



VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4 MARCH 2005

CONTACT

CANADIAN COMMISSION
FOR UNESCO



SUMMARY

Message from the President	P . 0 3
Message from the Secretary-General	P . 0 3
Alex Michalos Wins Gold Medal for Achievement in Research	P . 0 4
In Memoriam : Michel Batisse (1923-2004)	P . 0 5
Launch of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)	P . 0 5
Update on Standard-setting Instruments	P . 0 6
Philosophy Day	P . 0 7
News from the Biosphere Reserves	P . 0 8
Canada-Europe Panel on the Social Integration of Immigrants	P . 0 9
"Combating Urban Racism", Roundtable on UNESCO Coalition of Cities Against Racism	P . 0 9
The Canadian Commission for UNESCO Prepares for the WSIS Phase II	P . 1 0
Montréal, World Book Capital: a Year of Celebration	P . 1 0
Calendar of Major International Events	P . 1 1
Help the Commission Celebrate these International Days and Years in your Community!	P . 1 2

Front cover photos: Top: World Heritage Education Programme, U.S. ASPnet Workshop, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Bottom left: David A. Walden, Heather Loube, President, Ottawa Society, Archaeological Institute of America-Canada, and Robert Cohon, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and University of Missouri, Kansas City Bottom right: Left to right: Keith Samuelson, Prince of Wales Collegiate, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Craig Kielburger, ASPnet spokesperson Source: Prince of Wales Collegiate

CONTACT

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4

350 Albert street, Box 1047
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5V8
Tel.: (613) 566-4414
Fax: (613) 566-4405
E-mail: info@unesco.ca
Web Site: www.unesco.ca



Editors: Katherine Berg /
Alysouk Lynhiavu
Design: Kolegram
Photos: Canadian Commission
for UNESCO
ISSN 1705 7981

The Canadian Commission for UNESCO operates under the aegis of the Canada Council for the Arts. Its role is to act as a forum for governments and civil society, and to catalyze the participation of Canadian organizations and committed individuals in UNESCO's mandated areas: education, natural and social sciences, culture and communication. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the only member of the United Nations System to have National Commissions performing this role in each of its Member States.

CONTACT is a semi-annual newsletter published by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. Information may be reproduced without permission, providing credit is given to CONTACT.

Please direct letters and comments to the editors of CONTACT using the information on this page.



Printed in Canada on recycled and recyclable paper

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The principal raison d'être of UNESCO - as an upstream international "think tank" and a drafter of standard-setting instruments designed to bring about a more harmonious response to global challenges such as bioethics and cultural diversity sometimes overshadows the agency's ability to bring its wealth of experience to bear in times of crisis.

A case in point is the tragic tsunami that recently devastated so much of the coastline of the Indian Ocean. Rather than going back to square one in designing a tsunami early warning system for the region, the world community has chosen to rely on the knowledge that UNESCO and its research networks have gained over forty years of managing the Pacific Ocean's tsunami early warning system. Under way now is a UNESCO-led plan to develop a global warning system, the first component of which will be in the Indian Ocean.

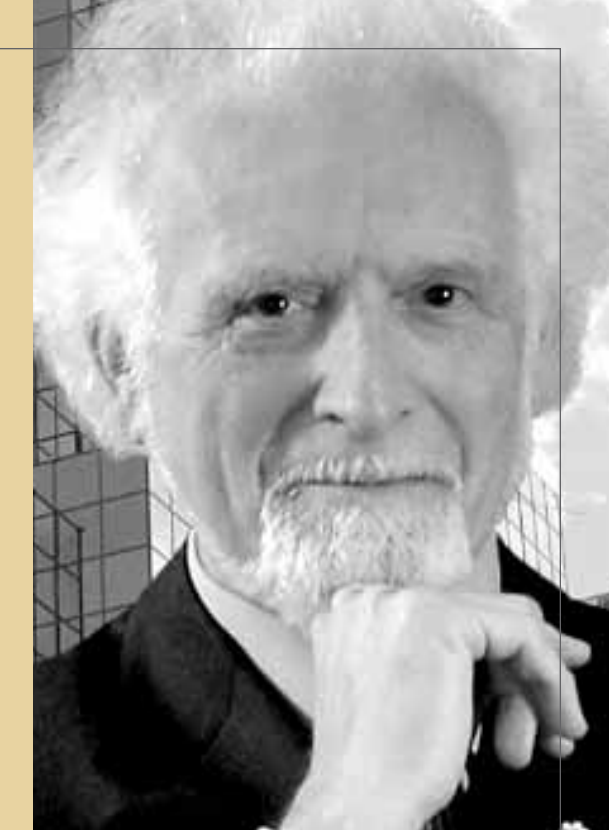
UNESCO is also deeply involved in the tsunami recovery and reconstruction phase, particularly in the areas of education, cultural activities and communications, which are seen as key tools to help heal

trauma, reaffirm a sense of life's values and protect the intangible cultural heritage of affected communities.

You will read elsewhere in this issue of Contact about the progress that is being made internationally on various normative instruments. Here at home, the Arts and Learning initiative is one in which I have taken a particular interest, since I believe the reintegration of creative expression and cultural exchange into education throughout life is vital to all we hope to achieve at UNESCO, and, indeed, throughout the United Nations system.

As our cross-Canada consultations progress in preparation for the UNESCO World Conference on Arts Education in Portugal in 2006, it has been gratifying to see how strongly individuals at every level of Canadian society believe that involvement with cultural activity in the schools is an essential element of the development of the fulfilled human individual.

Worth stressing, as well, is the way that youth involvement with the Commission goes from strength to



strength, and the enthusiastic endorsement across the Commission of the principle of inter-sectoral collaboration, so crucial in our multi-stranded world. I look forward to meeting you at the Annual General Meeting, and across Canada throughout the coming year.

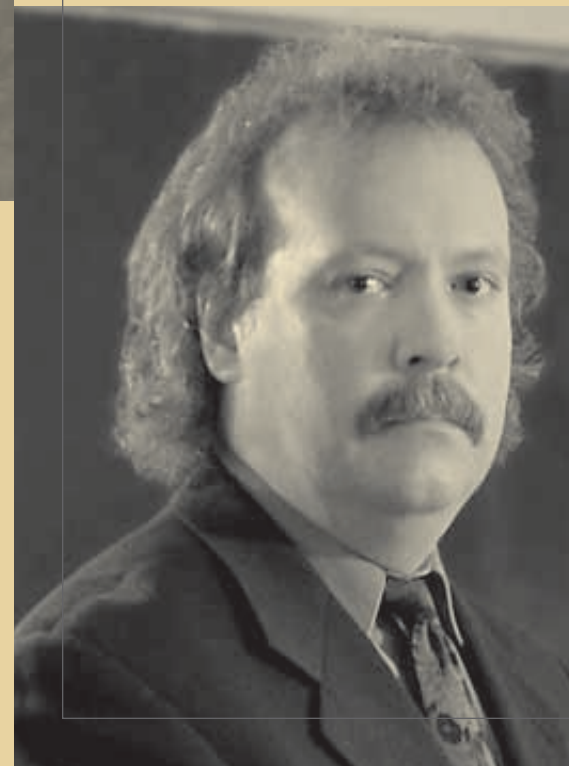
Max Wyman

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Global efforts to stop the destruction of the environment and to achieve a more sustainable way of life began in the 1970s, with the growing awareness that through their actions, humans were threatening their existence. The Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (1972) led to the creation of the United Nations Environment Program in response to a request from Member States for a UN program that would act as the "world's environmental conscience."

In 1983, the United Nations crea-

ted the World Commission on Environment and Development, that four years later produced the landmark report, Our Common Future, also known as the "Brundtland Report" after the Commission's Chairman, Gro Harlem Brundtland. The report warned that without changes to the way we live and work, the world would face unprecedented human suffering and irreversible environmental damage. The report also provided what has become the most widely accepted definition of human development: Development that meets the needs



of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Our Common Future helped to focus the attention of world leaders on the need for change, and in 1992 representatives of 179 national governments met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, popularly known as the Earth Summit. The world leaders were joined by representatives of UN organizations, municipal governments, business, the scientific community, and NGOs. The Earth Summit concluded with the adoption of Agenda 21 that included the message "think globally, act locally" and emphasized the need for partnerships with all segments of society to change wasteful consumption patterns, halt environmental degradation, and eradicate poverty.

To ensure follow-up to the Earth Summit, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable

Development was created in 1992 to monitor major sustainable development issues, a "Rio + 5" meeting was held in 1997, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development was held in Johannesburg in 2002 to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the progress in the implementation of Agenda 21. From this World Summit came the idea of creating a Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) that the UN General Assembly proclaimed in 2003.

UNESCO was named the lead agency for the Decade, and we have therefore chosen "Sustainable Development - Learning to Live Together" as the theme for this year's Annual General Meeting. Given UNESCO's mandate, we have also chosen to emphasize sustainable human development to forge the link between education, the social sciences, natural sciences, culture and communication and information as being essential to development and our collective

future. Through the combination of presentations by an impressive group of speakers and workshops that will allow for in-depth discussion, we will explore these complex issues from the perspective of environment, the economy, society, and community dynamics.

Welcome to the Commission's 45th Annual General Meeting, and we look forward to a lively, informative and interactive meeting!

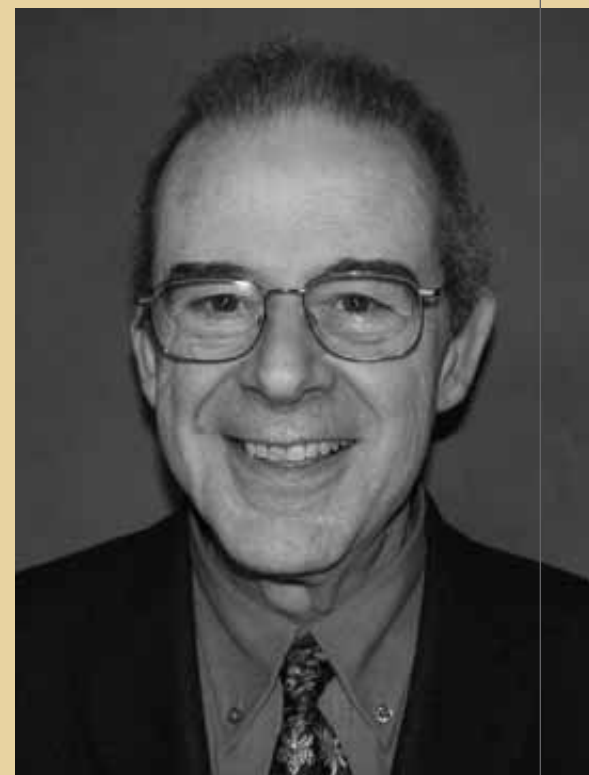
David A. Walden

ALEX MICHALOS WINS GOLD MEDAL FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN RESEARCH

The Commission congratulates Alex Michalos, Chair of its Sectoral Commission, Natural, Social and Human Sciences, on receiving the prestigious Gold Medal for Achievement in Research for 2004 awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Dr. Michalos, professor emeritus of political and social sciences at the University of Northern British Columbia, received the award for his innovative research on quality of life indicators. He is also active in his local community of Prince George, B.C., seeking solutions to social issues.

Dr. Michalos' research has had wide-ranging impact, adding, "By combining an individual's views on their own happiness with other data, Michalos was able to develop a more comprehensive and telling picture of the quality of life in communities, not just in Canada, but around the world."

SSHRC's Gold Medal is valued at \$100,000 and is awarded annually to an outstanding social sciences and humanities researcher whose work has had a profound impact not just in the academic world but on the lives of Canadians.



In announcing the prize last October, SSHRC stated that

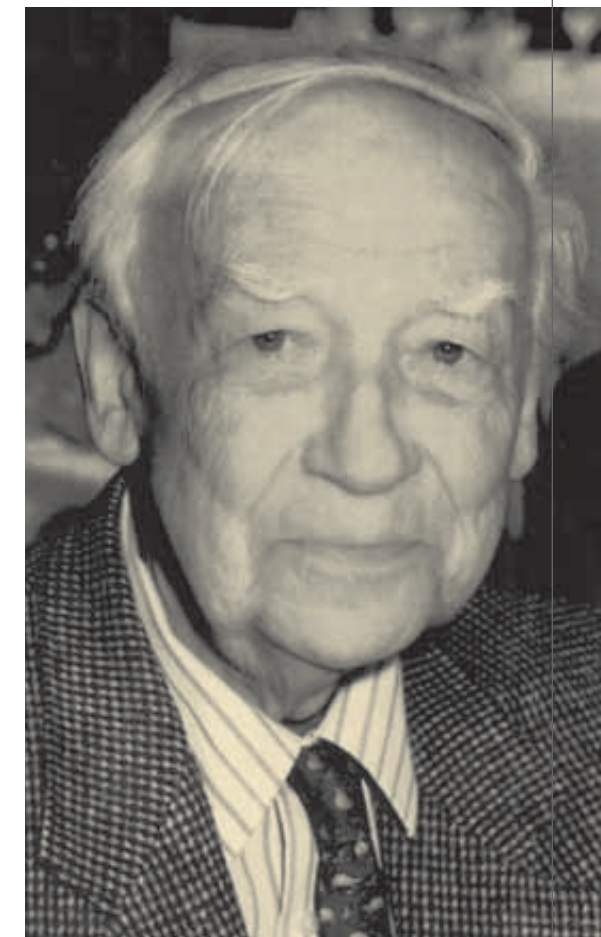
IN MEMORIAM MICHEL BATISSE 1923-2004

We deeply regret the passing away, in Paris on September 27th, 2004, of Michel Batisse, who played a visionary role for over half a century in developing UNESCO's programmes on environment and natural resource issues.

At UNESCO in the 1960's, Michel Batisse helped launch the International Hydrological Decade (1965-1974) which gave rise to the International Hydrological Programme (IHP). In 1968, he was Secretary-General of the pioneering "Biosphere Conference" which resulted in the Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB) and helped pave the way for the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972. Within the framework of the MAB Programme, Michel Batisse supported the creation of Biosphere Reserves, specific areas where conservation of biological diversity would be combined with local needs and associated with ecological research and training. There are now 440 Biosphere Reserves in 97 countries (13 in Canada). In the 1970's he played a key role in launching the

International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP). He also ensured that natural heritage was given its proper place in negotiations leading to the Convention for the Protection of the World's Natural and Cultural Heritage.

In a tribute to Michel Batisse, Fred Roots, Chair of Canada MAB, stated, "Everyone connected with Biosphere Reserves in Canada should pause and reflect how much we owe to Michel Batisse, who combined rigorous science, human compassion, global vision with an acute sense of what was politically possible and practically achievable. He is one who truly has left the world a better place than it would otherwise have been."



LAUNCH OF THE DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (2005-2014)

At the heart of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) lies the principle that everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from education and learn the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation (DESD Draft International Implementation Scheme, October 2004).

UNESCO is the lead agency for implementing the Decade, and in accordance with its mandate in education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information, emphasizes sustainable human development.

The pillars for sustainable development are interlinked: society, environment and economy. These three elements also give shape

and content to education for sustainable development.

While environmental education continues to be one of the key components of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), the concept has expanded to a holistic and interdisciplinary vision based on values, with respect at the centre. This includes respect for others,

including those of present and future generations, difference and diversity, the environment, and the resources of the planet we inhabit.

UNESCO defines education as learning in all its forms (formal, non-formal and informal), and emphasizes lifelong learning. Learning is seen as critical for empowering people, and for creating more cohesive communities and responsible citizens. Tools for promoting ESD include literacy, critical thinking and intergenerational communication.

Of numerous themes proposed by UNESCO for the Decade, the following have been identified of particular importance to Canada: sustainable consumption (including water and energy issues); respect for diversity (cultural and biodiversity); social justice, peace and citizenship; quality of life and the environment; and local and indigenous knowledge.

ESD provides an umbrella for activities in which the Canadian Commission is already involved such as Biosphere Reserves, World Heritage Sites, International Adult Learners, Week, the Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) and the UNESCO Chairs Programme. Youth groups in particular have an important role to play.

The Canadian Commission will

continue to act as a catalyst to promote the concept of ESD, working in partnership with representatives from civil society, education, trade unions and all levels of government. The Decade provides an opportunity to promote and support groups involved in education for sustainable development in Canada, share best practices, build partnerships and networks, and stress the importance of learning for sustainability.

The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development will be officially launched at UN Headquarters in New York on March 1st, 2005. The European launch takes place in Vilnius, Lithuania, later the same month. The Commission is launching the Decade at its Annual General Meeting in Toronto, March 10-12, 2005.

Many Canadians are already taking action to launch the Decade. Among them:

- Learning for a Sustainable Future, a non-governmental organization, is organizing “Sustainable Communities: Linking Education to Action Youth Forum and Teacher Workshop” in Winnipeg, February 15th, and Moncton, February 28th, 2005;
- Québec is launching the Decade under the aegis of the Canadian Commission for

UNESCO on May 19-20, 2005, at the Carrefour de la citoyenneté responsable organized by the Centrale des syndicats du Québec;

- “Sustainability in Higher Education: Developing a Comprehensive Research Strategy”: a consultation in Halifax, Nova Scotia, October 2005, sponsored by University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, United Nations University, and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC);
- The Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM) is organizing a conference “Creating Ripples: Environment, Education and Culture”, in Huntsville, Ontario, September 29-October 2, 2005.

UPDATE ON STANDARD-SETTING INSTRUMENTS

At the 32nd General Conference in 2003, the Director-General received the mandate to elaborate two new conventions—one on anti-doping in sport and one in cultural diversity—and a Draft Declaration on Bioethics. Canada has been actively involved in the drafting of all three instruments.

Draft International Convention Against Doping in Sport

At a meeting of Ministers of Physical Education and sport held in January 2003, representatives from 102 countries asked UNESCO to co-ordinate the preparation and adoption of an international convention against doping in sport, in cooperation

with agencies such as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). The first preliminary draft was developed by an international ad hoc group of experts chaired by Jean-Pierre Blais of the Department of Canadian Heritage. A second session of the intergovernmental committee was held in May, and

reached agreement on the majority of outstanding issues. This is the first proposed text on doping in sport that would be both universal and legally binding. It is anticipated that the draft convention will be submitted to the 33rd session of UNESCO's General Conference in October 2005.

Draft Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions

Following the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in 2001, the Director-General was given the mandate in 2003 to begin drafting a legally binding convention to ensure the promotion and protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions. An international experts group, which included Professor Ivan Bernier of Laval University, was appointed by the Director-General to develop a preliminary draft convention which was circulated to Member States in the summer of 2004. Following responses from Member States, the first intergovernmental meeting to examine the preliminary draft was held in September 2004, with a

second meeting in February 2005. Canada's written response to the preliminary draft convention is available at http://www.pch.gc.ca/index_e.cfm

Draft Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics

At its 32nd session in October 2003, the General Conference considered that it was “opportune and desirable to set universal standards in the field of bioethics with due regard for human dignity and human rights and freedoms, in the spirit of cultural pluralism inherent in bioethics.” It also invited the Director-General to continue preparatory work on a declaration on universal norms on bioethics. The declaration would build on and be more comprehensive than the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights adopted by UNESCO in 1997.

The International Bioethics Committee (IBC) was entrusted with the complex task of elaborating a draft declaration. Between August 2004 and January 2005, the IBC, under

the presidency of Canadian Michèle S. Jean, considered four versions of an outline of a Declaration on Universal Norms on Bioethics. Consultations with Member States are ongoing.

The Canadian Commission, together with Health Canada, held an expanded consultation in Ottawa on February 7, 2005, to ensure the involvement of non-governmental organizations.

Information on the process of the elaboration of the draft declaration can be found at <http://www.unesco.org>

PHILOSOPHY DAY

In 2002, UNESCO declared November 21st Philosophy Day to demonstrate the importance of philosophy in our everyday lives and to engage the larger public in philosophical debates. Increasingly, activities are held every year to recognize the day.

In Toronto, a round table on biotechnology and faith was held at the University of Toronto on November 16th by the Canadian Council of Churches and Health Canada, with the sponsorship of the Commission. The subject was “Patenting our Genes: Blessing or

Curse? The Implications for Health Care”.

At the Université du Québec à Montréal, the UNESCO Chair of Philosophy organized a public round table discussion on citizenship and democracy on November 17th. For the second year in a row, Québec's philosophy teachers organized a day dedicated to the study of philosophy at the Collège Montmorency, inviting teachers from other colleges and universities to participate.

The Nouvelle Alliance pour la

Philosophie au Collège (NAPAC) submitted a petition bearing over 2000 names to the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec, requesting that philosophy remain a required course in Québec's colleges. It also held its first Café philosophique on the place of philosophy in the culture of Québec.

NEWS FROM THE BIOSPHERE RESERVES

Georgian Bay Littoral Designated UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

In November, 2004, UNESCO designated the Georgian Bay Littoral, Ontario, as Canada's 13th World Biosphere Reserve. The Canadian Commission for UNESCO and the Canada Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Committee had recommended the site to UNESCO in May, 2004.

Located within the Great Lakes Basin, Georgian Bay is sufficiently large and unique to merit being called "the sixth Great Lake". The Biosphere Reserve is an area of 347,000 hectares comprised of eastern Georgian Bay, one of the

largest freshwater archipelagoes in the world, and includes the headwaters of the St. Lawrence River. In approving the designation, the International Coordinating Council of the MAB Programme stated that this reserve was "the result of extraordinary collaboration between native communities, local inhabitants, local business interests and regional and local authorities who share a common vision of sustainable development and environmental and cultural conservation."

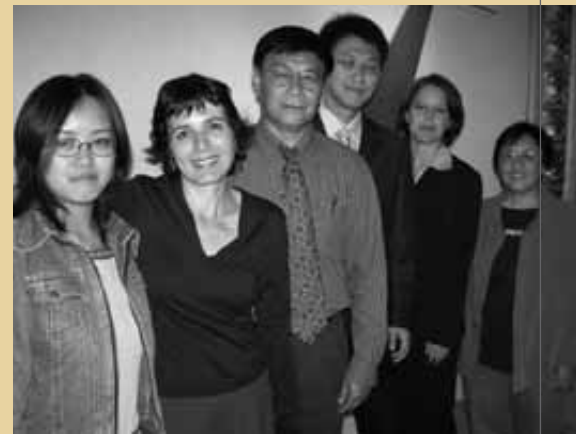


Georgian Bay, near Magnetawan, courtesy of Garry and Joanie McGuffin

Visit of MAB Delegation from China

In September, 2004, the Commission welcomed a delegation from China-MAB, including its Secretary-General, to share experiences about biosphere reserves, public relations and environmental publications. During their visit to Canada, the delegation also met with key Canadian groups involved in environmental publications such as Canadian Geographic, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and the National Research Council. The visit, organized in cooperation with CIDA and the World Conservation Union (IUCN), sought to contribute to policy

reform and ecosystem management for protected areas in China. As part of the project, a Chinese delegation also visited several biosphere reserves in Canada during the summer of 2004.



Left to right : Chen Xiangjun, China-MAB
Danielle Cantin, consultant, IUCN Canada
Han Nianrong, Secretary-General, Chinese National Committee for MAB
Zheng Hong, editing director, China-MAB
Dominique Potvin, Canadian Commission for UNESCO
Guo Zhifen, Deputy editor-in-chief, China-MAB

Dedication Ceremony of the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve

On July 17, 2004, the dedication ceremony for the Southwest Nova Biosphere Reserve took place at Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Park in Nova Scotia. This region of Southwest Nova Scotia had been designated a Biosphere Reserve in September 2001, by UNESCO. The designation recognized the importance of two large contiguous protected

areas, Kejimikujik National Park and the Tobecoatic Wilderness Area, and of the potential in the broader region for multi-sector cooperation and sustainable development.

Mrs. Jean McIsaac, an elder of the local Mi'kmaq Nation, opened the ceremony. The Honourable Kerry Morash, Nova Scotia's Minister of Environment and

Labour, and representatives of all levels of government were also present. Fred Roots, Chair of the Canadian Committee for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, brought greetings from UNESCO and the Canadian Commission.

CANADA-EUROPE PANEL ON THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS

Recent events in Europe have challenged the conventional wisdom that social integration of immigrants is a two-way process characterized by a gradual adjustment of migrants, their communities and their institutions on one hand, and of the "host society" and its institutions on the other. What is now emerging among some segments of the population is a belief that radical migrants want to impose the values of their homeland upon the host society, and that multicultural policies must therefore be rethought.

In Ottawa on January 24th, 2005, the Commission, the Metropolis Project, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canadian Heritage and the Library of Parliament collaborated to host

an international panel discussion on Parliament Hill that addressed multiculturalism and integration in Canada and several European countries. Using the tragic murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh as the point of departure, the panellists explored the question of whether multiculturalism and integration policies needed to be rethought and, if so, what the future directions of integration might be.

Over 200 people attended this event which offered the perspectives of academics from the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom, as well as Paul Bramadat, University of Winnipeg, Daniel Weinstock, University of Montreal, and the Honourable Andrew Telegdi, Chair of the Standing Committee on

Citizenship and Immigration. The Metropolis Project was launched in 1996 to improve policies for managing immigration policies and diversity by involving policymakers, researchers and NGOs in the development of immigration policies. Its goals are to enhance academic research capacity, focus academic research on critical policy issues and options, and to develop ways to facilitate the use of research in policy-making.

"COMBATING URBAN RACISM", ROUNDTABLE ON UNESCO COALITION OF CITIES AGAINST RACISM

The International Coalition of Cities Against Racism is a new initiative of UNESCO to establish a network of cities interested in sharing experiences to improve their policies to fight racism, discrimination and xenophobia. A Ten-Point Action Plan for the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism consisting of commitments covering various areas that are within the jurisdiction of municipalities was recently finalized. Interested cities include Barcelona, Krakow, Paris, Saint-Denis, Stockholm and Nuremberg.

In conjunction with the Canada-Europe Panel on the Social Integration of Immigrants, the Commission, the Catholic Immigration Society, and the City of Ottawa, hosted a roundtable

discussion on January 24th, 2005, at Ottawa City Hall entitled "Combating Urban Racism." Representatives of the cities of Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver, as well as human rights associations and UNESCO (Paris) discussed the need for, and the possibility of establishing, a coalition of Canadian cities against racism. The applicability of the European Action Plan was also discussed. As several of the areas it addresses are not within the responsibilities of Canadian cities, some adaptations are required.

The meeting concluded with the establishment of a working group that will prepare a draft action plan for a coalition of Canadian cities against racism. This draft action plan will be discussed with the Federation of Canadian

Municipalities and then presented to the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Statutory Human Rights Agencies in June, with a view to sharing best practices and developing a common policy approach to racism in cities across Canada.

THE CANADIAN COMMISSION FOR UNESCO PREPARES FOR THE WSIS PHASE II

In preparation for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) which will take place in Tunis, Tunisia, in November 2005, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO is organizing a conference entitled Paving the Road to Tunis - WSIS II: the Views of Canada's Civil Society on the Geneva Plan of Action and the Prospects for Phase II.

The outcome of the Geneva Summit (WSIS Phase I) in December 2003 consisted of a Declaration of Principles and a Plan of Action. The main objective of the conference is therefore to collect views on the Geneva Plan of Action from a Canadian civil society perspective. The results of the conference will be communicated to the Canadian Government with a view to helping their spokespersons report to other delegations at the Summit on

accomplishments at the civil society level as well as providing guidance on future policies and initiatives.

Participants at the conference will be invited to examine the status of major elements included in the Plan of Action such as: infrastructure, cost of access, community access, free standards and free software, and information in the public domain. They will also consider adapted technologies, education, traditional media, freedom of expression in both traditional and new media, cultural diversity, preservation of indigenous languages, building partnerships with developing countries, Internet governance and applications.

The Conference will be held in Winnipeg from May 13 to 15, 2005, and will bring together approximately 200 people from all

provinces and territories and the private sector, civil society, academia and all levels of government, federal, provincial/territorial and municipal.

The results of the conference will be presented at the 33rd UNESCO General Conference in Paris, France, in October 2005, and at the Summit in November 2005.

The conference is sponsored by Foreign Affairs Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada, Industry Canada and the International Development Research Centre.

CALENDAR OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

April 2-5, 2005

Regional Conference on Literacy in Europe
Lyon, France

April 12-28, 2005

171st Session of the UNESCO Executive Board
Paris, France

September 8-11, 2005

Synergies between Arts and Education
Vilnius, Lithuania

September 13-29, 2005

172nd Session of the UNESCO Executive Board
Paris, France

October 3-21, 2005

33rd General Conference
Paris, France

November 16-18, 2005

World Summit on the Information Society (Phase II)
Tunis, Tunisia



MONTRÉAL, WORLD BOOK CAPITAL: A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

In February, UNESCO announced that Montréal had been chosen World Book Capital for 2005. The selection committee, consisting of representatives of UNESCO, the International Publishers Association, the International Booksellers Association, and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, unanimously selected Montreal because of the "strong synergy among all sectors of the book industry, including a number of aspects of book promotion and reading." The honorary title was first awarded in 2001 and is an extension of the festivities surrounding World Book and Copyright Day which is celebrated annually around the world on April 23.

From April 23, 2005, to April 22, 2006, Montréal will become the official World Book Capital. During this period, numerous activities will be organized to promote books and reading which will celebrate and share the pleasure of reading and will showcase the writers of Montréal, Québec and Canada nationally and internationally. Montréal, World Book Capital, aims to make reading more widespread, encourage creative writing, stimulate the book industry, reinforce Montréal's role as a cultural and international metropolis and spark reflection and debate.

Many partners, including the Canadian Commission for

UNESCO, Canadian embassies, the Québec Delegations and cultural centres abroad, will contribute to the success of this vast celebration of the book and the reading.

For more information, consult the web site:
www.montrealbookcapital.com



VISIT THE WEB SITE OF THE CANADIAN
COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
WWW.UNESCO.CA

HELP THE
COMMISSION
CELEBRATE THESE
INTERNATIONAL
DAYS AND YEARS
IN YOUR
COMMUNITY!



February 21 International Mother Language Day
March 8 International Women's Day
March 20 Earth Day
March 21 World Poetry Day
March 21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 22 World Day for Water
April 23 World Book and Copyright Day
May 3 World Press Freedom Day
May 21 World Day for Cultural Development
May 21 World Day for Cultural Diversity, Dialogue and Development
May 22 International Day for Biological Diversity
August 9 International Day of Indigenous People
August 12 International Youth Day
August 23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
September 8 International Literacy Day

And remember:

2005 the 60th anniversary of the adoption of UNESCO's constitution (16th November 1945)
2005 the International Year for Sport and Physical Education
2005 World Year of Physics
2001-2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World
2003-2012 the United Nations Literacy Decade
2005-2014 the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

VISIT THE WEB SITE OF THE CANADIAN
COMMISSION FOR UNESCO
WWW.UNESCO.CA