



## **NEWSLETTER OF THE CUBAN NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO**

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### **For World Equilibrium**

An International Conference "For World Equilibrium", under the auspices of UNESCO, took place in Havana, on 27– 31 January, as part of the activities organized to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of José Martí, Apostle of Cuba's liberty, who has also been honoured by United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization, in accordance with a decision of its 31 General Conference.

A great number of specialists on the life and works of Martí attended the meeting, alongside well-known political, academic and scientific personalities, such as Ivan Schulman, Paul Estrade, James Petras, Danielle Mitterrand and Pablo González Casanova.

UNESCO's Director General was represented by Assistant Director General, for International Relations and Cooperation, H.E. Mr. Ahmed Sayyad; the Ibero American Education, Science and Culture Organization, by its Secretary General, Mr. Francisco Piñón. Dr. Armando Hart Dávalos, Director of the State Council's Office on the Martiian Programme, presided over the Conference and made the keynote speech on the current importance of the political and social thought of Cuba's national Hero.

The event, attended by over 500 persons from all over the world, was closed by Dr. Fidel Castro Ruz, President of the State Council and of the Government of the Republic, who made a rich and profound analysis of

the revolutionary significance of Martí's life and work, its current importance and the need to fight for a world free of injustice, inequality and hegemonism.

"Project Martí" was the result of the Conference's debates, and it is addressed to foster world equilibrium and cooperation among peoples, in association with UNESCO and other institutions which advocate cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue, respect for the right of nations to sovereign equality, peaceful coexistence and the prevalence of justice and Law in International relations.

### **Commemoration of Martí's Birthday at UNESCO**

The Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and Cuba's Permanent Delegation to UNESCO marked the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of José Martí's birthday with a solemn session. Director General Koïchiro Matsuura and Cuban Ambassador, Rolando López del Amo, addressed the meeting, which was attended by quite a number of personalities and UNESCO ADG's and high officials.

During the session, Mr. Matsuura announced the convening by UNESCO of the José Martí International Prize, to be awarded during the 32nd General Conference, in September/October, 2003.

## **UNESCO ADG Visits Cuba**

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Sayyad, UNESCO's ADG for International Relations and Cooperation, was Director General Koïchiro Matsuura's personal representative at Havana's International Conference "For World Equilibrium".

During his stay, Dr. Sayyad visited the Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (CIGB), the Latin American School of Medicine, UNESCO's Latin American and Caribbean Regional Bureau for Culture (ORCALC) and our National Commission, where he met with President Raúl Roa Kourí. He was also part of a group of personalities attending the Conference, who agreed to create a group of intellectuals under the auspices of UNESCO to follow up the decisions adopted by the International Conference "For World Equilibrium".

While in Havana, Dr. Sayyad was accompanied by our Commission Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Rosario Navas Morata, and by ORCALC's Director, Dr. Francisco Lacayo.

Upon returning to Paris, Dr. Sayyad expressed his positive impression of the scientific work carried out at CIGB and our scholarship programme for African, Latin America and Caribbean countries.

## **National Commissions Meet**

On 6-8 February, the First Workshop of Central American and Latin Caribbean National Commissions for UNESCO met in Havana. Among those present were the Permanent Secretaries of NatComs of Costa Rica, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Aruba, Panama and Cuba.

Mrs. Mirta Lourenco and Denise Pelissier, from UNESCO Headquarters

divisions on NatComs and Documentation, respectively, attended the meeting, as well as the Chairperson of Aruba's NatComs. The Sec. Gen of Spain's NatCom was our special guest; a Venezuelan representative participated as Observer and Mexico was represented at the meeting by a member of their embassy in Cuba.

ORCALC was represented by its Director, Dr. Francisco Lacayo, and a group of officials.

Ambassador Roa Kouri, of CNCU, welcomed the participants; Ms. Rosario Navas Morata, our Permanent Secretary, and Lourdes Flórez, a NatCom official, composed our delegation.

The meeting was a positive precedent, as it was the first time that two UNESCO clusters meet. Also, it produced concrete results: projects on handicrafts and intangible heritage as well as a cultural portal for the region were agreed upon. Follow-up cluster meetings will look after NatCom staff training.

In the closing meeting, several delegations congratulated our NatCom for its contribution to the meeting's success and our people for their warm welcome.

## **UNESCO's Denise Pelissier at our National Commission**

Ms. Denise Pelissier, Information director at UNESCO's division on Libraries and Archives, visited our NatCom last February. She was received by Maria Melba Salazar, head of our Information and Documentation Center, who briefed Ms. Pelissier on the work we are doing, especially concerning its services to young people and students.

Ms. Pelissier was very appreciative of the Center's work and of the possibility of having personally confirmed it.

# Education

## **International Congress Pedagogy 2003**

On 3-7 February, Havana was the venue of the 8<sup>th</sup> international edition of Pedagogy 2003.

Attending were 3,633 delegates and guests (3,073 from 38 countries, 40 representatives of International Organizations and 560 Cubans). Mexico's, Dominican Republic's, Brazil's, Colombia's and Honduras's were the largest delegations.

Altogether, there were 3 magisterial conferences (by Cuba's foreign, education and higher education ministers) 8 central introductory conferences, 36 round tables, and 186 workshops. Participants visited schools and other educational institutions. The programme called for a productive exchange of views on pedagogical issues and discussion of options and solutions to pending education problems.

Among the most interesting symposia were: Learning values as a central aspect in forging personality, and cultural and national identity; Instruction, education and development: pillars of learning and the integral training of new generations; and Characteristics and formative needs of adolescents: transformations required to have a secondary education with equal opportunities for all.

As in previous meetings, Pedagogy 2003 enjoyed the support of UNESCO, represented by Dr. Francisco Lacayo, director of its Regional Bureau in

Havana, UNICEF, the Ibero American Education, Science and Culture Organization (OEI), the Andrés Bello Covenant, the Confederation of Latin American and Caribbean Educators (ATEI), Programme on Local Human Development (PDL) and the Latin American and Caribbean Educator Association.

Also attending were Ms Winsome Gordon, Chief of UNESCO's Primary education division, and officials from UNESCO's Regional Bureau (Education) at Santiago, Chile.

President Fidel Castro made the closing remarks. The Congress ratified the need for educators to unite in their quest to offer education and culture to all, and indispensable premise for true freedom.

## **Ministerial Round Table on Physical Ed and Sports Meets in Paris**

On 13 – 14 January UNESCO held a Ministerial Round Table on Physical Ed and Sports and its Paris Headquarter, under the guidance of D.G. Koïchiro Matsuura, U.N. Secretary General's Special Adviser on Sports, Adolfo Ogi, and International Olympic Committee's president, Jacques Rogge.

Representatives of 103 countries, led by Ministers or Vice-ministers in charge of Sports, participated in the proceedings. Also present were representatives of 5 international organizations, 9 observers from National and International Committees and different Councils and Sport Federations.

The Round Table held four sessions on: Strengthening Physical Ed and Sports in the Education System; Protection of Young sportsmen; and the Elaboration of an International Juridical Instrument on the prevention of

dopage in Sport. The fourth session was devoted to approving the final Declaration and the closing ceremony.

The Cuban delegation was headed by Osvaldo Vento, Vice President of the National Sports Institute (INDER) and composed by Arnaldo Rivero Fuxá, Vice Chairman of CIGEPS, Diana Carmenate, of our Permanent Delegation and Lourdes Flórez, of our NatCom.

Mr. Vento delivered an introductory conference on "The Protection of Young Sportsmen".

The Round Table was a suitable occasion to discuss important issues, i.e., strengthening physical ed and sports in the education system, identifying the influence of education on the behaviour and personality of human beings. Participants decided, by consensus, to elaborate an International Juridical inter-governmental instrument against doping on the basis of recommendations by an inter-institutional U.N. Working group.

## Science

### **UNESCO ADGs Visit Cuba**

UNESCO Assistant Directors General Pierre Sané and Walter Erdelen, in charge of Social Sciences and Natural Sciences, respectively, paid their first visit to Cuba on March, at the invitation of Dr. Rosa E. Simeón, minister for Science, Technology and Environment.

The two high officials complimented rather heavy programs on their respective fields; visited research centers and institutions and held meetings with leaders and experts in the social and the natural sciences fields.

Each paid a visit to our NatCom, where president Roa Kouri explained its structure, composition and work, and informed them of Cuba's plans to become UNESCO's partner to cooperate in third countries on branches where our country excels, as well as to offer scholarships to developing countries through the Organization, as of 2003.

Both Messrs Pierre Sané and Walter Erdelen were received by Mr. Abelardo Moreno, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Roa Kouri, at the Foreign Ministry. Our guests and Mr. Moreno touched on issues related to Cuba's cooperation with UNESCO and envisaged future development.

## Culture

### **Mr. Francesco Bandarin in Cuba**

Also during this period, we received the visit of Mr. Francesco Bandarin, Director of UNESCO's Center for World Heritage, who had been invited by the Ministry of Culture and Dr. Marta Arjona, Chairperson of our National Council for Cultural Heritage.

Mr. Bandarin was welcomed to our NatCom by president Roa Kouri, with whom he discussed issues concerning material and immaterial cultural as well as natural and underwater heritage, and others related to Cuban culture and its African, European and Asian roots.

During his stay, Mr. Bandarin visited the sites recognized by UNESCO as part of the World Heritage: Havana's Historical Center, the city of Trinidad and the Valle de los Ingenios, the biosphere reserve at Sierra del Rosario (Pinar del Río) and the Center for Restoration, Conservation and Museology (CENCREM) a UNESCO Chair, where he delivered an important conference-debate on world heritage.

Vice-Minister Abelardo Moreno, in charge of multilateral affairs at the Foreign Ministry, received Mr. Bandarin, with whom he examined issues of mutual interest.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Biennial Conference on Agrarian Culture**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Biennial Conference on Agrarian Culture took place on 17-20 January at the Regional Peasant Ethnographic Museum of Cabaiguan, province of Sancti Spiritus.

Julio Llanes, Chairman of UNEAC's Provincial Committee chaired its Organizing Committee, also composed of Ms Lohania Aruca Alonso, General Coordinator and Vice-chairperson of the Writers Association History Section at UNEAC, Niurka Pérez Rojas, chairperson of the Biennial's Permanent Working Group, and the well-known painter, sculptor, writer and Distinguished Daughter of Sancti Spiritus, Thelvia Marin, who was the Biennial's Chairperson of Honor.

The inaugural session was opened by Ms Marin, Juan Antonio Díaz, 1<sup>st</sup> Secretary of the CCP's Provincial Committee (Sancti Spiritus) and ambassador Raúl Roa Kourí, chairman of our NatCom.

The meeting was sponsored by our National Commission for UNESCO, the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), the Canary Association of Cuba "Leonor Pérez Cabrera", the Culinary Association of the Republic of Cuba (ACRC), the Antonio Nuñez Jimenez Foundation on Man and Nature (FANJNH), the S. Spiritus Provincial Assembly of People's Power, the Culture Delegation of S. Spiritus, the ministries of Sugar and Agriculture, among others.

Various panels of well-known experts debated almost thirty papers and

adopted important recommendations, proposals and decisions.

Posters were presented by various agencies of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, as well as the Section on Environmental Design of Havana City, devoted to rural architecture.

Talks were organized on topics such as "Canarians and Cabaiguan's Agrarian Culture" and a Forum on Peasant Education was held by distinguished pedagogues and some twenty children and adolescents from nearby schools.

The permanent presence of painters, sculptors and craftsmen, musicians, dancers and "repentistas" (improvisers) gave the Biennial a rare artistic quality and joyfulness.

Gilberto Smith Duquesne, a famous Cuban Chef, led the Culinary Association's participation at the Biennial, where different typical S. Spiritus foods and beverages were served at lunch and dinner by Chef Raúl Hernández Álvarez, president of the Association's Sancti Spiritus branch.

Art exhibits by Julio Santos and other local painters were inaugurated at the tobacco drying house, and the new issue of Ilé magazine (published by FANJNH) was presented by Ambassador Roa. The magazines, as well as other UNESCO and UNEAC publications were donated to ANAP for school libraries in agricultural cooperatives.

The presence of foreign diplomats, such as Mexican Ambassador Roberta Lajous, and ORCALC's director, F. Lacayo, was particularly encouraging.

## **A Tribute to Dr. Vicentina Antuña**

On 12 February, tribute was paid to the late Dr. Vicentina Antuña, a prominent personality of Cuban culture, on the occasion of her birthday by the Havana Provincial Direction of Culture and Havana University's School of Arts and Letters.

The meeting was held at the School of Arts and Letters, where doctor Antuña taught for many a decade. Artists, students, and distinguished personalities, such as Graziela Pogolotti, Isabel Monal and Luisa Campuzano took the floor and provided unusual insights into Vicentina's life.

It was decided that next years commemoration will take place at our National Commission, which doctor Antuña chaired over many years.

## **Comunication & Information**

### **Regional Project on the Integration of New and Traditional Technologies for Development**

On January 21-26, Ms Vilma Gregory, Coordinator of UNESCO's Regional Project on the Integration of New and Traditional Technologies for Development, visited our country, together with two Jamaican VILCOMM Services International officials.

The main reason for her visit was to familiarize herself with, and give advise to, Cocodrilo's Community Radio station, at the Isle of Youth, which is to be transformed –together with three other community radio stations in Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados- into Multimedia Community Centers which, as part of a network,

will produce and exchange programs and information.

Ms Gregory's program comprised meetings with municipal leaders and government officials, with Cuban Telecommunications Enterprise (ETECSA), Joven Club de Computación, Radio Caribe and Radio Cuba, where she received information on their respective work and the kind of support they can offer the Cocodrilo project.

While visiting the municipal Joven Club, Ms Gregory gave a lecture on multimedia development and the scope of this new activity, learning at a distance, software development, digital radio and other issues.

At Radio Cocodrilo, our guests met with representatives of those in charge of the project as well as village dwellers, to whom she spoke about the project. Community representatives were extremely interested in the new technologies and in developing the Cocodrilo project. They further treated Ms Gregory and company to visiting sites of interest and cultural activities especially organized by them for the occasion.

Hopefully, UNESCO will approve successive steps to complete the Cocodrilo project in the near future.

### **Cuba attends Consultative Latin American and Caribbean Meeting on Preserving Digital Heritage**

Dr. Yarina Amoroso, Chairperson of the Cuban Society of Informatic Law, Dr. Luis Frades, Vice-Director of the Cuban National Archive, and Prof. Arnaldo Coro Antich, of "José Martí" International Journalism Institute's chair on New Technologies, were among the group of experts of 25 countries of our region who met in

Managua, Nicaragua, on 18-20 November 2002, to examine important aspects related to preserving the increasingly important digital heritage of humanity.

The meeting was a frank exchange on the issue and served to ratify the experts' consensus on the urgency to alert governments and other agents about the need to prevent the loss of documents directly elaborated on digital formats, which may be destroyed by failure of supporting technologies or because, as Australian expert Colin Webb put it, of production of equipment necessary to read their contents being discontinued.

Dr. Amoroso made important contributions on the complex legal problems which block the adequate preservation of digital documents, which were later included in the preliminary comments on Digital Heritage, which were discussed at the Asia-Pacific regional meeting preceding Managua's.

UNESCO is conducting these consultative meetings with a view to prepare normative documents, through the Society of Information division, in order to contribute to the preservation of digital heritage for future generations.

Prof. Coro joined a group of specialists who examined the documents and drafted a series of recommendations taking into account aspects related to the digital gap, the need to select those materials deserving to be preserved, etc. Together with Colin Webb, who was in charge of the preliminary draft, Coro worked on issues concerning technical access, infrastructure and standards.

Dr. Frades, who has a wide experience in the field of preserving documents on traditional support, contributed his

experience in preventing the loss of valuable materials to be found only in digital support nowadays, and he explained the route followed by our National Archives to incorporate the new technologies.

Mr. Abdelaziz Abid, of UNESCO's Information Society Division, found our delegations contribution useful, and had important exchange of views with its members on a series of crucial issues.

### **Third National Seminar of the Network of Libraries Associated to UNESCO**

The Cuban net of Libraries Associated to UNESCO held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting at the "José Martí" National Library, on 21-24 January 2003.

Words of welcome were pronounced by Eliades Acosta, director of the National Library and Raúl Roa Kouri, president of the Cuban National Commission for UNESCO, who referred to Cuba's relations with the Organization, in particular to our country's possibilities on this matter. Ms Gilda Betancourt, of ORCALC, referred to UNESCO's International Network of Associated Libraries and the role of national nets.

Previous to the Seminar, a Press Conference was held at the International Press Center of Havana, with a view to announce the results of the "Reading Martí" Contest and announce the convening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Seminar. Of special significance was, ORCALC director Dr. F. Lacayo's contribution to the Press Conference. He emphasized on the importance of reading books in today's society, referred to the levels attained by Cuba in education and culture, and explained how these are sustained, in part, by the mobilization of Cuban libraries for the "Reading Martí" Contest.

Ms María Acevedo, director of the provincial library "Roberto García Valdés", and outgoing Chairperson of the network, read the Balance Report, while Ms Yolanda Nuñez coordinated the discussion of the Manual on the Cuban Network of UNESCO Associated Libraries. Eliades Acosta presented the new directory, which is chaired by Mr. Felipe Hernández Moya, director of "José Martí" Library at Villa Clara province.

On the Seminar's last session, Mr. Acosta offered an interesting lecture on "Libraries and Culture at the Dawn of the Third Millennium", in which he underscored the important role of libraries in our day. Finally, decisions and projections adopted by the Seminar were read out, closing the event with important prospects for the network's future development.