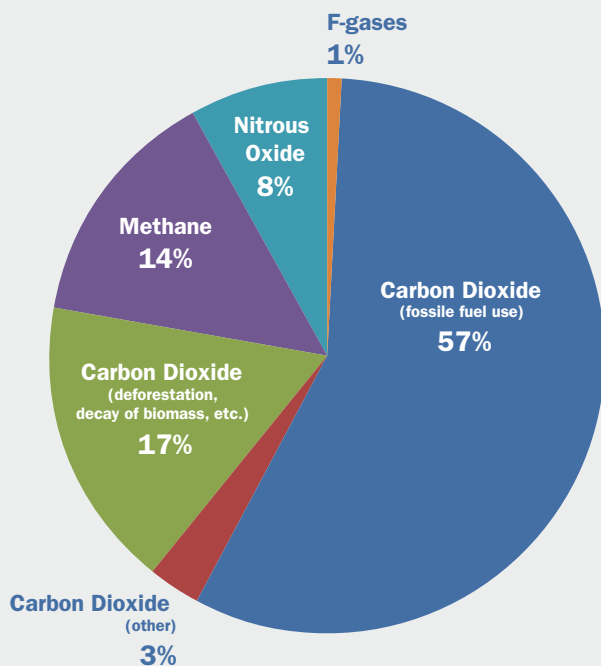
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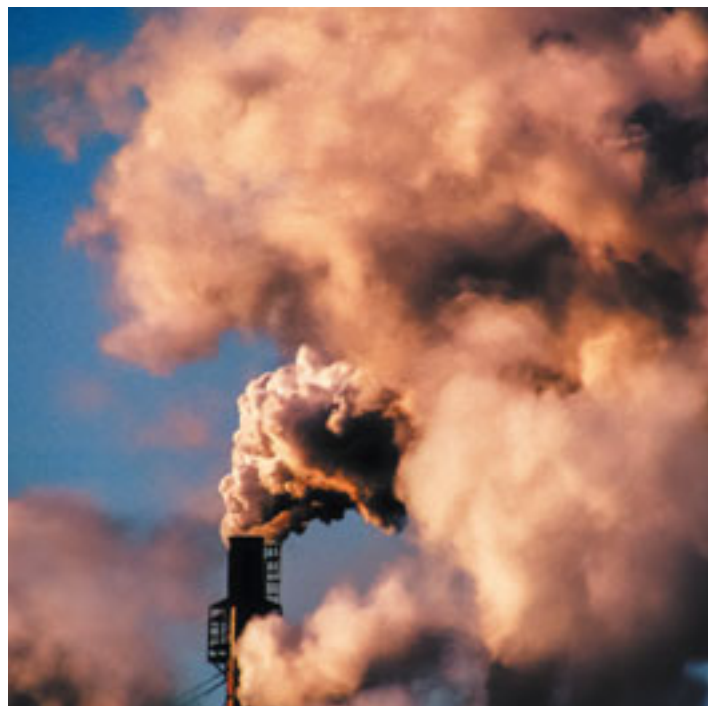
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Types of gas released by global greenhouse gas emissions in 2004.



Flickr © Billy Wilson

toothpaste. It is not going to be easy to decrease the use of CO₂ as humans are so dependent on it. Many countries' economies survive and thrive on the oil and gas industry. Though simple measures can be taken to prevent excess use of fossil fuels, such as driving less (walking, riding your bike, carpooling, etc.) and replacing your light bulb with a fluorescent one. Many people are choosing not to do anything, maybe it is ignorance or maybe they are unconcerned about what they are doing. What people do not realize is, if the acceleration of climate change continues, the world will experience *extreme* problems. There is a possibility of a large-scale freshwater short-

age (resulting in the shortage of food as well), a larger intensity in hurricanes, more droughts, heat waves, wild fires, higher frequency of flooding, the extinction of millions of species of organisms, and the disappearance of land due to rising water levels. That is only a part of the revolting truth. Our own health will deteriorate as many different pollutants that result from the burning of fossil fuels combine with warm air and sunlight to make smog. Smog has the ability to worsen heart and lung problems and with long term exposure, and can even cause lung cancer. Also, the higher temperatures get, the higher the chances of bacteria (on organisms that migrate) to grow. Cold winters used to

prevent this in the far north and the far south, but with winters getting hotter there is a greater chance of having bacterial disease outbreaks. This is a problem since scientists cannot stop the growth of bad bacteria without also stopping the growth of good bacteria.

However, fearing and dreading the future will not whisk away our problems. Nonchalantly thinking that everything will be okay will not save our future. We need to be brave. We need to draw courage from within and force ourselves to change our habits a little bit every day. Goals will need to be set. It does not matter if your goal is walking to school once a day or making a multinational cor-

poration decrease their carbon footprint; nothing is too small of goal as long as you put in your best effort to change destructive ways. This will *not* be easy. The entire world *must* realize what we are risking; ourselves, our mothers and fathers, our friends, our pets, the beauty of nature, and the beauty of life itself is in jeopardy. Do not think that if you do not do it, someone else will; you are the change. You are a part of the circle of life and everything you do will contribute to it one way or another. ■

July and August

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Learning Arabic, every little bit of effort counts



تبدل منظمة الصحة العالمية جهوداً كبيرة لمواجهة التحديات المتزايدة المتعلقة بصحة السكان في القرن الحادي والعشرين. ويعتبر تبادل المعلومات حول مشاكل الصحة خطوة أولى ضرورية لفهم هذه التحديات وتحسين الأنشطة الوقائية التي تواجه الإنسانية في هذا المجال. ومن هذا المنطلق يولي قسم تعليم اللغة العربية في منظمة الأمم المتحدة في جنيف اهتماماً خاصاً بالمواضيع المتعلقة بالمشاكل الصحية إضافة إلى المواضيع العامة المتعلقة بالعالم العربي. وتطرح هذه المواضيع للمناقشة مع الطلاب بشكل عام ومع موظفي منظمة الصحة العالمية بشكل خاص لتبادل المعلومات والخبرات كمساهمة متواضعة في تعزيز الجهود المستمرة لإيجاد الحلول الفعالة لهذه التحديات.

JILAN NADA, SDLS¹

The challenges facing public health in the global community today are becoming increasingly complex and inter-connected. The complexity of these challenges requires diverse skills and synergies in order to develop innovative and effective solutions.

Among these skills is communication which is fundamental to success in many aspects of life. Speaking a common language is the first step towards effective communication. Understanding the culture behind the language helps not only to better understand a person or situation but enables us to resolve differences, build trust and respect and create environments where creative ideas, problem solving and caring can flourish. This is why teaching both the language and the culture behind it has always been the aim of the Arabic programme at the UN.

The Arabic section of the Staff Development and Learning Section at UNOG welcomes among its students staff from WHO involved in Global Health Diplomacy (GHD). GHD which refers to "international diplomatic activities that (directly or indirectly) address issues of global health importance. It is concerned with how and why global health issues play out in a foreign policy context. It can encompass a broad set of activities and actors, such as formal country delegations holding bilateral and multilateral negotiations on health issues or a combination of governmental



and nongovernmental actors negotiating on health-related issues"². Because we believe that every little effort counts, the Arabic language training programme also includes in its curriculum all necessary aspects of the language and culture that could help those involved in negotiations to better understand the Arab world, to learn more about health-related issues in Arabic countries and to reach effective solutions through effective communication. Furthermore, Arabic classes discuss topics closely related to health issues such as climate change, social inequalities, public health and health care development in the Arab world.

The United Nations estimates that there are more than 300 million people whose mother tongue is Arabic and who are mainly residents of Arab countries. Statistics expect the world population to reach about 9.3 billion people by 2050 and, by then, Arabic is expected to be spoken by 647 million people as a first language.

In this continuously growing part of the world, the Arab region as a whole has made significant strides forward in health development and in improving the overall health and life expectancy of its populations. However, the region continues to face tremendous health challenges³.

These challenges are widely discussed in Arabic classes, particularly in the advanced levels when students can express themselves fluently and spontaneously. They can also use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes and can produce clear, well-structured and detailed text on complex subjects.

One of the main difficulties students meet when learning Arabic is the difference between Modern Standard Arabic and the dialects used in real life.

Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), as its name indicates, reflects

the needs of contemporary expression and is the official language of 22 Arab countries. It is used in both oral and written forms on all formal occasions.

Colloquial Arabic on the other hand is the spoken Arabic used by Arabs in their everyday lives. It is subject to regional variations, not only between different countries, but also across regions in the same country.

Whereas all Arabs use MSA for the exchange of printed information, especially on formal occasions, Arabic dialects are predominantly used for oral communication depending amongst other factors – on the location, level of education, and degree of urbanization.

Professionals in all fields need to take this variation into consideration when learning Arabic. The Arabic programme also takes this variation into consideration and places great emphasis on the comprehension and production of colloquial Arabic while MSA remains the main goal as a UN working language.

What students say

Aude Guimont: “My motivation to learn Arabic is linked to my experience in Israel back in 2004 when I had to work with Palestinian children. There, when doing field work, I understood the limits of communicating in a third language (i.e. English) and

decided to start learning Arabic. Studying Arabic is also an opportunity for my career development. But apart from the professional motivation, and more philosophically, I consider learning Arabic as a lifelong project, which gives me the possibility to approach and understand a culture I am very much interested in.”

John Habonimana: “Learning the Arabic language is an intellectual challenge which opens the door to a variety of cultures and customs from different regions of the world. Attending Arabic classes at the UN is also an opportunity to meet, communicate and network with people with different personal and career aspirations.”

What we offer

Each year, around 200 staff and diplomats take Arabic classes in the Staff Development and Learning Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva. Classes are taught entirely in Arabic by 3 qualified teachers from 3 different Arabic countries (Egypt, Lebanon and Syria). They have different backgrounds and cover different areas of expertise, giving students the opportunity to express themselves in both standard Arabic and spoken Arabic (Egyptian & Levantine). ■

1. Jilan Nada is Head of the Arabic Language Training Program – Staff Development and Learning Section (SDLS)
2. Global Health: since and practice journal
3. World Health Statistics 2013 http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/EN_WHS2013_Full.pdf?ua=1

For further information, please visit our webpage: <http://learnarabicatunog.wordpress.com/>

General courses:

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Specialized courses:

In addition to the general courses, specialized courses are offered in response to specific needs.

Over the past few terms we have offered:

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- Conversation classes (A2-B2)
- Grammar revision (A1-A2)
- Media & news (B1-B2+)
- LPE preparation (B2+)

Other activities:

Several extra-curricular activities are offered to our students so that they can have an approach to different aspects of Arabic culture.

Over the last few terms we have offered the following:

- Exhibitions and workshops on Arabic calligraphy
- Arabic music concerts and poetry readings
- Projection / visualization of internationally acclaimed Arabic films
- Meetings with representatives of permanent missions of Arabic speaking countries to practice Arabic and to learn more about the Arab world
- Arabic cooking

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Portoferraio, la capitale de l'île d'Elbe dominée par la maison où vécut Napoléon Bonaparte

Italie

Sous le soleil de Toscane

Après les incontournables visites de Pise, Sienne et Florence relatées dans l'UN Special de janvier 2012, nouvelle approche d'une Toscane moins connue, surprenante et dont le charme, l'accueil et la gastronomie font une région où la douceur de vivre est reine.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

L'automne approche et les vendanges battent leur plein sur le domaine Poggio Al Tufo situé près de Pitigliano, dans l'extrême sud de la Toscane. Il y a peu, la famille Tommasi, propriétaire des lieux, a ouvert un «agriturismo» au milieu des vignes pour recevoir leurs hôtes. Très répandue en Toscane et en Ombrie, la formule «agriturismo» est une des plus belles façons de découvrir ces régions, leurs habitants et leurs spécialités culinaires. Et dans le cas du Poggio Al Tufo les choses n'ont pas été faites à moitié pour satisfaire les occupants. Le cadre est splendide, la maison et les chambres ont énormément de charme, l'accueil fort chaleureux et la table savoureuse... tout ça pour un prix plus que raisonnable, nettement en dessous de beaucoup d'hôtels de gamme bien inférieure.

Une bonne adresse pour «recharger ses batteries» après trois journées bien remplies qui nous ont emmenés de Carrare à Pitigliano, en passant par

l'île d'Elbe et Garavicchio où la célèbre artiste Niki de Saint Phalle a créé «Le jardin des Tarots» qui regroupe la plupart de ses œuvres.

Le jardin extraordinaire de Niki de Saint Phalle

Jusqu'au 2 février 2015, le Grand Palais de Paris a proposé la plus grande exposition consacrée à Niki de Saint Phalle depuis vingt ans. L'artiste, née en 1930 et décédée il y a treize ans, est l'une des plus populaires du milieu du XX^e siècle, à la fois plasticienne, peintre, sculptrice et réalisatrice de films. Si elle est surtout connue du grand public pour ses célèbres «Nanas», son œuvre s'impose aussi par son engagement politique et féministe et par sa radicalité. Mariée avec Jean Tinguely, elle vivra pendant de longues années d'amour et d'art avec le sculpteur fribourgeois avec qui elle réalisera notamment une fontaine commandée par le Président François Mitterrand.

Après avoir découvert le Parc Güell à Barcelone et l'œuvre de

Gaudi, ainsi que le Palais idéal conçu par le facteur Cheval dans la Drôme, Niki de Saint Phalle va décider de créer son propre jardin de sculptures. Inspiré des 22 arcanes du jeu de tarot, elle va alors consacrer vingt ans de sa vie pour construire «Le Jardin des Tarots» à Garavicchio.

Carrare marque l'entrée en Toscane. Mondialement connue pour son marbre, la cité est malheureusement dominée par une montagne défigurée par les nombreuses carrières qui en ont fait sa richesse.

Durant trois jours, l'île d'Elbe accueille un rallye de véhicules historiques de renommée internationale. Aussi, si nous voulons pouvoir profiter des petites routes tortueuses qui mènent à ces petits villages hauts perchés, il ne faut pas traîner pour rejoindre Piombino d'où appaireille le ferry. L'île d'Elbe n'est pas seulement connue pour ses eaux cristallines, la beauté et les couleurs de ses paysages ou encore la richesse de ses minéraux. Elle est connue dans



Pitigliano perchée sur son abrupte falaise

le monde entier parce qu'elle reste liée à un grand nom de l'histoire, Napoléon Bonaparte, qui y fut exilé après avoir signé son abdication à Fontainebleau. Il y restera 300 jours, avant de s'en échapper fin février 1815, il y a tout juste 200 ans.

De retour sur le continent, après avoir longé la côte méditerranéenne jusqu'à la hauteur de la tristement célèbre île de Giglio (naufrage du paquebot Costa Concordia en janvier 2012), nous ne pouvons pas imaginer ce qui nous attend au bout du chemin qui nous conduit à Garavicchio où nous irons de surprise en surprise en découvrant le petit monde féérique de Niki de Saint Phalle constitué de 22 sculptures monumentales.

Détour en Ombrie

Proche de la frontière avec la région du Lazio, dans la vallée du Fiora, se dressent les citées étrusques et médiévales de Sovana, de Sorano et de Pitigliano. Des fouilles archéologiques récentes démontrent que cette dernière, perchée sur son abrupte falaise truffée de caves, date de l'époque protohistorique (âge du bronze, 1800 à 700 av. J.-C.). Au soleil couchant, les façades des vieilles maisons faites de tuf prennent la couleur miel et

le spectacle devient magique. A quelques kilomètres du lac de Bolsena, le plus grand lac d'origine volcanique d'Italie dont le niveau se trouve sans cesse modifié par des secousses telluriques, Orvieto trône sur son rocher de tuf et de pouzzolane. Nous sommes en Ombrie, une des vingt régions qui forment le pays et dont la capitale administrative est Pérouse. Perché sur une colline ceinte de remparts aux pieds desquels coule le Tibre, ce bijou médiéval admirablement conservé, centre universitaire depuis le XIV^e siècle, offre un cadre d'exception à ses 30 000 étudiants. Avant cela, notre route nous a conduits à Todi, agréable bourgade aux rues pavées, puis à Monte Castello di Vibio, petit village très bien conservé qui a obtenu le label des plus beaux bourgs d'Italie. Plus bas, au fond de la vallée, dominée par ses trois clochers, Deruta est connue depuis le XV^e siècle pour ses céramiques et, pour les amateurs, le plus dur est de faire son choix tant le nombre de boutiques est impressionnant!

Une dizaine de kilomètres nous sépare d'Assise. Inscrite au Patrimoine mondial de l'Unesco, la ville est parcourue chaque année par près de 6 millions de pèlerins qui viennent se

recueillir devant la dépouille de Saint-François inhumée dans la grandiose basilique qui porte son nom. Entourée de remparts, Assise n'a guère changé depuis le Moyen Âge même si le dramatique tremblement de terre de 1997 avait causé passablement de dégâts.

Du côté de la Callaiola

Loin de la foule envahissante rencontrée à Assise, le lac Trasimeno, le quatrième d'Italie par sa taille, apporte un peu de fraîcheur. Son romantisme, avec ses îles et ses hauteurs couronnées de châteaux, a inspiré beaucoup d'artistes. On ne peut que recommander une petite pause sur ses berges, à Passignano sul Trasimeno, avant de regagner la Toscane. Sur la route du retour, près de Sienne, sont édifiées les fortifications de Monteriggioni qui remontent au XIII^e siècle et qui sont visibles de loin avec ses quatorze tours qui

la composent. Des tours, San Gimignano en possède également quelques-unes. Inscrit par l'Unesco au Patrimoine mondial de l'humanité, c'est l'un des plus beaux villages de Toscane qui propose un stupéfiant exemple d'architecture médiévale dans un état de conservation exceptionnel. La fin du séjour et de la journée approche et il est impensable de quitter la région sans passer à Barberino Val d'Elsa, au sud de Florence, pour y retrouver Jocelyne, ex-mannequin, révolutionnaire en Amérique du Sud, actrice de cinéma, muse du peintre florentin Ademaro Bardelli... Depuis 20 ans, elle s'est isolée au milieu des champs d'oliviers, où elle tient la Callaiola¹, ancienne ferme transformée en douillettes chambres d'hôtes. Encore une bonne adresse qui fait le charme de la Toscane! ■

1 La Callaiola: T 055-807.65.98



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Planet Facebook or planet earth? By Pau Butler

Social Media

Facebook or Facing the Issues?

The social media effect on the today's world generation. Could this be for the Better or worse?

OMAR BAWA, CMO OF GOODWALL

Today's newest generation is said to be the generation of technology. A generation empowered by technology. Yet, there is a social conception that this generation of technology has become a generation of apathy. Young adults seem to be engrossed with Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. 95% of American teens utilize the internet, with 75% of teens using cell phones. Speaking as a teenager myself, I can easily attest to the dependency my generation has cultivated on these applications. My "generation of technology" has seemingly become one insulated from reality through social media. Teenagers seem unaware of the elections happening, the speeches being made, the treaties being negotiated. Even worse, some seem altogether indifferent.

Discussing current events with other teenagers easily becomes frustrating, since many are quick to label themselves as

"politically-informed" or "politically-uninformed." While it certainly is horrifying to realize that teenager's check Buzz feed and Facebook more than the news, it's even more horrifying that our generation is at the brink of civil responsibilities. Our generation, the uninformed generation, will be the one to make the world's next decisions. Unfortunately, the decisions aren't being made. A US census report showed that voter turnout of ages 18-24 has drastically been dropping, hitting 38% in 2012. Another report found that only 26% of the 18-24 age groups were interested in politics in the United Kingdom. These staggering numbers only seem to confirm the need for concern, yet a solution remains to be formed.

However, if social media were to showcase the ways that users could become more actively involved, or even just informed, the world around them might not be so isolated.



Mark Zuckerberg on stage at Facebook F8 Developer's conference 2015.

With so many people actively engaged in social media, the gap between the politically informed and uninformed can only be called despairing. Our generation would quickly regain the title of “the empowered generation.” What if social media could be seen as a gateway instead of a barrier?

Unfortunately, many teenagers who do not consider themselves well-versed in current events may feel easily overwhelmed by the sheer breadth of issues. Put simply, it's difficult to make your voice heard if you don't speak the language. However, if teenagers were slowly introduced to a few issues at a time, this generation as a whole would be more adept for activism. With billions wired into social media on a daily basis, this possibility

may be at the world's fingertips. Celebrities and popular websites may have millions of “followers,” but what if teenagers could “follow” current events? While it might be difficult to understand a variety of issues quickly, most are able to identify at least one issue that they care about, such as the environment. Users could select to “follow” an environmental issue, such as climate change. Articles detailing opinions and recent news about climate change would be streamed into one's social media feed. Articles could be pulled from a variety of news sources to reduce initial bias. To hear the same stories in different voices is to be exposed to the deeper details of an informed world. The more perspectives understood on an issue, the less

intimidating and confusing its complexities become.

Although an informed generation is certainly more equipped to be the active generation, there remains further potential. Social media should become a catalyst for teenage activism within communities. There are thousands of advertisements streaming through social media, yet there are few features on activism opportunities for users. If social media were to showcase ways that users could engage with the world around them, such as with local voter registration drives, food drives, or even local speakers, generations would quickly grow closer to achieving the momentum necessary for macro-level change. While there are some who strive for global solutions to issues on an immediate glob-

al scale, it is more pragmatic for the majorities to become active in the world around them, outside the world of tweets and likes and favorites. Teenagers would feel more comfortable integrating volunteering and activism into their everyday lives.

As our generation of technology is growing to become the next problem-solvers of the world, information and activism is of vital importance. With climate change, new diseases, and wars, the next generation needs to be prepared to take on a pivotal role. That preparation starts with widespread information. ■

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*“And you, all international colleagues
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Brief requirements to the photos:

- To be staff members of any UN Organisation and Agency at Geneva
- To correspond to the main theme “An International View of Geneva”
- One candidate can propose maximum 3 photos
- Image should be in 300 dpi (jpg, tiff)
- The deadline – Friday, 26 June 2015, midnight
- Send your photos to:
Etat de Genève,
Département présidentiel/SCI,
Concours photo,
2 rue Henry-Fazy,
1204 Genève
- Results will be announced in September.

UN SPECIAL EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Michael Møller, Acting Director-General in collaboration with the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva in organizing a photo competition open to staff members of the United Nations system in Geneva. The theme of the competition is: “An international view of Geneva”. Each participant can submit up to three photos. The rules of the competition and details regarding the format and deadlines for submitting entries are included in the attached note.

For further details you are welcome to address to: Florence Noël, Chief, Communication and Information Service of the State of Geneva (Florence.noel@etat.ge.ch). *UN Special* encourages its readers, who are staff members of any United Nations Organisation and Agency, to take part in the concours. Our magazine will publish the photo-winner and/or will propose a special central-page gallery for “An International View of Geneva” in one of the later issues! ■

This contest is a welcome opportunity to build bridges between the local population and International Geneva and share with our host city the many different ways in which we see it. The contest is open to all international civil servants of the United Nations Organisations and Agencies in Geneva. The jury will be composed of the representatives of the UNOG and the City of Geneva.

Message du rédacteur en chef

Vous aimeriez partager votre opinion sur le magazine et son contenu ?

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Et maintenant, à vos plumes !

Adressez vos commentaires à:

Garry Aslanyan, rédacteur en chef – *UN Special*
20, avenue Appia – 1211 Genève 27 – Suisse
Par courrier électronique: unspecial@who.int

Message from the editor-in-chief

Would you like to share your opinion about *UN Special* and its contents ?

Write to us!

We will be glad to hear from you.

The most interesting, relevant, or even ingenious responses will be published in the magazine.

We are also thinking of a regular feature with the messages from our readers.

Now, put pen to paper!

Send your thoughts to:

Garry Aslanyan, editor-in-chief – *UN Special*
20, avenue Appia – 1211 Genève 27 – Switzerland
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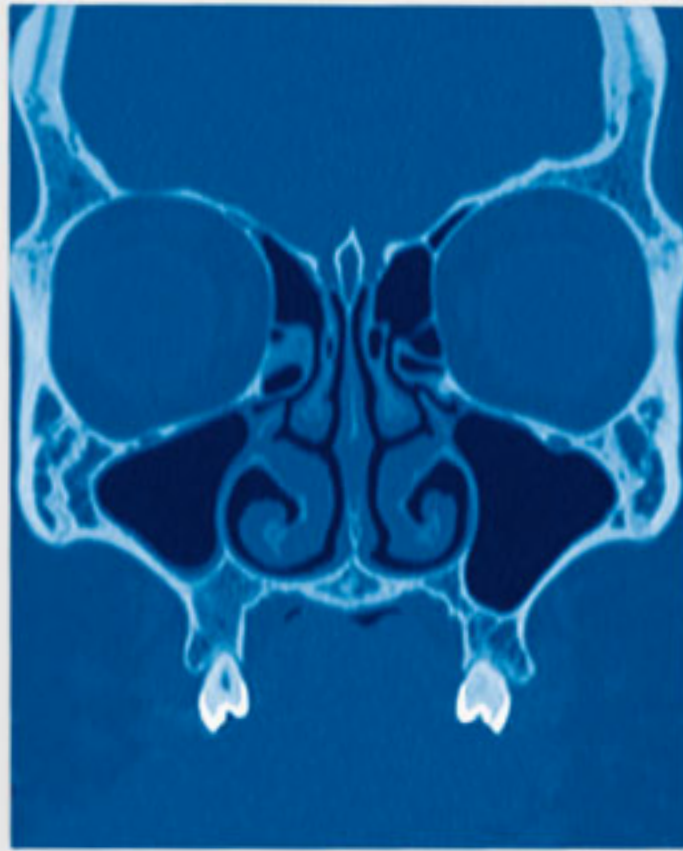


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