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Editorial

We are pleased to bring you the second volume of the UNESCO-Nairobi Newsletter. As with the first Volume, we have tried to make each article very brief, mindful of the possibility information overload. We will however be very pleased to provide additional articles to any reader who requests them.

This issue of the Newsletter contains information on recent events organized by the UNESCO Nairobi Office or in which the office has participated, as well as information on the new services provided in the UNESCO Nairobi library. As always, we welcome your comments on the content, layout and presentation. Send them to d.kirenga@unesco.org

Workshop on a Comprehensive/Detailed Assessment of the Vulnerability of Water Resources to Environmental Change

The workshop on a comprehensive / detailed assessment of the vulnerability of water resources to environmental change in Africa, Asia and Latin America using a River Basin Approach held from 3rd to 5th May 2006 at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, was jointly organized by UNEP, UNESCO and START (IHDP – IGBP – WCRP).

Among others, the outputs of the workshop were, a framework for comprehensive assessments of the vulnerability of water resources in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

It also established and strengthened regional and global networks of experts and stakeholders for vulnerability assessments on selected Rivers/Lake Basins/Groundwater resources. The workshop also saw the preparation of Groundwater-Surface Water proposals and established mechanisms for funding of these activities.

The meeting was introduced and conducted by Salif Diop (UNEP) and Emmanuel Naah (UNESCO) and chaired by Prof. Eric Odada (PASS/START).

In her welcome and opening remarks, Marion Cheatle, Officer In charge of UNEP-DEWA – raised the following points that set the direction for discussion during the meeting:

1. That the aim of the workshop was to share information and to learn from other regions, i.e. an opportunity for sharing south-south experiences.
2. Many freshwater ecosystems impacted by human activities have been severely disrupted (e.g. due to overexploitation, pollution, etc.) and therefore the workshop had an important role to play with regards to assessing the status of water resources.
3. The framework for assessment should include an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach.
4. Attention should be given to Small Island States.
5. That the workshop should develop plans or strategies for making information available to policy and decision makers in a user-friendly manner.

2nd ODINAFRICA Seminar (24-26 April 2006), & 3rd ODINAFRICA Project Steering Committee meeting (27-29 April 2006)

The second Ocean Data and Information Network for Africa (ODINAFRICA) Seminar, was held at the IODE Project Office in Ostende, Belgium from 24-26 April 2006 and attended by more than 60 people representing all the 25 countries participating in ODINAFRICA, Regional projects/programmes and organizations involved in marine related programmes, the government of Flanders (Belgium), ODINAFRICA trainers, and members of the ODINAFRICA Project Management and Steering Committees. The theme of the seminar was "Ocean Data and Information for Management and Development in Africa".

An exhibition and poster presentation on the activities of the ODINAFRICA National Data and Information Centres (NODCs), and the proposed ODINAFRICA Sea Level Data Facility was held during the seminar and opened by the Hon. Fientje Moerman, the Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for Economy, Enterprise, Science, Innovation and Foreign Trade.

The objective of the seminar was to review progress in implementation of the activities planned for the current phase of the project, recommend ways of improving implementation, and explore the potential collaboration with other programmes/projects.

Presentations were made on the following themes, with focus on experiences of the ODINAFRICA National Oceanographic Data and Information Centres:

1. The Role of International Oceanographic Data Information Exchange (IODE) Data Centres for Management of Marine and Coastal Areas
2. Reaching the Public: Generating Awareness about Marine and Coastal Issues
3. Building a National Data Service: Challenges and Experiences.
4. Development of Early Warning & Mitigation Systems for Tsunamis and other Marine Related Hazards

World Press Freedom Day UNESCO 3rd and 4th May 2006 at the Silver Springs Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya

As has been its tradition over the years, UNESCO Regional Communication Office hosted the annual World Press Freedom Day on 3rd and 4th May 2006 under the theme: *'The Relationship Between Press Freedom, Development and Poverty Eradication.'* The event brought together participants from the region drawn from media professionals, development agencies, economists, academicians, actors from selected civil society groups and UNESCO representatives from the Region.

The primary objective of the World Press Freedom Day is to contribute to the increasingly robust dialogue around issues of protecting the right to a free and independent media and seek ways of expanding the space for engagement between media and other sectors of society.

Through a combination of strategic plenary presentations covering diverse perspectives from the Region, a number of issues emerged as pertinent to the scaling up of the role of the media in development in general and in furthering the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with special reference to poverty eradication. Three primary areas of focus were identified, namely, Empowerment, Sustainable economic development and transparent, accountable, non-corrupt government.

In a statement read on his behalf, UNESCO Director General underscored the importance of a free press in the furthering of the MDGs and in poverty eradication in particular and emphasized that UNESCO would remain committed to the pursuit of a free and responsible press.

In conclusion, Participants were challenged to work out tangible, and practical strategies to follow through the workshop and so justify the enormous resources spent by UNESCO in creating the platform for such a fruitful two days engagement.



Education For All (EFA) Global Week Of Action 24 to 30 April 2006

This year's Education For All (EFA) Global Week of Action was marked from 24 to 30 April 2006. The theme this time round focused on: every child needs a teacher. During week, EFA campaigners united across the globe to demand from national governments, development agencies and the international community an adequate stock of teachers to guarantee quality education. In the UNESCO Nairobi Cluster, which comprises Burundi, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, the theme was varied to: "Every learner needs an educator" to embrace the entire spectrum of education and training, including formal, nonformal, adult and continuing education.

UNESCO-Nairobi held a cluster-wide consultation in Kampala, Uganda, during the week to provide a forum for cross-border discussions and review of progress toward EFA targets. The consultation offered a platform for debating common initiatives including Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD), and EDUCAIDS among other related EFA programmes. EFA Coordinators and education writers/journalists in the cluster were briefed on how to enhance reporting on EFA issues and concerns drawing on experiences from an observational field visit.

Journalists from six leading Newspapers in the sub-region participated along with EFA Coordinators, officials from Ministries of Education and the adult education sub-sector. Selected district-level education officers also contributed to the deliberations.

In Kenya, DARAJA, a civic and social policy forum working in areas of education, governance/civic affairs and social sector analysis, and the Elimu Yetu Coalition, a network of key education civic society organizations (CSOs), along with the Kenya Ministry of Education have joined hands with support from UNESCO.

EFA activities have been taking place in all provinces and districts where challenges facing education have been debated through seminars, community forums, public processions and public debates. A national policy workshop is planned for 11 May 2006 for key education stakeholders. Focus will be on issues and challenges facing Non-Formal Education (NFE), Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Adult and Continuing Education (ACE) with specific attention to teacher training, recruitment, professional development and motivation. The policy forum hopes to come up with concrete recommendations and proposals geared towards influencing education sector reforms in the country.

New Services in UNESCO Nairobi Library

The users of UNESCO Nairobi library are staff and consultants of UNESCO, UN Agencies based in Gigiri and all researchers that deal with UNESCO programmes in Education, Natural Sciences, Social & Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information. Since the main objective of libraries is to cater for users information needs, UNESCO Nairobi library from time to time carries out a survey to determine users' satisfaction with the collection and the services of its library. The results of the last survey carried out in October 2005 showed that most users found the library collection useful, but would be more satisfied, if the

library had Internet facilities where they can access information on a global perspective as well. For this reason, a cyberspace has been created where users can now come and surf the Internet. In addition, the library now has a TV and video where users can view news and have access to information in videocassettes that is part of the library collection. By bringing in these new changes, UNESCO library is not only trying to market itself but also to promote free flow of information and thereby create knowledge societies. This is one of the priorities of UNESCO.



*Users can now surf
the Internet*

Director's Mission to Eritrea Asmara 27 March – 1 April 2006

This was the second visit by a UNESCO representative from the Nairobi Office. The earlier visit by Mr. Paul Vitta had demonstrated that the transfer of Eritrea office to the Nairobi cluster can indeed work to her benefit.

The visit was intended to ensure that our partners in both Government and international community are aware of the activities in the UNESCO programme in the various areas of our mandate. It was also an opportunity to discuss aspects of the new UNDAF which is to be rolled out at the end of the year.

The Director, Mr. Joseph Massaquoi had a meeting with the Minister of Education in the company of Ms. Mehret lyob, Secretary-General of UNESCO NATCOM.

He took the opportunity to inform the Minister about the purpose of the visit. He also used the occasion to appraise him of some of the project activities that UNESCO Nairobi is implementing or planning to implement in the country. In particular he mentioned that following the visit of Mr. Vitta the UNESCO Nairobi Office developed a project for teacher training which is now being implemented. Furthermore the UNESCO Nairobi office is preparing another project for \$200,000, which will be used to solicit funds from various donors.

The Minister was happy that Eritrea is now benefiting from UNESCO activities. He lamented that in the past Eritrea did not benefit from UNESCO because they were under the Addis Ababa cluster. Since the transfer from the Addis Ababa cluster to the Nairobi Cluster he has seen significant changes. He was grateful for the teacher training activities and the recent promise from the ADG/CI to send a team to conduct needs assessment for the development of ICT in Eritrea.

He was also pleased that the UNESCO Nairobi office had followed up on his request to the Director-General during the October 2005 General Conference for assistance in the training of curriculum developers to digitise the books produced locally.

The UNESCO Nairobi office is willing to send a resource person to conduct the training once the Ministry of Education completes arrangement for the training facilities.

Mr. Massaquoi also informed the Minister that in order for Eritrea to benefit from the services available in UNESCO, he needed to strengthen the NATCOM secretariat so that the staff will serve as a strong link to look after the country's interest within the organisation.

Upcoming Events

1. International Workshop on Sciences For Cultural Heritage.....October 23-27 Trieste, Italy
2. June/July- 5 weeks training on Animation (Africa Animated!).
Venue -Nairobi Kenya

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