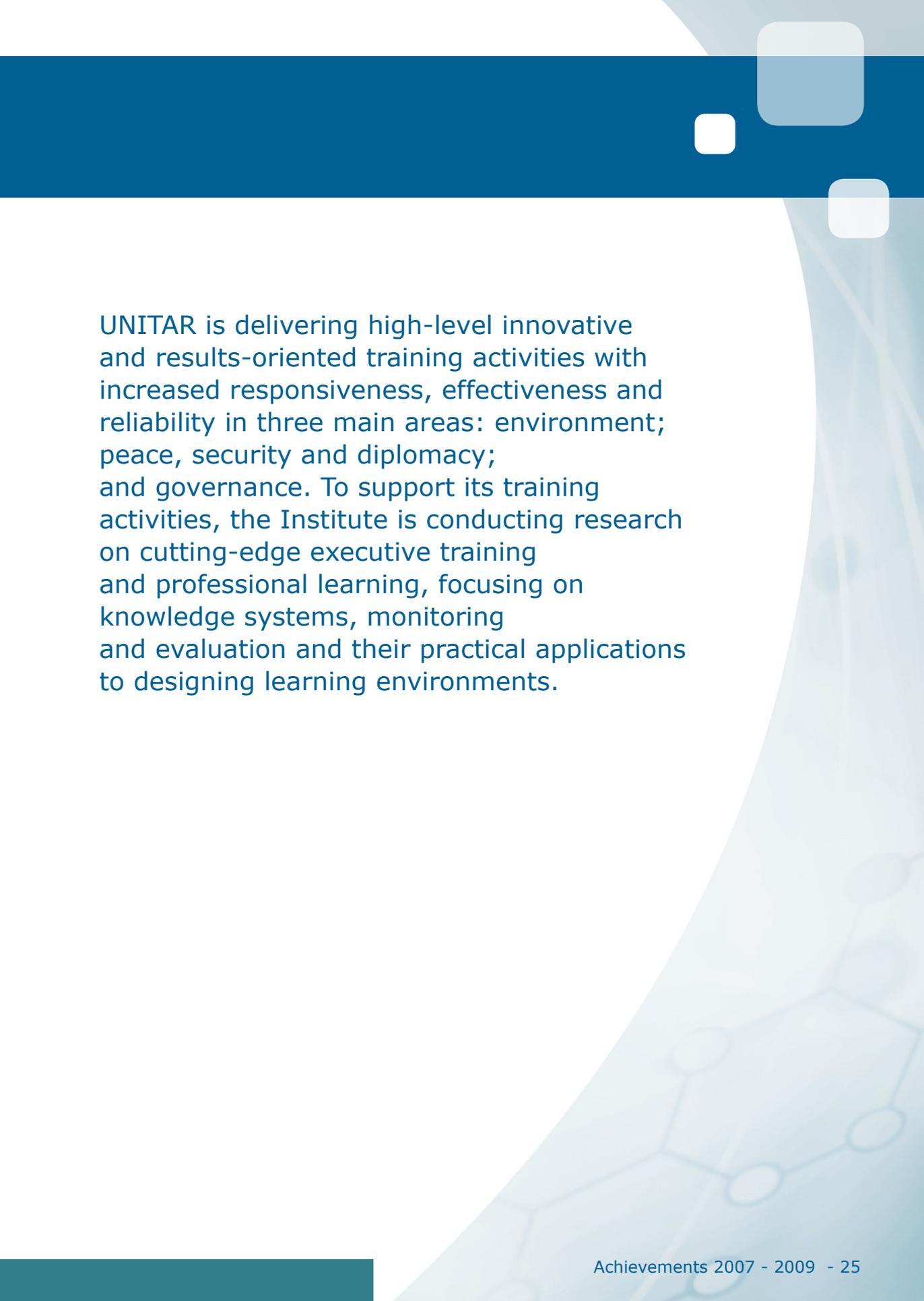
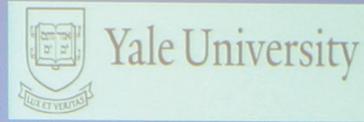


**Taking the lead in executive training & research
on cutting-edge issues**





UNITAR is delivering high-level innovative and results-oriented training activities with increased responsiveness, effectiveness and reliability in three main areas: environment; peace, security and diplomacy; and governance. To support its training activities, the Institute is conducting research on cutting-edge executive training and professional learning, focusing on knowledge systems, monitoring and evaluation and their practical applications to designing learning environments.



Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy

Institutions, public participation and environmental sustainability: Bridging research and capacity development

10-11 May 2008, Yale University, New Haven



“The UNITAR-Yale Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy brought together a remarkable and diverse group of policy maker and scholars from around the world. Their vivid and stimulating interaction generated new and important insights about the relationship of democracy and the imperative to protect our environment”.

Gus Speth, Former Administrator of UNDP and Dean of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Objective 3:

Meeting the environmental training challenge

The imperative of protecting the environment for present and future generations has created an unprecedented global need for learning and skills development for decision-makers, managers, and other individuals.

UNITAR's environmental training activities and services are making a constructive and cost-effective contribution to this global challenge. To date, some 26,000 individuals from more than 130 countries have been trained, helping develop their capacities to foster environmentally sustainable development.

The UNITAR/Yale University Partnership: Generating innovative knowledge to advance environmental governance

UNITAR aims to develop new and fresh thinking and to share knowledge on the design of institutions and governance mechanisms that can effectively address environmental challenges.

Key achievements

- n 150 scholars and practitioners from more than 65 countries attended the 2008 UNITAR/Yale University Conference on Environmental Governance and Democracy, the first global conference focusing on participatory environmental governance;
- n Former and present UNEP Executive Directors participated to the 2009 Global Environmental Forum coordinated by the Yale Global Environmental Governance Project.

Activities

The conference emphasized the role that institutions play in shaping public participation and policy outcomes.

It also generated a series of innovative studies as a contribution to a growing interest in research, teaching and capacity building in the area of democratic environmental governance.

Bringing together architects of the environmental governance system the conference generated a blueprint for reform of contemporary international environmental institutions.



Achieving sound management of chemicals by 2020

UNITAR contributes to meet the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) goal of achieving sound chemicals management in all countries by 2020 through the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), a major “framework” international agreement on the sound management of chemicals.

Key achievements

- n With 60 country projects UNITAR has become the leading organization assisting countries to implement SAICM;
- n 2 key guidance documents developed by UNITAR with the SAICM Secretariat and endorsed by IOMC respectively i) to assist countries with the development of SAICM Implementation Plans, and ii) on the development of a National SAICM Capacity Assessment;
- n UNITAR received a mandate at the second International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) in May 2009 in Geneva, to partner with OECD in delivering activities related to nanotechnology/manufactured nanomaterials to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Activities

Endorsed by over 140 countries and a wide variety of international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, SAICM provides a framework for UNITAR's other activities in the area of sound chemicals management, including work on legally binding conventions such as the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and key voluntary agreements such as the Globally Harmonized System on Classification and Labeling of Chemicals.

UNITAR regularly participates in SAICM-related activities, including:

- n Committees related to a key UNEP-held trust fund that provides resources for projects to commence implementation of SAICM, and all SAICM regional workshops (covering all UN regions);
- n Co-convening a learning centre on SAICM at the 2010 sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) in New York, and acting as IOMC focal point for SAICM in the Latin America/Caribbean region.

Preparing countries for the technological (r)evolution of nanotechnologies

Imagine a computer that could fit on the head of a pin, laptop batteries that have double or even triple lives of current versions, and materials, including clothing, that can be made miraculously stain-proof.

Nanotechnology (the science of the small) and manufactured nanomaterials made of tiny particles measured on the scale of one billionth of a meter (about 1/80,000 the width of a human hair) have the possibility to change life as we know it.

While there are countless benefits to be gained from "nanoscience", there are also potential risks to human health and the environment. These are risks that the scientific community and decision-makers in governments all around the world must face, and are just beginning to study.

Under the auspices of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (which UNITAR presently chairs), and with initial financial support from Switzerland, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, the OECD and UNITAR are holding Awareness-Raising Workshops on Nanotechnology / Manufactured Nanomaterials for Developing and Transition Countries.

The workshops, organized in conjunction with UN regional meetings on the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) during 2009-2010, inform participants on potential applications and risks from nanotechnologies and manufactured nanomaterials, as well as describing opportunities for awareness-raising activities in developing and transition countries.

Strengthening public participation in environmental governance

UNITAR assists countries in assessing national capacities and identify priority actions to strengthen participatory environmental governance consistent with Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration adopted at the Rio Summit in 1992.

Key achievements

- n 9 developing and transition countries have elaborated National Profiles and Action Plans;
- n Multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platforms bringing together government actors and stakeholder groups in place;
- n More than 800 participants engaged in project activities to date;

- n Increased policy coherence and linkages with international policy instruments such as the Aarhus Convention established in 1998 under the auspices of the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

Activities

UNITAR supports a country-driven four-step process consisting of i) preparation of a national profile, ii) organization of a National Priority Setting Workshop, iii) development of an action plan, and iv) implementation of selected capacity development interventions.

UNITAR's methodology recognizes the importance of ensuring that the process takes national needs and circumstances into account.

In the African region, the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) includes among its founding principles good governance as well as a broad and deep participation of all sectors in society, in order to address current development challenges of the continent.

An open Africa-wide application process was announced at the 12h session of the African Ministerial Conference for the Environment (AMCEN-12) in a UNITAR / UNEP / University of Cape Town side event.



“OECD currently has the privilege to work with UNITAR in two important emerging areas of chemicals management – Nanotechnology and Manufactured Nanomaterials and the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). [...] UNITAR’s innovative work with developing countries and countries in transition, in particular, very well complements the work of OECD to serve its member states”.

Angel Gurría, Secretary-General of the OECD



Enhancing implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration

UNITAR, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), is providing capacity development support to countries in Central America.

Managua, 18 November of 2009: More than 50 participants from various government sectors and stakeholder groups participated in a National Planning Workshop to kick-off a 1-year UNITAR supported project entitled "Preparing a National Profile and Action Plan on the Implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration".

Nicaragua has taken considerable steps in modernizing its environmental legislation, including new provisions to secure access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.

The process initiated revealed opportunities to enhance the effective implementation of Principle 10, and highlighted challenges such as high levels of analphabetism, making information available in an understandable manner and proper dissemination of information to the public.



“Nicaragua is committed in taking the steps to implement Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration with the goal to protect the environmental rights and interests of civil society. The [Principle 10] project encourages collaboration between the government and non-governmental parties, including the private sector, public interest groups, universities and indigenous groups”.

Elisa Marenco Castellon, Director, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA), Nicaragua



Closing the world's last mercury exporting mine

Bangkok, 20 October 2009: After two years of intensive training and related assistance from UNITAR, the Government of Kyrgyzstan has announced the conditional closure of Batken Oblast, the world's last remaining exporting mercury mine.

UNITAR worked, in partnership with UNEP and the governments of Switzerland and the United States on the "Development of an Action Plan to Address Primary Mercury Mining

in Kyrgyzstan" project, which consisted of intensive activities to assist all ministries, agencies and stakeholders outside of government to reach a decision on closure of the mine by considering alternatives that better protect human health and the environment from the hazardous impacts of mercury.

This decision, announced by the State Secretary for Industry of the Government of Kyrgyzstan feeds into upcoming international negotiations for the development of a legally-binding instrument to control mercury – a highly toxic element that is still used around the world.

Reducing risk associated with mercury mining

UNITAR provides support to countries in developing national strategies to reduce emissions and manage risks caused by mercury.

Key achievements

- n Four mercury pilot projects conducted in Kyrgyzstan, Chile, Ecuador, and Panama as a contribution to the Global Mercury Partnership;
- n Information and knowledge on mercury patterns and magnitudes collected through Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR);
- n Guidance provided and training materials developed to support national mercury implementation activities.

Activities

UNITAR's activities in this area are part of long-standing PRTR and Risk Management Decision Making specialized training and capacity building programmes, and are conducted through a country-driven and multi-stakeholder approach in collaboration with relevant international agencies.

Outcomes at country level include a National Mercury Releases Inventory, a National Action Plan to address the integration of the National Mercury Inventory within a national PRTR system, and a National Mercury Risk Management Plan, which takes national conditions into account in outlining options to reduce mercury releases and exposures.

“We are grateful to the forum organizers for the invitation of the Kyrgyzstan’s delegation. [...] I would like to thank international organizations and donors, which support project activities implemented through UNEP, UNITAR, GRID, and particular thanks to the governments of Switzerland and US for support”.

Batyrkul Isaevch BAETOV, State Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Fuel Resources, Kyrgyzstan



Audiovisual tools for community-based adaptation: Bridging the Malawi Red Cross and Meteorological Services

In Malawi, the Advancing Capacity to Support Climate Change Adaptation (ACCCA) project team developed a participatory video project for community-based climate change adaptation in rural areas. Working in collaboration with the local Red Cross and Meteorological Services, the team taught subsistence farmers about climate change and how to respond to its impacts. The farmers then learned how to operate a video camera, develop a script and make a film showing examples of the adaptation practices they had been learning about. The film was shown in neighbouring villages, and its effect was evaluated through surveys and video interviews.

Jamila Anusa, one of the farmer/filmmakers, said: "The making of this film is very good because we can teach our friends in the other villages exactly what we have learned about climate change".

Six months after seeing the film, Alick Malunje from Kasache village told a Red Cross worker: "I've started keeping my maize in bags. In January 2009 our village was affected by flood. I was able to carry the bags to the temporary shelter without difficulties. I did not lose my food, but those who keep their maize in the granary lost theirs".

This participatory video approach has already helped some Malawian farmers improve food security in a changing climate. It shows how people can become empowered to cope with the negative impacts of climate change, when they have access to relevant information.

Empowering local communities with climate change adaptation options

UNITAR is developing institutional and human capacity to address the effects of climate change and is strengthening the capacity of countries to participate in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process.

Key achievements

- n A network of 6 regional centres of excellence created that constitutes a community of knowledge and practice geared towards sustaining enhanced North-South and South-South collaboration;
- n 19 successful pilot country projects implemented in Africa and Asia;
- n Governments, researchers, scientists and local communities engaged in coordinated efforts towards effective adaptation and vulnerability reduction of climate change;
- n Key partnerships established with the European Community, international organizations, centres of excellence and national research institutions.

Activities

UNITAR has taken an original approach to the development of learning materials and tools to transform climate data into information for adaptation and mitigation planning by establishing a partnership framework among 6 centres of excellence. In this way the Institute has strengthened the institutional capacity of the centres to continuously build human capacity in developing countries; provide technical support to countries in Asia and Africa on the interpretation of climate science; and how best to communicate with communities and decision-makers. This ensures sustainable learning and is a good example of the positive attributes of South-South and North-South collaboration.

The direct impact of this approach is that the strong interaction and excellent collaboration among the regional centres have also contributed to and enhanced institutional building on climate change.

In addition the centers contribute to build baseline data and information on how local communities are currently coping with the impacts of climate change.



“Since the opening of the UNITAR Hiroshima Office in 2003, more than 4,400 participants from the Asia-Pacific region have improved their skills and knowledge to impact the development of their countries. We believe that UNITAR’s mission creates synergies with ours: to build a better world”.

Hon. Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor, Hiroshima Prefectural Government, Japan