



60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

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“WHO considers health a door to human rights”

The UN and many countries around the world recently commemorated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To what extent was WHO involved in the celebration?

The year 2008 was special for us because it also marked the 60th anniversary of the creation of the WHO. We decided to celebrate both anniversaries by a special event that would address the issue of human rights and health. After discussions with the Ombudsman's Office, we came to an idea of organizing a conference for doctors and medical workers to build up their knowledge about human rights and show correlation between health and human rights. The conference was also supported by the Ministry of Health and European Union's liaison office.

The forum's participants reviewed a range of human rights aspects with regard to health and considered, among other issues, protection of patients' rights, improvement and implementation of national health legislation, provision of quality medical care, as well as the role of national bodies and NGO's in promoting and protecting the right to health. Moreover, a special emphasis was placed on protecting human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS, TB and mental health problems and organized working groups on these topics. We hope that meetings like this would help integrate a human rights-based approach in health development at the country level.

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WELCOME TO NEW UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR!

The UN family in Uzbekistan welcomes Anita Nirody, the newly appointed UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for this country.

Anita Nirody is the fifth resident representative of the UN Development Programme in Uzbekistan. As a designated representative of UN Secretary-General, she will also lead the UN Country Team that includes UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO, UNODC, UNAIDS and the World Bank.

Ms. Nirody has extensive experience in international development and management issues - working with international organizations including the United Nations, International Financial Institutions and Non-governmental organizations.

She has held various senior management positions with UNDP, working with countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Arab States and the Europe-CIS regions - at country, regional and headquarters levels.

Prior to her current appointment, Ms. Nirody served as UNDP Country Director for Afghanistan, UNDP largest operation globally, where she was responsible for the management and delivery of US\$ 200 million in programmes to the Government of Afghanistan. Her other recent positions include: Chief of the UNDP's Sub-Regional Office, Senior Capacity Development Advisor for Asia, Director of UNDP's Operational Policies and Applied Research Group, and Global Coordinator of UNDP-managed Trust Fund on Capacity Development.

Anita Nirody holds Master's degrees in International Development from Boston University and International Relations from the American University, USA, along with Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Political Science from Delhi University, India.



It's Your World

UN Day celebration at Tashkent International School



The creation of the United Nations Organization, on October 24, 1945, clearly demonstrated peoples will to maintain global peace and security in the aftermath of the ravages of the Second World War. In celebration of this historic event, 24 October is now globally marked and celebrated as United Nations Day every year.

The UN Day celebration, titled "Engage in our world" has become an annual Tashkent International School (TIS) tradition. Every year international organizations, foreign Embassies in Tashkent, and parents are invited to take part in a one day journey across the globe.

This year UN Day celebrations took place on October 16th. The exhibition ran from 10:00 to 15:00. One country took one room and all were all naturally decked out with posters, flags and national icons. Quizzes, puzzles, music, videos, national costumes, brochures, and books were all on hand for visitors to dive deeper into their chosen lands.

TIS schoolchildren aged 10-17 and their teachers dressed in national costumes and dived in to each new country with enthusiasm, enriching their foreign knowledge. This year organisers focused on food, with some countries offering tasty tidbits to delighted tourists.

The UN and its agencies took part as one, with a joint exhibition which introduced the UN's joint mission and activities to children and teachers alike. Publications and promotional materials were on hand to help spread the word. Schoolchildren were taught about the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through interactive games organized by MDG Youth Network volunteers.

World Bank staff also presented clear mission orientated info' to the masses, with quizzes for school kids for a bit of learning fun. The most active and knowledgeable children won special prizes.

Representatives from international organizations, different cultural centre's and TIS parents visited the UN room and cleaned out all information materials, which will aid inquisitive queries from curious kids.

UN Day celebrations at the Tashkent International School are a unique opportunity to learn, share, and promote cultural diversity and tolerance. In these endeavours, the UN always has a key role to play.



Preparation of new UN “business plan” reaches the critical phase

The UNDAF is an essential component of the United Nations programme for reform that was introduced by the Secretary-General in 1997. As a strategic planning framework for United Nations development operations and assistance at the country level, it provides a basis for increased collaboration, coherence and effectiveness of United Nations development activities. It is also a policy dialogue instrument; to facilitate partnerships among United Nations Agencies and between the United Nations Country Team (UNCT),¹ the Government, other stakeholders and donor agencies.

The United Nations in Uzbekistan is currently planning its programming for the period 2010-15, to be summarized in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). Building on the progress made at the June Design Workshop, the United Nations has been discussing how all UN agencies can work together to more effectively support the government in its development goals. In line with UN reform, and the Paris Declaration, it recognizes the importance of working more in partnership with governments and other development partners.

Decisions on priorities are determined by the following principles:

- National ownership
- Partnership
- Effectiveness and accountability
- Human Rights Based Approach
- Capacity development
- Result-based management

The UNDAF identifies a number of priority areas where the UN can contribute, and for each of these areas a number of agency outcomes are identified – specifying what each agency can contribute towards these national priorities. Then each individual agency identifies specific outputs that it is committed to achieving and that will contribute to the fulfilment of these common outcomes.

This next UNDAF establishes a common strategic

plan for the United Nations in Uzbekistan over the period 2010-2015. Likewise, it is a collective, coherent and integrated response by the United Nations to national priorities as encompassed in the WIS and other key national documents. It also reflects the aspirations of not only the MDGs but also the commitments of the Millennium Declaration and international conferences, conventions and human rights instruments. This further builds on the reform momentum inherent in the 2005 World Summit, the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

The UNDAF for Uzbekistan now focuses on five broad priority areas that support national priorities and encompass the shared values of the United Nations while respecting the diversity of Agencies' mandates. These are:

- Economic Well-Being
- Social Services
- Education
- Environment
- Governance

The UNDAF also results from a comprehensive and dynamic strategic priority-setting process. Overall, the principles governing the UNDAF formulation process in Uzbekistan have been strong national ownership and inclusiveness, encompassing consultations with a broad range of stakeholders and inputs from non-resident UN Agencies. A critical focus has been given to priorities in the regions as well as in the capital, Tashkent. As part of this priority setting, participants in an UNDAF Design Workshop in June 2008 discussed key national challenges and potential areas of support by the United Nations, later complemented by a Country Analysis (CA). Rich discussions were undertaken at the Design Workshop by a range of stakeholders, including representatives of numerous Ministries and departments and key United Nations staff.

An UNDAF Strategic Prioritization Retreat in September 2008 produced consensus on final priorities as well as initial work on the Results and Resources Frameworks, drawing from the CA and numerous consultations and applying principles of Results Based Management. Additional delineation of key issues was guided by several overarching criteria, including (1) impact on national development and reduction of disparities; (2) magnitude of the problem; and (3) United Nations comparative advantages.

A crosscutting issue that underpins interventions in all priority areas is the explicit focus on vulnerable groups, defined as residents of economically underdeveloped, mainly rural areas; women, particularly home-based workers; labour migrants and their families; unemployed and underemployed people; children and most-at-risk adolescents; the elderly; HIV-positive people; and people with disabilities. Other crosscutting issues include human rights; development of enhanced legal frameworks; data strengthening; conservation of national heritage; environment and climate change; and advocacy with regard to the MDGs. Five Thematic Working Groups undertook substantive work in October and November 2008 to further delineate the priority areas and corresponding strategies and outcomes, ensuring that crosscutting themes were effectively integrated. In late November 2008 the Working groups carried out consultations with both government and civil society partners to provide an opportunity for comments on the proposals.

Critically, the UNDAF 2010-2015 builds on lessons learnt from the UNDAF 2005-2009. To that end, improvements have been made in clarity – how well strategies, actions and inter-linkages are defined, and how strongly they are linked both to national priorities and to measurable indicators. Responsibilities for implementation will be further defined and documented, and inter-Agency Working Groups will more proactively focus their work on strengthening programme linkages and targeting of beneficiaries. For monitoring and evaluation indicators, it has been crucial to develop a more consistent monitoring and evaluation framework with SMART indicators (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound). The learning curve for inter-Agency cooperation also has been enhanced, underscoring progress already made. Lastly, a strengthening of the coordinating role in UNDAF oversight, under the Office of the Resident Coordinator, is expected to provide more results-driven sustainability.

It must be noted that the UNDAF is a strategic but living document, one that can be monitored and used, and that is flexible enough to respond to Uzbekistan's evolving social, economic and political context. United Nations Agencies will formulate their County Programme Documents and Annual Workplans for 2010-2015 to support and reinforce the UNDAF.

¹ The United Nations is represented in Uzbekistan by UNAIDS, UNDP (also on behalf of UNV), UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC (regional office) and WHO, as well as by affiliated agencies such as the World Bank. Non-resident United Nations Agencies include FAO, ILO, UNEP and UNHCR.



Global and national experts join Tashkent IT summit

The National Summit on Information and Communication Technology was held in Tashkent between September, 23 and 26, within the framework of the ICT week - InfoCom 2008.

The ICT Summit is the major ICT event on the Uzbek calendar. About 400 delegates from Uzbekistan, the UK, Germany, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Russia, the USA and Japan) participated.

The summit formally kicked off the ICT Week and was followed by plenary and sectional sessions. Closing recommendations were presented in the form of Resolution.

Opening the Summit, Mr. Ercan Murat, UNDP Resident Representative a. i. in Uzbekistan, said:

"Today, the Summit celebrates its sixth anniversary and it has become a unique and powerful platform for all the key players to come together to share information, learn from each other, and discuss and identify measures to address issues that emerge from the wide-scale application and rapid development of ICTs."

The Summit was organized by the Coordination Council for Development of Computerization and Information and Communication Technologies, the Committee on Information and Communication Technologies of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis, the Communications and Information Agency of Uzbekistan (UzACI), the ICT Policy Project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uzbekistan and the Association of IT Companies and Organizations of Uzbekistan.

Uzbek Diplomats Improve Multilateral Negotiation and Conference Diplomacy skills



Thirty mid-level and junior diplomats from the MFA and other governmental institutions honed their skills at a five-day workshop on "Effective Performance in Multilateral Conference Diplomacy and Negotiation." The training enhanced participants' enhanced understanding of the dynamics of multilateral conference diplomacy and negotiation, particularly as practiced in multilateral forums like the UN.

The workshop is a major component in a UNDP project that aims to enhance a range of capacities within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project is in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).



This is the first training of its kind in Uzbekistan for the first time by highly qualified experts from UNITAR, which is the only institution with solid academic experience and providing quality training in this area.

Over the five days UNITAR trainers facilitated a series of intensive, interactive training sessions that enabled participants to better understand the contextual complexity of multilateral conferences, to develop confidence and impart participants with skills and techniques to integrate more actively into the negotiation process and to function efficiently as conference delegates and negotiators. The training was built on modern teaching techniques and methods including concept learning, role-playing, real-world exposure and experience-sharing, using a variety of tools in the form of simulation exercises, videos, and working groups - a highly dynamic, attractive and stimulating learning environment.

Human Development Resource Centres Opened at Top Uzbek Universities



The UNDP opened a Human Development (HD) Resource Centre at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy today. The resource centre is a key element in a wider project to improve Educational Establishments' abilities to teach the Human Development Approach in Uzbekistan. The Centre will be instrumental in this process.

The HD Resource Centre will host educational events and discussions on this topic, with civil society and Government departments set to participate. The centre will also design and coordinate the University HD courses.

A 'Human Development' course was successfully piloted at the UWED in 2008. The course curriculum has been further developed and HD textbooks in Russian are now published. As a result, a Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and UWED was signed on 25 August, 2008.

Samarkand job fair sees 40 people with special needs employed.



40 people with special needs received new hope and new jobs today at a major job fair organized jointly by Samarkand city khokimiyat, the employment centre, the prosecutor's office and the "Kamolot" youth movement with support from the UNDP's "ACCESS" Project. The job was specifically aimed at people with special needs.

Job fairs for people with special needs typically take place about twice a year across the country, as part of the Government's efforts in tackling social issues. The job fair gathered over 2,000 mostly young participants with special needs. According to the Samarkand City Employment Center, 105 people, including 41 people with disabilities got a new job. in the socio-legal model of the UNDP's "ACCESS" project.

The Joint UNDP and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection "ACCESS" project was launched in August 2008. It aims to expand the opportunities for social integration and employment for people with disabilities!"

Job-fairs are but one element. Other areas include setting up clubs for out of work people with special needs, capacity building for employment specialists, decision-makers and organizations for people with special needs, as well as setting up information portals.



United for Child Health: The Uzbek Health Minister gives the opening speech. Flanked by UNICEF Representative Mahboob Shareef (left) and French Ambassador Hughes Pernet (right) on behalf of the EU presidency

Launch marks beginning of huge project to improve mother and child healthcare

The Government of Uzbekistan together with UNICEF and the European Commission officially launched a new landmark project on 27 October 2008 in Tashkent. Hundreds of thousands of mothers and children across Uzbekistan will directly benefit from improved maternal and child health care.

H.E. Mr. Feruz Nazirov, the Minister of Health opened the meeting which was also attended by the group of the EU ambassadors and Mr. Mahboob Shareef, UNICEF Representative. "As a result of the project, more than 8,000 medical workers will be trained across the country, which will lead to subsequent improvement of mother and child care in every province of the country," said Mr. Feruz Nazirov at a press launch, which took place in international business center in Tashkent. He expressed appreciation to the EC representatives and confirmed the ministry's firm commitment to achieve the objectives of the project.



Training is key. For both Doctors and families, new knowledge and skills gained through the programme means higher quality care for kids.

The official agreement on project was sealed between the Government of Uzbekistan (GoU), the European Commission (EC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on July 16th 2008. During the last three months all partnering

organizations were tuning the project's activities to the best needs of the country. The project, with the budget almost 6 million US\$, where EC is providing 5.5 million US\$ (3.5 million Euros) and UNICEF 450 thousands US\$ (300 thousands Euro) is aimed at improvement of healthcare staff's skills in emergency care during childbirth, plus newborn and childcare in maternity wards, polyclinics and primary healthcare facilities across the nation.

Mr. Mahboob Shareef, introducing key project details, said that: "Mothers, the newborn and children represent the well being of society and meeting their needs is best investment for the prosperous future of the whole of society. Very soon many more of Uzbekistan's children will be offered the safe start in life that every child needs and deserves".

The challenge is to ensure children have access to a continuum of health care, backed by strong national health systems.

"The EC is delighted to be part of this groundbreaking program, with many thousands of mothers and children set to directly benefit. This is fully in-line with our developing relationship with Uzbekistan and it highlights our firm commitment to development in this country and the Central Asian region," said Mr. Hugues Pernet, the Ambassador of France to Uzbekistan. Also speaking at the launch, he highlighted the partners' appreciation of the ministry's leadership in development and launching the Mother and Child project.

Note for editors:

Since 1999, UNICEF & partners have been running a pilot project, supporting the Government in health sector reform & strategic planning on safe motherhood, in the Ferghana region. Through UNICEF training, regional facilities have introduced the World Health Organizations Live Birth Definition, which has led to a 25% increase in reporting of infant deaths. This provides a far more accurate picture of the mother and



The International Live Birth Definition is being fully implemented in all covered facilities and across the country. The ILBD provides accurate data on infants births and deaths, making it easier to address problems in care.

child health situation in Ferghana. Independent analysis states that the newborn mortality rate in Ferghana consistently fell during 2003-2006. The training vastly improved emergency newborn care, newborn resuscitation & newborn care - staff are now better skilled, more knowledgeable and better able to take effective action. The project also facilitated positive changes at the policy level and contributed to wider social development.

The GoU, EC and UNICEF are now expanding these evidence based successes across another eight of Uzbekistan's fourteen regions.

- 9,856 health workers will be trained
- New training centers will be established in 5 regions
- Training centre's will be renovated in 3 regions
- Newborn & child survival packages will be introduced into the academic curricula of medical institutes across the country.

*Interview with
Dr. Michel Tailhades,
WHO Representative
in Uzbekistan. Contin-
ued from the cover page.*



What actually do we mean when we talk about a human rights-based approach to health?

The WHO mandate on human rights and health is simple. Health implies many things. The WHO considers health a door to human rights in general. If you want good health, you must have to have access to food, healthcare, education, water, housing and heating. In other words, being healthy is not merely an individual responsibility, there must be conditions allowing people to stay healthy.

We seek to fight human rights violations or such as slavery, torture and inhuman and degrading treatment, violence against women, which can all impact on health. We also develop health policies and programmes to promote and prevent violation of human rights – this means ensuring freedom from discrimination, rights to participation, privacy and information in their design and implementation. And we work with the Government, the Ombudsman's Office, Parliament and the Ministry of Health to meet these aims. We believe that vulnerability to ill health can be reduced by taking steps to respect, protect and fulfill human rights, for instance, by ensuring that there is no discrimination on the account of ethnicity or social status.

On the global level, WHO has developed a global health and human rights strategy and indicators for monitoring the fulfillment of the right to health. A number of indicators are already included into national health plans. We are also currently developing a handbook on a human rights-based approach to health in the context of poverty reduction strategies. Maintaining close relationships with the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights also helps to move the issue forward and implement joint activities.

You said that the conference on human rights and health had a focus on the right to health. Would you please elaborate more on that?

The second day's activities focused on training for medical practitioners, who are in daily contact with patients and have an experience in the field of HIV and human rights. Its programme included group work and discussions based on presentations and case studies on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and mental health. For that we have invited the experts on human rights from the WHO HQ and European Regional Office, who facilitated group work.

The participants also heard the firsthand account of an HIV positive lady who was invited there to share her experience of dealing with healthcare institutions and problems she faced in her everyday life.

Overall, we tried to convey to the doctors that the right to health and patients' right, like all human rights, need to be respected, protected and fulfilled. These rights are based on four pillars. First, availability: there should be functioning public healthcare facilities, services and goods. Second, accessibility: it means everyone should be able to access health facilities, goods, and services. Then, we talk about acceptability: health facilities and services must be respectful of medical ethics and different cultures of people. And lastly, all these facilities, goods and services must be of high quality and scientifically and medically approved.

Are you planning any follow-up activities on human rights issues?

Medical specialists want to know more about human rights and patient's rights in particular. They also need guidance to apply a rights-based approach in their daily work. That's why we would like to organize a series of two-day seminars in 2009 for physicians from the regions of Uzbekistan. The seminars will aim at raising their awareness and understanding of human rights and will build their capacity through practical exercises and case studies. They will be conducted jointly with OSCE.

We will also continue working with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and arrange trainings for its staff – mainly medical workers - on human rights and TB, HIV and mental health related issues. The recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the WHO and MIA will facilitate implementation of joint activities.

The WHO is known within the UN family as a specialized agency setting international norms and standards in health. How successful was your organization in introducing them in Uzbekistan?

Uzbekistan is a member of the WHO. As such, it participates in sessions of the World Health Assembly where major orientations for health are discussed and accepted. Once the decisions are accepted, our country office helps the Government to implement those that are more appropriate with the country's needs. Our

programme of cooperation covers two years and is developed with the MoH. It outlines the areas of health that need support from the WHO. The current agreement covers the following areas: mother and child health; child and adolescents health; tuberculosis; mental health; vaccine preventable diseases; non-communicable diseases and communicable diseases such as HIV, TB and malaria. WHO also works on strengthening the key functions of the health system to improve its performance. I would like to stress that mental health is a relatively new area of our involvement here, but it is also the one where we see encouraging developments. Uzbekistan has developed a national strategy and we are now helping to implement. In particular, we started trainings for general practitioners on mental health issues and are planning some more activities for 2009.

The Uzbek Government is keen on implementing WHO recommendations and standards, for instance, in mother and child health, tuberculosis, HIV. Another issue is implementation, which takes longer time and is closely linked to the availability of financial resources. In recent years the country has made big steps to change the health system inherited from the Soviet Union, but still much needs to be done. The old system was very centralized and relied, to largely on hospitals equipped with many staff and beds. The primary healthcare system was in that sense underdeveloped and underutilized. However, common international practice shows that general practitioners should be playing a key role in the provision of healthcare services. Thanks to the Health Project supported by the World Bank and WHO, the healthcare system is being decentralized, with the establishment of Primary Care Centres at all levels. Meanwhile, our studies show that the centres are not yet popular and are not as efficient as they should be. Part of the reason is that the system is new in the minds of local people. We need time to change the way of thinking and habits of those who are used to going to hospital on every occasion and not only in emergency cases.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that WHO stands ready with all its expertise and resources to support strengthening the healthcare system in the country. We will continue to provide technical advice and policy support to the Ministry of Health and other national healthcare institutions in 2009 and years ahead.



Central Asia reaffirms commitment to tackling drug resistant tuberculosis

The World Health Organization held an International conference on tackling drug resistant TB, in Tashkent on the 11th and 12th of November 2008. Participants reviewed the current status of TB control across Central Asia republics and assessed the progress of the the Stop TB Strategy, which aims to stamp out TB 18 High-priority Countries of the WHO's European Region.

The Conference aimed at strengthening the political and financial commitment the WHO Stop TB Strategy. Technical discussion also covered boosting laboratory capacity, drug management and infection control and integrating the activities of civic and penitentiary health services.

The Conference took place within the framework of the WHO/KfW cooperation agreement on Central Asian Regional Tuberculosis Programme. More than 150 participants from 11 countries (Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Netherlands, USA, Azerbaijan, Russia and more) participated at the conference.

Concrete actions closed the conference. Participants drafted a clear resolution and a memorandum which lights the way toward a TB free Central Asia. Implementation and treatment needs improving, as does coordination between partners. Laboratory testing needs upgrading more patients need access to better drugs.



These recommendations will be implemented across the board and re-reviewed at a conference in 2009.

Supporting development of national non-communicable diseases strategy



A mission to Uzbekistan to support the development of a national non-communicable diseases (NCD) strategy took place in October 2008. Supported by the WHO and the EU, two consultants, Barbara Hjalsted and Robin Ireland (from Denmark and the UK respectively) spent three days in Tashkent to kick start the process.

The WHO Country Office organised a series of meetings with representatives of key organizations and worked closely with the Ministry of Health in arranging a roundtable strategy session in Tashkent's Grand Mir Hotel on the development of a NCD situation analysis.

Participants agreed that that situation analysis will be prepared in full consultation with a wide range of organisations, both governmental and non-governmental and will be presented at a second roundtable in spring 2009. This will lead to the next steps of a NCD strategy development over 2009/2010. A working group will be led by Dr. Ahmedov from Uzbekistan's Ministry of Health. The group will meet shortly push the process forward.

In Uzbekistan, Ischaemic heart disease and cerebrovascular disease cause 47% of the deaths. They also contribute 13% of the disease burden.

Yet an estimated 80% of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes, and 40% of cancer could be avoided if major risk factors were eliminated. In Uzbekistan, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and a high body mass index are estimated to contribute to 52% of deaths (17% of the disease burden), it is for all these reasons that creating an effective national non-communicable disease strategy is so important in saving lives.

By taking the lead in the process Uzbekistan's Government joins many other States in taking integrated action on chronic diseases, their risk factors and underlying determinants in order to avoid premature death and avoidable disability. Guidelines are laid out in their the European Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases (WHO-EURO 2006).

“Museum on Wheels” project in Aral Sea disaster area



Uzbekistan has over 90 museums on its territory, these need strengthening and must be better used for education. In complement to trainings on museum management regularly organized in Tashkent for national museum staff, UNESCO supported the development of educational activities in Uzbek museums.

Uzbekistan enjoys a rich cultural heritage. The historic sites of Khiva (Itchan Kala), Bukhara, Shakhrisayb and Samarkand are included on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Uzbekistan is also the home of other treasures such as the Savitsky Museum in Nukus.

In the heart of the Aral Sea environmental disaster area is one of the most extraordinary sources of cultural information: the Savitsky Museum in Nukus. On the initiative of Igor Savitsky, the painter (1915-84), the Museum opened its doors in 1966. During the 1950s, Savitsky participated in an archaeological and ethnographic expedition in Karakalpakstan. In addition to his work, he travelled throughout the region, visiting nomadic settlements and becoming interested in Karakalpak art. Fascinated by the people of the steppe, he moved to Nukus and collected Karakalpak cultural objects. Then, as the Museum's director, he began to acquire Russian avant-garde paintings from the 1920-30s. With very limited means, he managed to collect thousands of works. Since 1991, the international community has discovered with astonishment and increasing interest the incredible collections of this Museum located



As the only organized focal point for cultural outreach in Karakalpakstan, the Museum has created a travelling exhibition, the “Museum on Wheels.” It's designed to share its artistic and historical treasures with the entire population.

Museum teams travel to villages far from the capital, taking traditional Karakalpak items and paintings with them. The aim is to let young Karakalpaks understand the wealth of their cultural heritage, to introduce them to the art and now forgotten techniques of their ancestors, and to give them the possibility to express themselves through a variety of activities.

The program includes a learning exhibition which tours village schools. Open to all, the “Museum on Wheels” exhibitions constitute a unique event in the life of local communities. They help break the isolation into which the populations of these remote villages have fallen and reinforce their social links.

Workshops for creative activity and to introduce participants to modern art based on the Museum's collection are organized with the participation of professional artists. The “Museum on Wheels” also arranges classes and workshops on the history of art for teenagers as well as games about the collections and a competition.

The programme finishes with a visit to the Savitsky Museum and to neighbouring archaeological sites. Most of the children participating in the programme have never been to Nukus and are learning about their cultural heritage for the first time. Begun in 2003, the project has proved its positive impact on Karakalpakstan's youth.

Art galleries for young people

As well as being exceptional storehouses of cultural diversity, museums are also educational centres that contribute to mutual understanding and social harmony as well as economic and human development. They offer alternative means of training that are used more and more.

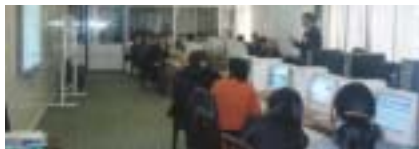
To foster creativity and stimulate the senses, working in groups: the educational activities of museums have become an integral part of life-long learning. In Uzbekistan, more than half of all museum visitors are groups of school children or students.

The Savitsky Museum wishes to arrange its galleries accordingly and to create a visiting experience suitable for all ages. The educational projects in the Museum's galleries include the preparation and completion of teaching materials suitable for both children and adults.

The fundraising campaign initiated by UNESCO Tashkent Office will permit the “Museum on Wheels” to travel throughout Karakalpakstan; the purchase of furniture needed for workshops, mini-bus transport for groups of students, and the creation of a visiting experience, with related support, corresponding to the needs of all. These activities are essential for the Savitsky Museum to continue being a place for knowledge-sharing by and for everyone.

In implementing this project, UNESCO Tashkent Office promotes alternative forms of education complementary to formal education and in preserving the cultural heritage of the poorest region of the Aral Sea basin.

Training on integration of ICT in learning process



On December 2008, UNESCO in Uzbekistan conducted a weekly training for teacher trainers on the integration of ICT into the learning process. The objective was to build the capacity of the school teachers to use Information Communication Technologies in teaching.

The government of Uzbekistan places a high priority on equipping schools with modest ICT tools, and in parallel with Government's effort, UNESCO Tashkent is contributing to the preparation of educators for ICT use in teaching and learning processes.



ICT has key advantages for specific learning situations, which makes learning more qualitative and practical. Yet, it is necessary for teachers and instructors to know and take advantage of the benefits of ICT.

The training was held at the National University of Uzbekistan, in which teacher instructors of all regional Teacher retraining institutions took part. It included practical exercises, such as development of teaching plans with the use of ICT in selected subject areas and review, analysis, and adaptation of the best international practices. Also, experience exchange among instructors has made an added value for the training.

UNESCO Tashkent office in cooperation with Ministry of Public Education is planning to conduct series of such capacity building trainings, in which school teachers, and methodologists of the regional and district education departments, instructors of the teacher training institutions will be targeted.

Empowering Uzbek journalists

UNESCO's Tashkent Office organized trainings on radio news making for journalists in the Aral Sea Basin region.

Two three-day training sessions were organized in cooperation with Uzbek NGO "The International In-Service Training Centre for Journalists" and took place in Nukus (Karakalpakstan) under the support of the Karakalpak State University. The second training was held in Urgench (Khorezm region) and was supported by local Khokimiat (municipality). Leading trainers from the faculty of journalism of the National University of Uzbekistan facilitated training sessions on different topics, including the following: legal basis of journalism and Uzbekistan legislation in this field; ethical aspects of journalism and access to public information; news on the radio; its features, types; modern requirements and modern approaches to the radio news; news selection, preparation and the news blocks on the radio.

The training was interactive, with discussions and brain storming. Participants had a chance to listen to the best examples of radio news prepared by FM radio stations of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Russia and watched introductory film about the FM radio station's workflow. Each day participants had practical exercises and homework to prepare news and news blocks with a focus on environmental issues. They incorporated lessons learned and received recommendations and feedback from trainers. In other words, they took their skills in reporting on the environment to new highs.

"I have worked in radio for a few years, but this training gave me more than I expected: an opportunity to learn modern knowledge and acquire new skills in radio journalism. Thanks to the training organizers. It would be great to this kind of training every year and to exchange information with colleagues in Uzbekistan and abroad" – said Gulzar Kalbaeva, a Nukus radio station editor.

The main aim of the training was identifying key candidatures for the second stage which will take place in Tashkent in 2009. Also to possibly to identify the opportunity to create a network among Uzbek journalists in the Aral Sea Basin region. The second stage will focus on coverage of sustainable development issue in mass media, particularly environmental issue. According to the plan, participants will be "attached" to the FM radio stations in Tashkent and have intensive practice from preliminary theoretical courses in the class room.

About International Programme for the Development of Communications (IPDC)

The IPDC is the only multilateral forum in the UN system designed to mobilize the international community to discuss and promote media development in developing countries.

For many years the IPDC program supports development of pluralistic mass-media in Uzbekistan through different activities, and capacity building for local journalists is one of them. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to establish high ethical and professional standards of Uzbek journalism and strengthen pluralistic media institutions.



Uniting against AIDS

National and international organizations have joined hands and efforts in mounting a communications campaign under the slogan "Stop AIDS. Unite Efforts".

The campaign aims at increasing awareness of the population on HIV issues and to encourage greater public participation in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support. It also aims to eliminate stigma and discrimination towards people living with HIV.

The campaign began with screening of video clips about HIV prevention on public buses in the capital city also on Tashkent buses, the countries main airport, hospitals and drugstores.

One of the key campaign events was a press conference at the National Press Centre in Tashkent. National mass media, specialists from governmental, non-governmental and international organizations all attended.

Bakhtiyor Niyozmatov, First Deputy Minister of Health, Michel Tailhades, Chairperson of the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS and WHO Representative, Tatyana Shoumilina, UNAIDS Country Coordinator, Gulzar Giyasova, Director of the Republican AIDS Centre and R. Sarbaev, Director of the National Association of NGOs briefed on the activities carried out in response to HIV in the country in 2008 and familiarized journalists with the global trends of AIDS epidemic throughout 2008. The event was concluded by an announcement of the winners of a media contest that had been organized by the Central Asia AIDS Control Project on the theme "HIV/AIDS – prevention, treatment and care".

The campaign continued with a series of activities, including TV and radio programmes on HIV prevention, a drawing contest and charity events in support of children living with HIV. Various events dedicated to World AIDS Day took place across all regions of Uzbekistan.

The communications campaign of 2008-2009 was organized jointly by the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan, Women's Committee of Uzbekistan, National Association of NGOs of Uzbekistan, "You Are Not Alone" Foundation, UN Agencies, Project "CAPACITY"/USAID, Central Asia AIDS Control Project.



We care!

A handicraft exhibition to support children living with HIV took place at the Youth Creativity Palace on 15-17 December.

The Exhibition was jointly organized by UNESCO, UNAIDS, Ministry of Health, the Capacity project of USAID and the Fund Forum of Culture and Art of Uzbekistan within the National AIDS Campaign. The invitees for the opening ceremony included representatives of Diplomatic Corps, international organizations and national partners involved in responding to HIV. The exhibition opened to the public on 16-17 December.

Over three days traditional Uzbek crafts, ceramics, carpets, suzane, textiles, jewellery and paintings by Uzbek master's were up for sale. About 30 volunteers were involved in the exhibition with an aim of rising awareness amongst youth on HIV issue and supporting the Year of Youth in Uzbekistan. The exhibition gave a magnificent opportunity for the guests to purchase Christmas and New Year presents, whilst contributing to the national AIDS campaign. 25% of all cash raised will go towards the creation of "play rooms" in institutions that provide treatment and support to children living with HIV.

This event was carried out within the National Campaign for the fight against AIDS in Uzbekistan. It was organised in collaboration with the Government, civil society and international organisations. A number of activities on strengthening multi-sectoral interaction, rising public awareness of society on HIV/AIDS and ensuring access to HIV prevention, support and care of people living with HIV are planned in future.





The UNODC conducted a regional workshop in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek on the Legal and Managerial Aspects of the Implementation of Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) in Central Asia and Azerbaijan. The workshop was conducted with support from CARHAP/DFID, CAPACITY/USAID, GFATM, OSCE, UNDP and WHO.

The aim was to initiate the process of implementation of OST in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, and to advocate for scaling up of access to OST in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. It aimed to raise the awareness of decision makers on the legal and managerial issues of OST introduction/scaling up, and its effectiveness as a method of drug dependence treatment as regards medical status and social domains of life of individual drug users, their families and communities.

Approximately 80 participants from the five Central Asia countries and Azerbaijan participated in the workshop including representatives of local ministries of health, drug control agencies, ministries of interior, ministries of justice/penitentiary system, heads of national AIDS centers and drug treatment facilities, heads of medical institutes and universities, health managers, social workers, representatives of NGOs, and the PLWHA/drug users community from Kyrgyzstan.

The workshop covered the following aspects: 1) legal and human rights framework of OST; 2) universal access to drug dependence treatment (where countries stand); 3) country experiences

Promoting the most effective HIV prevention methods in Central Asia and Azerbaijan

of OST introduction (Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan); 4) evidence of OST effectiveness, its place in treatment of drug dependence and HIV prevention; 5) country road maps for introduction of OST or scaling up access to OST.

The workshop sessions were led by Dr. Nina Kerimi, UNODC Regional Project Coordinator, Mr. Mirzakhid Sultanov, UNODC Regional Adviser on HIV, and Dr. Sergii Dvoriak, an International Consultant from the Ukrainian Institute on Public Health Policy.

Understanding of OST and its benefits was varied among participants at the beginning of the workshop. The majority of participants were aware that OST is one of the effective methods of drug dependence treatment and HIV preventions among injecting drug users. Despite this, some participants expressed doubts or negative opinions with regards to OST as a method of treatment. During the workshop, the evidence of OST effectiveness presented by the UNODC Consultant and speakers from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, as well as open discussions led with participation of patients enrolled in OST programmes in Kyrgyz-

stan, allowed the hesitant to accept the advantages of OST. During the group work session, all participants actively took part in the development of country roadmaps for the introduction/scaling up of OST.

As a result, participants expanded their knowledge of legal and human-rights aspects of drug dependence treatment (with a focus on OST) and HIV prevention among drug users including drug users in prisons. They also came to a common understanding on the concept of universal access of HIV prevention and treatment, and its practical application in countries of the region. They shared experiences in OST implementation; and developed roadmaps (draft five-year plans) for OST introduction in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan and the scaling up of OST access in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. The UNODC will be using the outputs of the workshop, in particular and the country roadmaps, in assisting participating countries to finalize relevant, country-specific action plans and making these plans an integral part of their national HIV prevention programmes.

Just Facts: One of the key components of the comprehensive package of HIV prevention among IDUs is the provision of drug dependence treatment and particularly of opioid substitution therapy (OST). OST has proven to be effective in the treatment of opioid dependence as well as in the prevention of HIV transmission, and improving treatment with antiretroviral therapy. WHO has reviewed the evidence in a number of publications, including the Evidence for Action series, the joint UN policy brief. In 2005, WHO added methadone and buprenorphine to the WHO Model List of Essential Medicines to support the use of opioid substitution therapy (OST).



On 21-23 October 2008, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's Regional Office for Central Asia together with the Afghanistan Country Office convened the Operation TARCET Debriefing which was hosted by the Turkish National Police in Izmir, Turkey.

Participants from 16 countries and seven international organisations (CARICC, EC, Europol, INCB, ISAF and SECI) reviewed the results of the operation and provided recommendations for future joint actions addressing the illicit flow of precursors used for the manufacture of heroin to Afghanistan.

Operation TARCET was conducted in Afghanistan, I.R. of Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan with the

OPERATION TARCET DEBRIEFING



technical support of Paris Pact Partners, including France, Germany, the Russian Federation, Turkey, United Kingdom, and donor support of Canada, EC and the United States. The operation resulted in the seizure of more than 19 tonnes of acetic anhydride, a key chemical in illicit manufacturing of heroin, including 14 tonnes in Pakistan, 5 tonnes in I.R. of Iran, 500 kg in Afghanistan and 156 kg in Tajikistan. If diverted, that amount of acetic anhydride is sufficient to manufacture nearly ten



tonnes of heroin. In addition, authorities in the Kyrgyz Republic seized 6 tonnes of sulphuric acid, Uzbek authorities seized 1,600 litre's of acetic acid and Iranian authorities seized 16 tonnes of acetyl chloride during the operational timeframe.

The acetic anhydride seizures made during the operation are an important development in the region as no such seizures have been affected in the countries surrounding Afghanistan since 2001. Effective information exchange also led to the launch of backtracking investigations into the origins of intercepted consignments. These investigations resulted in the identification and dismantling of an international organized crime group that was responsible for the initial diversions and further seizures of acetic anhydride.



The World Bank and the Government of Uzbekistan signed a U.S.\$935,000 grant provided by Japan

The Grant aims at supporting the preparation of the proposed Syrdarya Water Supply and Sanitation Project, which aims to improve the quality of life and quality of basic municipal services through the provision of water supply and sanitation in the Syrdarya region.

“The World Bank has been active in Uzbekistan water supply sector for several years. Under the recently approved Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), the Government requested further financial support for water supply and sanitation for 5 new projects in rural and urban areas of Uzbekistan. The investment program includes the above mentioned Syrdarya project, for which the Bank allocated USD 88 million of International Development Agency (IDA) funds. With the support of the grant signed today, provided by the Government of Japan, we look forward to the successful preparation of this Project” said Annette Dixon, World Bank Director for Central Asia,

On behalf of the Government of Uzbekistan the Grant agreement was signed by Mr. Rustam Azimov, The First Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance. Annette Dixon, Country Director for Central Asia signed the Agreement on behalf of the World Bank

The Project will finance i) strategic rehabilitation and efficiency improvement of existing facilities in critical condition, ii) the institutional strengthening of the six districts water utilities; and iii) strengthening of the six districts water utilities' financial capacity through improved financial management and commercial practices.

The Grant will cover:

- The preparation of feasibility studies.
- Environmental, social, economic and other assessments.
- The development of project implementation plans.
- Stakeholder consultations.
- In-country training, studies and workshops and surveys.
- The provision of technical advisory services (including audits) and goods required for the carrying out of such activities.



WIS Study tour to Vietnam

“It is hard to believe that a country with the population of over 80 million reduced poverty from 60% to 13% in only 15 years.”

The Government of Uzbekistan approved the Welfare Improvement Strategy (WIS) for 2008-2010 in 2007. The Strategy identifies key national priorities, objectives, steps and budget to implement the government plan. Creating an appropriate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system, introducing effective sectoral policies and ensuring wide public participation are key conditions for WIS implementation. Having clear understanding of this, the government of Uzbekistan established a M&E Group under the Ministry of Economy. The Group is supposed to work in close interaction with relevant departments of the Ministry of Economy, line ministries and other central and regional government authorities. To enhance the capacities of the specialists involved in WIS implementation and learn best practices it was decided to organize a study tour to a country that managed to achieve significant progress in implementing national development and poverty reduction programs. The World Bank identified Vietnam to host this study tour.

In international development, Vietnam has been a success story, having grown dramatically in recent years and managed to reduce poverty rates by more than half between 1993 and 2002.

The objectives of the Peer learning exercise were to learn the general course of economic reform

and development in Vietnam. How were multi-year development strategies formulated and implemented? What were key elements for development success? How was an effective M&E system for national development strategies established? How were the needs of national development strategies assessed and cost?

These are by no means all the questions discussed by Uzbek and Vietnamese colleagues during the meetings in the Ministry of Planning and Investment, General Statistics Office, Ministry of Finance, Parliament, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Health and other government agencies.

The value of the study tour lies not simply in the clear practical advantage that the colleagues benefited from each other. It has become a valuable vehicle for direct feedback and thinking of adjusting appropriate tools to the current Uzbek WIS.

According to an Uzbek team member: *“The tour gave us a chance to see how the country, which had survived three wars in the second half of 20th century, moved so far in its economic development. One can hardly believe that a country with the population of over 80 million reduced poverty from 60% to 13% within only 15 years time”*





By Ban Ki-moon

The Responsibility to Deliver



The past year was difficult for us all. I have called it “the year of multiple crises.” The next promises to be even more so.

The challenges that lie ahead in 2009 — ranging from climate change to the economic meltdown — will test our commitments and good intentions as never before.

In the realm of human rights, we speak of the responsibility to protect. In the larger sphere of common international endeavor, we should speak of the responsibility to deliver. Looking back at 2008, I would say frankly that our record has been mixed.

I am pleased, for example, at the way the world has come together in the face of economic recession. Yet I fear we are only at the end of the beginning. This crisis will challenge the sense of global solidarity that is key to any solution.

I am pleased at how we responded to natural disasters from Myanmar to Haiti. Yet I am disappointed by the unwillingness of the government of Myanmar to deliver on its promises for democratic dialogue and the release of political prisoners.

UN forces have held the line in the Democratic Republic of Congo, with bravery under the difficult circumstances. Yet we have not been able to protect innocent people from violence. Our record on human rights is on trial — in many places, in many ways. But we must continue to stand strong on the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

I believe we coped well with one of the year’s most serious issues. The food crisis no longer dominates news headlines but it has not gone away. The United Nations system has come together to tackle this problem in all its complexity: nutrition, agricultural production, trade and social protection. We are well on the way to changing decades-old policies in agriculture and public health—mainstays of our work in promoting the Millennium Development Goals and protecting those most vulnerable to climate change, poverty and economic crisis.

Of all the challenges before us, none is more important than climate change. A few weeks ago, I joined world leaders in Poznan, Poland. We recognized that climate change cannot await a resolution of the global economic crisis. Most accepted the need for what I call a “Green New Deal.” Investment in eco-friendly technology should be part of any global economic stimulus.

All agreed that there is no more time to waste. We have only 12 short months before Copenhagen. We must reach a global climate change deal before the end of 2009 — one that is balanced, comprehensive and acceptable to all nations.

Success will require extraordinary leadership. I myself will continue to push the pace and galvanize political will. I plan to convene a climate change summit at the beginning of the 64th General Assembly. But I expect that world leaders will need to meet before then if we are to conclude 2009 in triumph. Working together, we can fulfill our responsibilities to the planet and its people — our responsibility to deliver.

We should see the challenges of 2009 as opportunities for collaborative international action. We are entering a new multilateral era.

Below the radar, Israelis and Palestinians have engaged in direct, intensive negotiations. They have created trust where none existed and a framework for negotiation. Only they can reach agreement. But they need help from the United Nations. If we can keep up the momentum, 2009 could be the year of peace in the Middle East.

In Iraq, security has vastly improved. Provincial elections are scheduled for January. I urge Iraqi leaders to work together in a spirit of reconciliation as they assume full responsibility for their national affairs. All this requires strong UN support, and we shall give it.

The humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe grows more alarming every day. The nation stands on the brink of economic, social and political collapse. I said so to President Robert Mugabe at the recent summit in Doha. He promised to allow my envoy to enter Zimbabwe to facilitate a political solution. Now we are told that the timing is not right. If this is not the time, when is?

In Somalia, the danger of anarchy is clear and present. So is the need to act. Last week I proposed to the Security Council a series of steps that to advance the Djibouti peace process, deal with piracy and issues of humanitarian access, reinforce the current African Union mission in Somalia and set the stage for a possible UN peacekeeping operation.

I am also gravely concerned by the worsening humanitarian and security situation in Afghanistan. A political “surge” and a clear change of direction are required. We have made a great many promises to the people of this ravaged country. It is our responsibility to keep them.

The demands on the UN are growing. The challenges of our time are increasingly collaborative in nature. They require our full engagement, all nations working together—rich and poor, north and south, developed and developing.

Over the course of the past year, I held more than 700 bilateral meetings, including some 350 meetings with Presidents, Prime Ministers and Ministers of Foreign Affairs. I spent 103 days on the road, visiting 35 countries and flying more than 400,000 kilometers.

Numbers do not always equal results, but they are a measure of our effort. The world expects no less. It is our responsibility to deliver.

The writer is Secretary-General of the United Nations



Tashkent students take on tough UN negotiations at Model UN simulations

The Model UN simulation game was introduced to the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in November 2007, on the initiative of the International Relations Faculty. The International relations faculty has closely cooperated with the United Nations Information Centre since the MUN's inception.

Three games have been held to date, covering key issues for international peace and security. The first was nuclear non-proliferation. The Afghan crisis and its related challenges was covered in the second.

The third MUN simulation took place on November 1, 2008. "Children in conflict zones: emerging challenges and priorities for action in the 21st century" was the critical issue of the day.

Participation was open to any Tashkent university students, so players from Westminster University, the University of Foreign Languages, the the Institute of Oriental Studies and the International Business School took full advantage to enroll and learn first-hand the inner workings of the UN, alongside experienced delegates from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy.

The students represented 42 different countries from different regions and with entirely different perspectives. They acted within the core rule: "You are that country: Be it and believe it!" They spoke with style and substance; just a few tweaks and could, just maybe, have been a real session in the General Assembly.

During the position papers session, virtually all delegates emphasized the need for action to improve the conditions for children in conflict zones, whilst also couching their calls within interests of the country for which they spoke. The next session was more challenging and led the countries to break ranks and intensely debate the challenges and priorities of the issue. The caucusing and resolution drafting sessions saw even more heated debate, as Delegations had to choose among three draft resolutions, presented by USA, Brasilia and Russia.



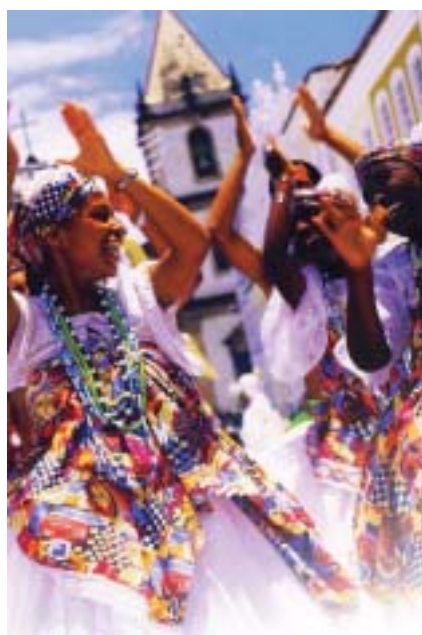
At the simulations end Alisher Fayzullaev, H. E. Ambassador and Murod Ismoilov, Dean of International Relations Faculty and Nigina Baykabulova, Head of United Nations Information Centre in Tashkent provided comments and feedback. They all noted that the delegates had made excellent progress in such a short period of time. In turn, participants enthusiastically stated that MUN debates proved useful and rewarding experience for them.

"Our students have learned, perceived and experienced the true nature of multilateral diplomacy. Such simulations, raise respect and responsibility for our own country, provide opportunities to hone our skills in performance and our knowledge on global issues. In short, the MUN gives us an incentive to get educated, stay educated, and go forward", said Ahmed Tillaev, President of the MUN Club of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy.

The Model United Nations simulation games have been played worldwide for about 50 years. The main purpose is to give students an insight into the role, significance and complexity of the United Nations in an inextricably interdependent world. The game is also intended to reflect the complicated procedures in the bodies of the United Nations and allows students to experience the unique and challenging task of representing countries in the UN. Moreover, much emphasis is put on the serious challenges all countries face in an increasingly globalized world and the ways to solve them through cooperation and dialogue. The game is played in the framework of the UN bodies that provide a powerful medium for countries to put forward their ideas and debate issues.



UNFPA Presents State of World Population Report 2008



UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund in Uzbekistan, presented the State of World Population Report 2008 to its major partners and counterparts as well as mass media representatives. UNFPA's State of World Population report has been published annually since 1978. Each year, the report focuses on questions of current interest and concern for the future.

This year's State of World Population Report, *Reaching Common Ground: Culture, Gender and Human Rights*, examines the role of culture, gender and human rights in programming for development.

Поколение перемен: молодежь и культура



Culture is and always has been central to development. As a natural and fundamental dimension of people's lives, culture must be integrated into development policy and programming. This report shows how this process works in practice.

The starting point of the report is the universal validity of the international human rights framework. The focus is therefore on discussing and showcasing how culturally sensitive approaches are critical for the realization of human rights in general and women's rights in particular.

The report gives an overview of the conceptual frameworks as well as the practice of development, looking at the everyday events that make up people's experience of development. Culturally sensitive approaches call for cultural fluency – familiarity with how cultures work, and how to work with them. The report presents some of the challenges and dilemmas of culturally sensitive strategies and suggests how partnerships can address them.

Culture – inherited patterns of shared meanings and common understandings – influences how people manage their lives, and provides the lens through which they interpret their society. Cultures affect how people think and act; but they do not produce uniformity of thought or behavior.

Cultures must be seen in their wider context: They influence and are influenced by external circumstances and change in response. They are not static; people are continuously involved in reshaping them, although some aspects of culture continue to influence choices and lifestyles for very long periods.

Cultural customs, norms, behaviors and attitudes are as varied as they are elusive and dynamic. It is risky to generalize, and it is particularly dangerous to judge one culture by the norms and values of another. Such over-simplification can lead to the assumption that every member of a culture thinks the same way. This is not only a mistaken perception but ignores one of the drivers of cultural change, which is multiple expressions of internal resistance, out of which transitions emerge. The movement towards gender equality is a good example of this process at work.

Appeals for cultural sensitivity and engagement are sometimes wrongly interpreted as acceptance of harmful traditional practices, or a way of making excuses for non-compliance with universal human rights. This is far from the case – such relativism provides no basis for action and produces only stalemate and frustration. Values and practices that infringe upon human rights can be found in all cultures. Culturally sensitive approaches determine what makes sense to people and work with that knowledge. Embracing cultural realities can reveal the most effective ways to challenge harmful cultural practices and strengthen positive ones.

In addition to the main report, UNFPA launched *Generation of Change: Young People and Culture*, a special companion volume that explores the major topic of the report through the words of youth. It is a report that brings to life, through first-person accounts, the issues raised in the State of World Population.

The youth report is a fairly new initiative that will become, henceforth, a joint annual report. As an organization that also specifically focuses on youth, UNFPA wants to give voice to their dreams, aspirations, challenges and hopes.

The report and its annex are available in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish, at www.unfpa.org.

UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programs to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

BECAUSE EVERYONE COUNTS!



Policy Brief: Sustainable Development of the Livestock Sector in Uzbekistan

UNDP Publication

This latest issue of the series of Policy Briefs was developed by the joint UNDP, Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Israeli Center for International Cooperation (MASHAV) project on 'supporting Sustainable Development of Livestock in Uzbekistan.'

The main emphasis is on milk production as the project's focus is on dairy management, yet many recommendations are applicable for meat production as well. The Policy Brief presents the main conclusions of the recent situation analysis and the policy lessons derived from a farm-level survey.



2008 Youth Xchange Training Kit

UNEP / UNESCO Publication

The 2008 Training Kit on Sustainable Consumption, produced by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is now in its second edition. YouthXchange is a train the trainer tool that aims to promote sustainable consumption patterns among young consumers worldwide. Among other novelties, this updated guide includes a chapter on how to find a balance between youths' consumer aspirations of dressing cool and fashionable while at the same time being aware of the impact of their consumption on, for example, climate change.



Analytical Reports: Creation of Special Economic Zones and Perspectives of Introduction in Uzbekistan of One-stop-shop Institutions for Foreign Investors

UNDP Publication

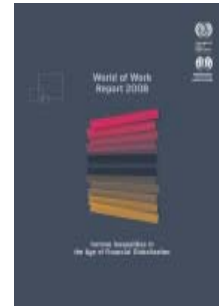
These two new policy briefs are based on substantive research carried out within the UNDP's 'Support to the Reform Process in Uzbekistan' project. The first report outlines the possibilities of setting up special economic zones in Uzbekistan, including practical recommendations on its infrastructure, services, operational mechanisms and institutional base. The latter explores perspectives and gives policy recommendations on the establishment of a one-stop shop system in Uzbekistan which would provide start up and after-care services to foreign investors acting in the republic.



New Human Development Textbook launched

UNDP Publication

The latest UNDP Human Development textbook was launched in September 2008. It lays out the foundations of the HD concept and gives detailed suggestions on methods for calculating a integral HD index and its derivatives, the study of the relationship of the concept of economic development models and economic growth, analysis of challenges and prospects for solution of this problem in line with the millennium development goals at global and national level.



World of Work Report 2008 - Income Inequalities in the Age of Financial Globalization

ILO Report

The report marks the most comprehensive study to date of global income inequalities by ILO and examined wages and growth in more than 70 developed and developing countries. According to the new study, despite strong economic growth that produced millions of new jobs since the early 1990s, income inequality grew dramatically in most regions of the world and is expected to increase due to the current global financial crisis.

The report calls for longer term action to put the global economy on a more balanced track, including promotion of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda to link economic, labour and social policies to boost employment and improve incomes and income distribution.



Toolkit to Combat Human Trafficking (2nd edition)

UNODC Publication

The 123 tools offer guidance, recommended resources, and promising practices to policymakers, law enforcers, judges, prosecutors, victim service providers and members of civil society who are working in interrelated spheres towards preventing trafficking, protecting and assisting victims and promoting international cooperation.

“Every day, people across the world contribute their knowledge and energy as volunteers. Through facilities such as the UNV Online Volunteering service, everybody can volunteer for peace and development without being limited by time or physical constraints.

The cultural form and definition of a volunteer may change depending on circumstances, but the underlying principle never wavers: every individual can make a difference in society.”

Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary-General



Uzbek volunteers unite for development on Volunteer Day

UZBEK VOLUNTEERS UNITE AT INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY EVENT



Volunteers from across Uzbekistan met with a range of NGO's, UN Volunteers, UNICEF, the UNDP, the World Bank and the UNFPA today to share knowledge and skills, swap stories and mark the international day of volunteering.

‘Today's event shows volunteerism is alive and well in Uzbekistan. We face global challenges, from food price rises to human trafficking and the spread of HIV/AIDS. Volunteers are vital in tackling these. We are here to build, strengthen and network; to better tackle these challenges together.’ Said Edin Elgsaether, UN Volunteer Programme Officer in Uzbekistan.

Participants came from Uzbekistan's four corners, with youth HIV prevention volunteers from Termez in the south, human trafficking prevention workers from the north, green volunteers from Andijian in the east and young reproductive health workers from the Western Republic of Karakalpakstan.

Presentations were given by the UN information Centre, the UNDP and the UNFPA on volunteer projects, youth networks, funding opportunities and youth leadership. But the main emphasis was on practical skills, including networking for best practice. Exercises in blogging, website work and managing e-networks spread new tools.

In open and enthusiastic discussions, an Andijian volunteer challenged others to turn words into action. Participants heeded the call - and solid plans were laid for a new Uzbek e-volunteer network.

According to Alexandra Povarich, a Tashkent volunteer for the youth environment network of Uzbekistan, ‘today is a great big deal in building a union between volunteers from all different fields. I learnt how to better use IT to work with and keep in touch with others. I'll definitely use these techniques to involve more volunteers, from all different fields, in our work for the environment. Others have already agreed to help spread the word.’

<http://www.unv.org>

UN CALENDAR

2009



International Year of Natural Fibres
Lead agency: FAO

WEBSITE: <http://www.naturalfibres2009.org/en/index.html>

International Year of Reconciliation

International Year of Human Rights Learning

International Year of Astronomy

WEBSITE: <http://www.astronomy2009.org/>

Lead agency: UNESCO

International Year of the Gorilla

Lead agencies: UNEP, UNESCO

WEBSITE: <http://www.yog2009.org>

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