



**unitar**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Knowledge to lead

# Newsletter

## Winter 2010

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### Editorial

The year 2010 was a quite eventful year for UNITAR and is finishing with a major event, the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Geneva Lecture Series (GLS). This session entitled "The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Global Economic Governance" will welcome two prominent actors in this area: Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, and Pascal Lamy, Director General of the World Trade Organization.

The financial and economic crisis is inducing shift in development cooperation. One of them is the strengthening of new alliances and South-South cooperation. In its strive to respond to capacity development needs of developing and emerging economies, UNITAR is actively promoting and streamlining South-South and triangular cooperation across its activities through establishing a physical presence in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This is evidenced by the recent opening of the UNITAR Office in Brasilia; the growing network of affiliated training centers for local actors (CIFAL); the high-level event on "China-Africa Cooperation" organized during the Shanghai World Expo 2010, and activities conducted under the various UNITAR programmes.

This trend constitutes a major component of the UNITAR Strategic Plan 2010-2012, which will be reviewed at the next session of the Board of Trustees in January 2011, together with other strategic orientations such as the establishment of a Fellowship Fund, the introduction of on-line registration and fee paying system, or the expanding share of e-learning as a modality of delivery to reach out to more beneficiaries.

We wish you all a happy and healthy year 2011!

\*The achievements report 2007-2009 is now online and can be downloaded from [www.unitar.org/achievements-report-2007-2009](http://www.unitar.org/achievements-report-2007-2009).

Should you have any comment on the newsletter, please contact: [communications@unitar.org](mailto:communications@unitar.org)

### InFocus

#### UNITAR opens new office in Brasilia

Brasilia, 13 Oct.: More than 60 representatives of national, local authorities, UN agencies and foreign embassies celebrated the inauguration of the UNITAR office in Brasilia.

Given its role as a powerful emerging economy and a strong partner for South-South cooperation, Brazil was selected as the location for UNITAR's third outpost office, after New York and Hiroshima, and becomes UNITAR's first office in the South.

The UNITAR office in Brasilia was established via a technical cooperation agreement signed with the Brazilian Ministry of Planning, Budget and Administration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National School of Public Administration (ENAP). UNITAR will support ENAP to strengthen capacities of public servants in the area of infrastructure development.



**From left to right: Rodrigo da Rocha Loures, President of CIFAL Curitiba Management Council; Carlos Lopes, UNITAR Executive Director; Paulo Carvalho, ENAP Director for Executive Training; Francisco Gaetani, Deputy Executive Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Budget and Administration; Márcio Lopes Corrêa, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), Ministry of Foreign Relations; Jorge Chediek, UN Resident-Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Brazil**

The UNITAR office in Brasilia will serve as regional hub for capacity development and sharing of know-how to address the needs of Brazilian federal, state and local civil servants and to engage in South-South Cooperation with Latin America and Portuguese-speaking African countries.

## Success for UNITAR at the Shanghai Expo

Shanghai, 19-25 Sept: Over 177'000 people visited the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010 during the UNITAR week and assisted to public sessions, seminars and high-level meetings. Not less than 15 events were organized around the two themes of the Expo ("Better City, Better Life") and the UN Pavilion ("One UN, One Earth") on hot topics such as the Millennium Development Goals, climate change adaptation, corporate social responsibility, China-Africa economic cooperation.



*From left to right: Gaetano Cavalieri, President of CIBJO; Guijin Liu, Special Representative of the Chinese Government for African Affairs; Carlos Lopes, Executive Director UNITAR*

In this context, senior Chinese government and UN officials, high level representatives of the diamond and jewelry industry, international chambers of commerce and a panel of world-recognized specialists on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) gathered for a 2-day series of events. Participants shared their views and experiences on how CSR practices develop in this industrial sector and thus contribute to sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals.

## Trends & Activities

### Japan - Latin America Forum on Sustainable Development 2010



Tokyo, 18-20 Nov.: UNITAR and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) successfully held the inaugural session of the "Japan - Latin America Forum".

Ministers, vice ministers, ambassadors and participants representing 16 Latin American countries joined members of parliament, vice ministers and private sector leaders from Japan. The Forum served as a venue for the exchange of knowledge and best practices on environmental sustainability and was complemented by a study-tour of the Sanyo Solar Ark in Nagoya, to experience this state-of-the-art of solar technology in Japan.

### Training of Trainers from the Diplomatic Academies of South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Geneva, 4 Oct.: The unique setup of this Training of Trainers consisted of several related workshops that mutually reinforced each other, thereby leading to an unprecedented added-value for both diplomatic academies. These workshops focused on the dynamics of Multilateral Conference Diplomacy and offered a

highly creative and interactive refresher course on training techniques.

Active participation and empowerment of learners contributed to make the training evolve closest to their needs and facilitated knowledge sharing. What is more, the organizations of round tables with senior officials from the Geneva-based UN agencies addressed the multilateral context of the United Nations through a practical approach.

### Supporting Chemical Safety through Labeling in Zambia

Lusaka, 24 Sept.: As a result of the National Planning and Inception Workshop held in Zambia a new project to "Strengthen Capacities for Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and support GHS capacity building" was launched.

Mr. Edwin Soko, Acting Director of the Environment Council of Zambia (ECZ), said that the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) was a new international tool that could be effectively used as a basis for developing comprehensive national chemical safety programmes.



As part of this 2-year project, training will be conducted in order to define and classify hazards and communicate hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. Financed by the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, the project will receive technical support from the UNITAR/ILO GHS Capacity Building Programme.

### First training on Green Growth and Low-Carbon Cities for Asia-Pacific Region

Jeju, 11 Nov.: CIFAL Jeju, Republic of Korea, completed its first training on Green Growth. Participants from Pakistan, Philippines, Viet Nam, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Indonesia had the opportunity to visit Jeju's Smart Grid testing centres exploring future innovations for renewable energy while limiting carbon emissions.



*CIFAL Jeju Training Centre*

Since Jeju province was designated as a pilot area for Green Growth in 2007, lessons learned from this Korean experience represent a valuable knowledge for the Asia-Pacific Region. Indeed, the training confirmed the high demand for integrating Green Growth into local development across Asia.

In 2011, CIFAL Jeju will host introductory Green Growth training courses, as well as more specific workshops for developing Green Growth training plans and programmes across local governments in the Asia-Pacific Region.

### **New E-learning course on "New frontiers in Agricultural Trade and Regulation"**

15 Nov.: The field of agriculture and trade raises a host of connected issues such as food security and food safety, environmental and other consumers concerns, and domestic regulation.

This new e-Learning course focuses on the preparation and conduct of agricultural negotiations. It aims to provide participants with a set of tools for analyzing the role and limits of trade negotiations on agriculture against a broader canvas of national development objectives.

### **UNCTAD/UNITAR joint workshop on Multilateral Conference Diplomacy**

Geneva, 4-5 Nov.:

Members of permanent missions in Geneva dealing with the United Nations Conference on Trade And Development (UNCTAD) issues were invited to participate in a workshop on effective negotiations in a multilateral context.



Role-play simulations, case studies and experience sharing allowed the participants to quickly grasp the different conference dynamics and the peculiarities of UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery. Spurred by the very positive participants' feedback, the next workshop in the series is scheduled early 2011.

### **GTZ/UNITAR collaboration for strengthening Thai Government capacity in International Environmental Law**

Bangkok, 21 Sept.: Following up on the July agreement, the German technical cooperation (GTZ) and UNITAR implemented a training course for Thai Government officials aiming at enhancing knowledge and understanding of international environmental law as well as identifying the main environmental issues in the South-East Asian Region.

Training activities were conducted in cooperation with the Thai-German Climate Protection Programme, The GTZ Office in Bangkok and the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) of the Kingdom of Thailand.

### **The Swiss Permanent Mission and UNITAR partner on the 2010 UN Reform Course Series**



New-York, 8 Oct.: Since Member States recognized the need for transforming and adapting the United Nations system to today's realities, UNITAR developed a Course Series on UN

Reform to enable delegates to engage constructively in relevant consultations.

Speakers, including United Nations senior managers, permanent representatives and experts from civil society or academia, offered a broad overview of the history, milestones, and current status of the United Nations Reform from multiple perspectives. Over the last three years, some 500 diplomats, United Nations staff, and researchers benefited from this course.

### ***Knowledge to Lead***

#### **Climate change: an integrated approach**

Climate change has been a priority for UN Member States for several years. It is constantly raising new challenges and it will affect more and more the economy. To address these challenges, UNITAR has adopted an integrated approach through multidisciplinary activities including:

[UN CC:Learn - UN training platform on climate change](#)

Geneva, 29 Oct.: Representatives from 17 UN agencies joined a 2-day workshop to collaborate on the UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change. "UN CC:Learn seeks to create a common platform owned by all participating UN agencies with the goal to share experiences and respond effectively to climate change learning and skills development priorities in partner countries" said Mr. Carlos Lopes.

#### [2010 Highlands International Biodiversity & Climate Change Conference](#)

Findhorn, 5 Nov.: The International Biodiversity and Climate Change Conference, organized by the UNITAR affiliated training centre CIFAL Findhorn, Scotland UK, provided an unparalleled opportunity to meet experts in both land and marine ecology and to find the latest information on how climate change is affecting Northern Europe's unique habitats and resources. As an official contribution to the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity, the conference attracted a wide audience from policymakers to crofters, foresters to tourist operators, fishermen to farmers, land managers to the news media; all those with a vital interest in the profound implications of climate change on biodiversity.



**Ecovillage Findhorn**

New e-learning course on Climate Change Diplomacy  
4 Oct.: An 8-week course was launched for diplomats, negotiators and high level officials with the objective to facilitate international negotiations, public sector work, and diplomatic engagement in relation to climate change through an enhanced understanding of its science, international policy framework, and the key negotiation issues pertinent to a post 2012 agreement.

#### **UNOSAT's geoinformation support praised in the context of natural disaster.**

In October, UNOSAT was mobilized twice for assistance in emergency situations due to natural disasters:

##### **Viet Nam – Floods – 7 Oct.**

###### Nature of the disaster

Several provinces in Central Viet Nam were being affected by torrential rains – 61'000 houses flooded in 228 communities.

###### UNOSAT contribution

UNOSAT rapid mapping service was activated to provide accurate geographic information on the extent of the flooding and its impact.

##### **Philippines – Typhoon Megi – 20 Oct.**

###### Nature of the disaster

Category 5 typhoon, some 40'000 families affected in 99 municipalities and 9 cities.

###### UNOSAT contribution

UNOSAT was requested by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to deploy its mapping capacity over the affected regions to provide appropriate information for in field coordination and assessment.

UNOSAT geographic information services are also appreciated for post crisis analyses as well as for scenario simulation in order to enhance the capacity of governments and international organizations to react in coordination to rapid onset disaster situations.

## **Partnerships & Collaborations**

### **UNITAR joins the UN Water Platform**



4 Sept.: UNITAR has joined the UN Water Platform during its 13<sup>th</sup> coordination meeting.

Becoming a member of the UN

Water Platform is a great opportunity to coordinate UNITAR's capacity development, research and training activities on water and sanitation with other UN institutions as well as to add value to the platform in numerous ways.



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معهد الأمم المتحدة للتدريب والبحث  
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Expected involvement of UNITAR is with UNOSAT on the mapping of water resources in trans-boundary areas, and through UNITAR's CIFAL network for the delivery of coordinated water and sanitation training activities or expertise for e-learning courses.

### **UNITAR and the University of Notre Dame to promote the Global Commons**



Geneva, 18 Nov.: Following the public lecture on "The Renaissance of Commons in the face of Global Market Enclosure" by David Bollier, and the rising interest in this subject area, UNITAR and the University of Notre

Dame (Indiana, USA) have entered into an agreement in view of developing a series of e-learning courses on the Commons.

As new models of commons-based governance have arisen from the huge variety of commons proliferating on the Internet - open source software, Wikipedia, peer-to-peer file sharing, social networking software, etc - there is a need to increase awareness and knowledge on those "alternative and social systems" that may encourage people to work together cooperatively on important projects such as reversing global warming or contributing to conflict resolution.

### **IARCS & UNITAR collaborate for the Afghan reconstruction process**



Geneva, 29 Oct.: Building on the success of the last seven years (more than 230 Fellows were trained in the framework of UNITAR Fellowship for Afghanistan), The Independent Administration Reform and Civil

Service Commission (IARCS) and UNITAR have decided to expand their cooperation through the UNITAR Afghan Gender Advancement and Capacity Building programme conducted by the UNITAR Hiroshima Office.

IARCS and UNITAR will develop and conduct training activities for female Afghan civil servants in leadership, public administration and gender policy in the Afghan reconstruction process. The objective of this new programme is to enhance the outreach of the Fellowship for Afghanistan and empower female public officials to become agents of change and transformation in their organizations, as a means to maximize the administrative reform of the Afghan government. Altogether, not less than 120 women will benefit over the next three years from the Gender Equality Fellowship or the Annual Study trip to Japan.



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