



Honoring Interns

In this update we acknowledge the efforts of interns, and thank them for their contributions towards the goals of the UN. The update includes an overview of various events, and projects on which these bright, young interns have worked. In addition this update includes a “Haute Couture” section, in which we acknowledge the various celebrities and artists that are also actively involved in UN projects.

I. Honoring interns of the NGO section from the Mumbai Educational Trust (MET)



During their mission to India, Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section/DESA and Programme Officer, Ms. Meena Sur thanked the MET League of Colleges for their contribution to the United Nations, and specifically their assistance to the work of the

NGO Section department. The UNECOSOC Council granted MET Special Consultative Status in May 2003. Mr. Martin Thuemmel, Deputy Counsellor, Mission of Germany to India, graced the event as a guest of honor. Mr. Thuemmel has provided invaluable support to the “Paperless Committee” program at the Committee on NGO’s as a delegate of Germany.

Since 2003, students from MET League of Colleges have served as interns in the UN NGO Section/DESA. In 2003 MET interns helped to initiate the “Paperless Committee”, a project designed to improve the NGO Committee’s working methods. Through the success of the “Paperless Committee”, the UN has realized the goal to incorporate information technology in its operations, and seeks to emulate this initiative in other parts of the organization. The MET League of Colleges sponsored its top technical students to train staff members in the use of this system. By the 2004 Regular Session the “Paperless Committee” project had reduced meeting costs by \$600, 985. The innovative Paperless Committee has also enabled the NGO section to provide higher quality services to Member States. “Paperless Committee” has attracted the acknowledgement of various offices of the United Nations, and has consecutively received nominations for UN21 in 2004, 2005, and 2006.

MET interns at the NGO Section/DESA have continued to maintain the Paperless Database, work on the documentations of the high-level segments of ECOSOC, and communicate with NGOs seeking to acquire or maintain consultative status. The NGO Section conducted an evaluation of the Paperless Committee Internship support programme in August 2006 acknowledging the valuable contribution of the 31 students from MET. We would like to again acknowledge these interns: Mr. Sushant Shetty, Ms. Pooja Tandon, Ms. Tanvi Modi, Mr. Vikram Vishwanath, Mr. Mohit Sainani, Mr. Navratan Vohra, Ms. Chetana Nileshwar, Ms. Suparna Rodda, Mr. Riddesh Dadbhawla, Mr. Pavan Thadani, Mr. Bhavan Parekh, Ms. Shweta Pardeshi, Ms. Poorva Upadhyaya, Mr. Rishav Sinha, Ms. Shifa Harris, Mr. Saurabh Hariharan, Ms. Ankita Sheth, Ms. Amrin Merchant, Ms. Delna Kavarana, Mr. Deepen Shah, Mr. Adit Dawda, Ms. Sheetal Teckchandani, Ms. Chaitali Ganediwala, Ms. Shilpa Rathi, Ms. Deepali Dangi, Ms. Manisha Bakshi, Ms. Chirangi Brahmhatt, Ms. Nipha Miranda, and Mr. Ahsan Memon, Mr. Vikram Page, and Mr. Navin Haram.

In addition to thanking the interns, Dr. Mezoui provided the first international address in the oration series of the Mumbai University Sesquicentennial year celebrations. She highlighted the importance of UN ECOSOC in the international arena to facilitate



connections among a range of actors in economic and social development, and noted ECOSOC’s progress toward the MDG goals. She additionally identified an investment in education as essential to development.

Attendees included Kumar Ketkar, editor of Loksatta, Dr. Vijay Kelkar, former Finance Secretary of India, and Justice Y V Chandrachud Former Chief Justice of India. MET Founder Trustee, and Vice Chairman, Sunil Karve also attended the event with fellow trustees, Pankaj Bhujbal, and Samir Bhujbal.

II. Honoring the interns of the NGO Section from Baruch College

i. President Leonel Fernandez of the Dominican Republic visits Baruch College

On the 19th of September President Leonel Fernandez of the Dominican Republic spoke at Baruch College, City University of New York. A world recognized economic and social reformer, the President has curbed inflation, corruption, and increased international investment in his country. President Fernandez also serves as the president of the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUNGLODE) in the Dominican Republic, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC. FUNGLODE promotes sustainable development and the modernization of the Dominican Republic. In applauding the invaluable contributions of Dominican-American expatriates to the United States and the economy of their native country, President Fernandez spoke against strict restrictions on the free circulation of manual labor. He accordingly encouraged audience members to be “bilingual and bicultural” to maximize their career prospects. In his address to the General Assembly on the 20th of September, President Fernandez encouraged member countries to reduce barriers to immigration. Once again we would like to honor one of our dedicated interns, Denise, who helped make this event possible.

III. NGO Section interns participate at Global Youth Leadership Summit

i. Youth Leaders explore ways to achieve Millennium Development Goals

The United Nations hosted the UN Global Youth Leadership Summit (GYLS) from October 29th through the 31st of October in New York. In an attempt to strengthen young people’s engagement in the future of their communities, regions, and the emerging global society, the UN invited young leaders, one young man and one young woman from the 192 member states, to share their ideas and plans on ways to reduce poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. During the three days of discussion, concerts, and seminars, attendees focused on how to best achieve these goals, and benefited from the advice of numerous speakers, including Secretary General, Kofi Annan, Adolf Ogi, Special Adviser to the Secretary- General on Sport for Development and Peace, and Djibril Diallo, Director of the New York Office for Sport and Development and Peace. Speakers encouraged the young attendees to think of sport and culture as powerful venues to publicize key messages, and foster awareness. Sports teach skills, values, build a sense of community, and can additionally encourage intercultural dialogue. At the culmination of the Summit, the youth delegates drafted a resolution in support of sport as a means to encourage peace and development.

The NGO section fully participated in this first Youth Leadership Summit by providing support to the Organization Committee. Chief of the NGO Section/DESA, Dr. Hanifa

Mezoui, encouraged the department interns to take part in this unique gathering of young talented people. According to the interns, participating in the summit not only provided them with a rich cultural experience, but also challenged them. Through their experience at the NGO Section where they have learned about the MDG targets and the importance of NGOs regarding development issues, the interns diplomatically negotiated with NGO representatives and delegates to achieve a consensual resolution. The final document called upon member states to listen more carefully to the youth and collaborate with them in order to achieve the eight agreed MDG's by 2015.



IV. Other Events

i. President Leonel Fernandez of the Dominican Republic speaks with World Sports Alliance (WSA)

The World Sports Alliance (WSA) team briefed President Leonel Fernandez on his 19th September visit to Baruch College of the City University of New York during Hispanic Heritage Month. The World Sports Alliance is a multi-stakeholder partnership launched by XL Generation Foundation, Give Them a Hand Foundation, and the Informal Regional Network of the NGO Section/DESA that uses sports to create local economic development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Ambassador Francis Lorenzo of the Mission of the Dominican Republic to the UN facilitated the meeting. Ms. Meena Sur, Programme Officer of the NGO Section/DESA, Mr. Gordon Tapper, President of Give them a Hand Foundation, as well as Mr. Alain Lemieux, President of the WSA, attended the President's speech at the college as Special Guests of the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic.



Photo credit: Mario Morgado

Ms. Meena Sur, Programme Officer of the NGO Section/DESA, on behalf of Dr. Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section/DESA briefly informed President Leonel Fernandez of the WSA initiative to encourage sports, particularly in vulnerable countries, where investment in sports based industries can create employment opportunities, and catalyze economic growth. Ambassador Lorenzo briefed President Fernandez of the January 2006 meetings between WSA and Dominican Republic officials, Mr. Eddy Martinez, Minister of Investment, and Mr. Jay Payano, Minister of Sport, and professional major league baseball player, Manuel Motta. Mr. Lemieux introduced WSA's vision, and plans in the Dominican Republic. Mr. Lemieux spoke of the General Assembly Resolution 58/5 which encourages governments, and sports organizations to sponsor sport-based development programs that seek to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. He described a plan to create WSA centers for children between the ages of 7-14. While an inclusive community space, the centers would especially encourage the participation of underprivileged youth. Mr. Tapper added that this space will allow at-risk youth to displace their energy towards a constructive end. Ambassador Lorenzo mentioned the WSA's intention to create an intergovernmental organization (IGO) to facilitate their programmes, to which WSA would invite the Dominican Republic to act as a member state. President Fernandez expressed his support of the WSA projects and thanked Ambassador Lorenzo, Mr. Lemieux, Mr. Tapper, and Meena Sur for their efforts to launch the program.



Miss Universe 2006 Zuleyka Rivera announced that she will lead an AIDS Awareness tour, with the support of designers Sanjana Jon, Anand Jon, Actress Michelle Rodriguez, and Actor Kal Penn. Artist William Ho showcased his artwork, and shared his plans to convey the values and goals of the UN through his work.

ii. Miss Universe 2006, Zuleyka Rivera, to lead AIDS Awareness tour

Give them a Hand Foundation in partnership with UNAIDS and the NGO section DESA invited Zuleyka Rivera, the newly crowned Miss Universe 2006 to announce the launch of the Aids Awareness tour, ***Get Tested- It's in fashion*** IG International and Sanjana Jon will support the tour that will use fashion, entertainment and celebrity power to raise public awareness about this growing epidemic.

The tour has attracted celebrity attention. Actress Michelle Rodriguez, Actor Kal Penn, and designer Anand John announced their support at the event. Mr. Gordon Tapper, President of Give Them a Hand Foundation provided the welcome address, while Chief of the NGO Section DESA, Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, assisted by Ms. Meena Sur, Programme Officer, NGO Section DESA, served as moderators. Ambassador Francis Lorenzo of the Mission of the Dominican Republic to the UN spoke on Corporate Social responsibility and the AIDS epidemic, followed by Ms. Bunmi Makinwa, Director of UNAIDS, New York office, represented by Sonia Elliot, presented the work of UNAIDS in India. Ms.

Sanjana Jon proceeded with an introduction of the AIDS Awareness tour. In delivering the keynote address, Zuleyka Rivera, Miss Universe 2006, expressed her enthusiasm and commitment to act as an ambassador for Aids prevention and education. The event concluded with an interactive question and answer session with Ms. Zuleyka



Rivera. In thanking all partners, Mr. Anand Jon expressed his thanks and commitment to the initiative.

iii. One Heart Beat: A Global Project Supporting a Global Purpose

On October 3rd, the United Nations hosted the art exhibition, Love, Hope and Life of Artist William Ho's artwork. Mr. William Ho also announced that he will promote the Millennium Development Goals through the *One Heart Beat*, global sculpture series. The event was well attended by the United Nations, BidGive International, the Government of Canada, and the Dominican Republic Mission. Michael Jacobson delivered the welcome address. H.E. Ambassador Erasmo Lara, Permanent Representative of the Mission of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO section, DESA, and Mr. Gordon Tapper, President of Give Them a Hand Foundation spoke in support of the *One Heart Beat* initiative.



Mr. Ho warmly thanked the members of the United Nations and BidGive for their support of *One Heart Beat*, and presented the sculpture series as an example of putting “Love into Action”. The suffering throughout the world, particularly of children, moved Ho to acknowledge his position as a global citizen and promote hope through his art. When a child dies in this world, a part of each of us dies, he exclaimed, since we all belong to the same *Global Family* and share *One Heart Beat*. The interactive sculptures in several cities throughout the world will represent the unity and interdependence of human beings. Visitors to the sculptures will touch pulse points that will register their heartbeats. Ho explained that he has begun to consult with technology companies as to how the pulse beats can also travel between sculptures. Each sculpture will additionally reflect the culture of the host country, and the ideas of children from that community. The sculptures will incorporate the Millennium Development Goals to enhance awareness of these aims, and inspire cooperation to achieve them.

The attendees expressed eagerness to view Mr. Ho's final creations. Attendees also had the opportunity to view the artist create some artwork at the reception.

H.E. Ambassador Francis Lorenzo of the Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations concluded the event. World Sports and Alliance and BidGive provided support to the event.

Upcoming Events

5 to 7 December 2006- The World Family Organization, the National Council for Family Affairs of Jordan, and the Amman Municipality, in partnership with the NGO Section DESA will host the World Family Summit+2, in Jordan, under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, under the theme "Investing in Development and Mobilizing for Action: Implementing the MDGs at the Local Level and in the Family".

10 January 2007- India Development Coalition of America (IDCA) will host its Third International Conference at the Indian Institute of Technology, Hauz Khas, New Delhi from 9AM-9PM. The Conference entitled "Empowering Grassroots for Sustainable Development in India" will focus on four main issues: Water, Education, Healthcare and Sustainable Development. Additional issues may include: Governance, Environment, Agriculture, Technology & Energy. Save on costs by registering before the 1st of December.

22 January -02 February 2007- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, 2007 Regular Session;