

UN IN RUSSIA

No.6 (61)
November–December
2008



Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

Published by
the United Nations Office
in the Russian Federation



The film *To Keep Forever* was awarded a prize of the UN Office in Russia at XIV 'Stalker' International Film Festival / 3

Society /4

On 24 September 2008, Russia signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Are there any obstacles for education and employment of people with disabilities? This question was among those received by participants of the online conference 'Disabled People in Russia: on the Way to Equal Opportunities'

People /7

Eighteen-year-old Lena and her three-month-old son Maxim live in a little wooden house on the outskirts of the town of Gatchina, the Leningrad region. Lena has no documents, neither a passport, nor even a birth certificate, which means that she, as a person, does not really exist for the outside world

Opinions /8

In Russia, the UN is considered as an indispensable, universal global forum, a key element of the entire international system based on principles of collective action and rule of law, Sergei Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister, stressed at the reception to mark the UN 60th anniversary in Russia

Contents

UN

The Secretary-General
Message on the Occasion
of World AIDS Day 2

Events

Films, which are a real contribution to human rights 3

Society

Disabled People in Russia: on the Way to Equal Opportunities 4

UNICEF / People

Keeping Children in Families Helps Cut Public Spending 7

UNIC / Opinions

UN: 60 Years in Russia 8

WFP / Regions

Food Force 10

UNAIDS / Highlights

Artists against AIDS 12

UNDP / Publications

Human Development:
a New Dimension
of Socio-Economic Progress 13

WHO / Society

A Network for Young Journalists 14

UNHCR

To All and Everyone:
Refugees Are Not a Threat 16

UNESCO / Society

Inclusive Education
for the Future 17
For Women, for Science 18



The Secretary-General Message on the Occasion of World AIDS Day



On this, twentieth World AIDS Day, we are at the dawn of a new era.

Fewer people are being infected with HIV. Fewer people are dying of AIDS.

This success owes itself to people all over the world who are taking the lead to stop AIDS. Governments are delivering on their promises to scale up universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support.

But this is just the beginning. There is no room for complacency.

AIDS will not go away any time soon. People are still being infected with HIV faster than we can get them on treatment. AIDS is still one of the top ten causes of death worldwide, and it is the number one killer in Africa.

The challenge now is to sustain leadership. We have to build on what we have started. And we have to maintain this momentum.



We have to end the stigma and discrimination that still stop so many people from learning how to prevent HIV and get treatment. And we need resources – enough to provide services that will have a real impact in communities and on entire nations.

The need to lead, empower and deliver on AIDS is as real and urgent as ever.

Recently I read about a Congolese woman living with HIV who received medicine through the United Nations. She is now part of a group called the “hope-givers team”, which helps other families dealing with HIV.

On this World AIDS Day, let us all pledge to be “hope-givers” who offer encouragement and take action to create a future without AIDS.

Thank you very much.

Ban Ki Moon

1 December 2008

UN in Russia
Published once in two months
Circulation: 2,000 copies

www.unrussia.ru
www.undp.ru

Founder:
United Nations Office
in the Russian Federation

Editor-in-Chief: Victoria Zotikova
Editor: Vladimir Sadakov

Address:
125009, Moscow,
Leontyevsky Lane., 9
Tel. 787-21-00
Fax: 787-21-01
E-mail: vladimir.sadakov@undp.ru



Events

Films, which are a Real Contribution to Human Rights



On 10 December 2008, the world celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris in 1948. On this date, the traditional 'Stalker' International Film Festival on Human Rights started its week-long programme by opening two UN Days of movie shows and other events.



The guests of the festival get the anniversary envelopes with special stamps

The Guild of Russian Filmmakers organized the festival for the 14th time, and the United Nations supported it the same as during several years in the past. In 2008, the UN Days were co-sponsored by the Office of High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in the Russian Federation, UN Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, UN Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and UNESCO.

The UN Days were conducted under the motto of the 60th anniversary international campaign, 'Dignity and justice for all of us', which has become the main theme of the whole festival.

The UN movie programme, compiled by the Guild of Filmmakers, in coordination with the team of UN agencies, included 18 documentaries and 10 feature films, recently produced in Russia and other countries, which spoke about various aspects of human rights: rights of children, people living with HIV, disabled, people in detention, etc. They touched upon topics, such as human trafficking, decent living, violence against women, and many others. The festival was an excellent opportunity to reach out to a wide auditorium of people of different ages and social groups, who came in large numbers to the House of Cinema with its cinema halls capable of housing around 2,500 filmgoers at a time.

Navaneethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, was very accurate in describing the role of cinematography in human rights advocacy in her statement, which she contributed to the catalogue of 'Stalker' festival. She wrote: "Remaining faithful to the core values of the Universal Declaration – inherent human dignity, equality and non-discrimination, reaffirmation of the interdependence of all rights and universality of human rights standards – films can indeed be an important tool to



Dirk Hebecker, Human Rights Senior Advisor to the UN system in the RF, addresses the festival participants on behalf of the UN

highlight human rights issues and demonstrate action in defense of human rights. This is especially the case when films depict scenes from the margins of society and problems of vulnerable groups of people. Where films are not just shown and forgotten but cause public debate and result in change of attitudes and behavior, it is quite probable that they become a real contribution to improving the human rights situation."

The opening ceremony of the festival was particularly interesting. In the foyer of the Cinema House, guests could see the photo exhibition 'United Nations in Russia', which gave an idea of the work of various UN agencies in the country. They could take with them the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other UN publications. On OHCHR initiative, the Post of Russia produced a 60th anniversary envelope and a special stamp to be used only for one day at the opening of the festival, so that these envelopes were stamped right in the foyer and given to everybody as a souvenir and a collectable item. Organisers and sponsors, including UN representatives, addressed the public at the opening ceremony, and special awards were given to people, who contributed to the course of human rights in 2008 by human rights advocacy, charitable work or civic virtue. As part of the ceremony, a short film by Sergei Bodrov, a prominent Russian filmmaker was shown, which had been



The president of the Guild of Russian Filmmakers Marlen Khutsiev welcomes the guests



produced under a project the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the non-governmental organisation, Art for the World, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The project included the production of a series of 22 short films created by some of the world's leading directors.

A key event of the UN Days was a round table on human rights topics, which brought together representatives of government bodies, the Ombudsman's office in the RF, UN agencies, film makers, and the civil society to discuss topics of interest stemming from the presented films in relation to the theme of 'Stalker' film festival.

Colleagues from UN agencies and partner organizations spoke about activities aimed at improving the human rights situation in their respective areas of expertise. A particular focus was the introduction by OHCHR of the special sub-topic of this year's 60th anniversary campaign, which aims at highlighting the rights of persons in detention. The Federal Plenipotentiary Service and Ombudsman's Office representatives contributed to the discussion, describing the situation in Russia in this regard.

At the closing ceremony, when the Jury of the festival announced

awards in various nominations, the United Nations participated with two special prizes. One of them was awarded to the feature film about Stalin time repressions, *To Keep Forever*, based on the work of Alexandre Solzhenitsyn, a famous Russian writer and human rights advocate and shown during the UN Days (the photo on the cover features the film crew, introducing the movie). The other went to a documentary depicting a dire situation of indigenous people in Russia's Arctic.

Victoria Zotikova



The round table on human rights topics became one of the key events of the UN Days at the festival

Society

Disabled People in Russia: on the Way to Equal Opportunities

On 24 September 2008, Russia signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. What actions should be taken to ensure the implementation of the principles of the Convention and its ratification? Are there any obstacles for education and employment of people with disabilities? These questions were among those received by participants of the online conference 'Disabled People in Russia: on the Way to Equal Opportunities' organized by the UN Office on 12 December at RIA-Novosti news agency.

One of them, Oleg Nikolaevich Smolin, is the Russian State Duma deputy, Deputy Chairman of the Education Committee of the State Duma, Vice-President of the All-Russian Association for the Blind and First Vice-President of the Russian Paralympics Committee. He is blind, and though being a person with disability of the 'first group'(gravest disability by a state qualification), sets an example how to overcome barriers connected with disability. Another participant was a well-known expert, Evgeni Shlemovich Gontmacher, PhD, professor

and Head of the Social Policy Centre of the Institute of Economics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Board Member of the Institute of Modern Development. During the conference, the speakers answered 15 out of almost 70 questions from 10 Russian regions and even from abroad.

Oleg Smolin opened the conference saying that the decade of disabled persons marked in December around the world is a good chance for the authorities to remember about this group of citizens, to which every tenth person in Russia



The State Duma deputy Oleg Smolin

belongs. The deputy noted a number of recent improvements in this area. President Dmitry Medvedev agreed to re-establish the Council on the Issues of Disabled under the President of the Russian Federation. On 9 October at a meeting with the Communist Party faction at the State Duma, Vladimir Putin agreed to meet with heads of organizations of disabled and deputies representing their interests in the parliament. There are other improvements, although, according to Mr. Smolin, they do not keep pace with the development of the economic and social crisis in the country.

Vladimir Salit, Tomsk: *With the signing of the Convention, what should disabled people in Russia expect in the area of education tomorrow and in the coming three years?*

Oleg Smolin: We have drafted a text of the law on amendments to the legislation in the area of education of persons with disabilities. We have worked on this document together with ministries and organizations of disabled; however, the draft was rejected by the government because of the position of the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Finance. They think that 2.5 billion

of the draft law supported by the majority of organizations. And we hope that the Convention will help us speed up its adoption.

Vladimir Ivanov, Oryol: – *Why is it that when a disabled person tries to improve his or her life, get a job or become an entrepreneur, he or she loses social benefits, e.g. the payment for care of disabled?*

Oleg Smolin: A rehabilitating person should be encouraged – not punished. After all if he or she works this person does not only improve his or her life, but also supports the state by paying taxes.



Victor, Luchegorsk: *Are there special projects aimed at the integration of disabled people in the society?*

Evgeni Gontmacher: Technically such projects exist, including the Federal Target Programme for Social Protection of Disabled implemented for many years. There are regional programmes, although they are not of equal value – it depends on governors and regional capacities. However, it would be too early to say that there is a system that provides support to every disabled person. It is the signing of the Convention and its implementation in full that can create the conditions for these projects to reach all people they are intended for.

roubles for the needs of disabled is too much. What is the draft law about? It includes a number of important ideas, I would mention just one – the right of parents to decide on the environment their child will study in. We do not think it is correct to automatically destroy the system of specialized educational establishments that exists in the Russian Federation, but we are sure that every parent, who wants his child to study in an inclusive environment, should have this opportunity. The state should ensure that there are opportunities for education both in specialized and inclusive educational establishments. This is the key idea

Olga, Moscow: *People with a number of disabilities are eligible for a separate room; however, it is possible to apply only if there are less than 10 metres of the total space per person in a family. Therefore a lot of families cannot use their right for an additional room. Is anything done to make amendments to the Housing Code?*

Oleg Smolin: Three years ago a draft law was adopted in the State Duma in first reading. It should, in particular, establish the fact that the living space that allows applying for a room in the regions cannot be less than the officially norm set at the federal level – 18 sq. m, i.e. it cannot be decreased to 10 sq. m.

However, this draft law did not make it through the State Duma, as a number of its provisions had not been approved by the President's Office and the government, and without their approval the Duma does not adopt any documents today.

Alan, Tver: – *When will the state finally start looking into the problem of providing blind people, especially totally blind and blind specialists, with computers (notebooks) and mobile phones (smart phones), which can be equipped with talking programmes?*

Oleg Smolin: Dear colleagues! In addition to being Vice-President of the All-Russian Association for the Blind in the State Duma, I coordinate the Council on Digital Education and Modern Information Technologies at the Education Committee. I mention it because I want to give an example in my capacity as a Coordinator: in France, the state provides notebooks not only to blind people, but to every student. In South Korea – to every weak school student, thus improving their results by 40 percent. I fully support this idea. Moreover, we have asked the Russian Government about this several times. At the moment, the only thing we have achieved is including talking books, tonometers, thermometers, and vision correction aids into the list of rehabilitation devices that are financed from the budget. We should move on. At the moment we cannot change this situation, but we will work on it.

Tatiana, Saratov: – *Speaking about disabled women we should mention the limitation of their maternity rights. They can have a baby, but how can they support a child with their small disability payment? For disabled women it is much more difficult to find a job than for disabled men.*

Evgeni Gontmacher: I can only say that I am puzzled by the government policy in this area. It was announced that we should improve the birth rate. Yes, a disabled woman has the right to have a baby the same as other women. And disability pension is very low. That is why I think if we further develop the programme aimed at the improvement of the demographic situation, we should work on the section on disabled women and families of disabled people. Certainly, the best way to solve these problems is for people to be employed. If, for example, a woman is single, has a job, and receives a good salary, it is possible to solve all these problems.

That is why I consider it the next step in the enhancement of our demographic policy.

Vera, Petrozavodsk: *According to the law on employment quotas for disabled people, employees should comply with the established quotas for the employment of disabled. If the quota is not filled out, the employer should pay a certain amount to the budget. At the same time, there is neither a mechanism for its collection established by the law, nor controlling agencies. An employer can be penalized for a failure to give information on the quota; however, no sanctions can be implemented for the refusal to employ disabled people. What is*



Professor Evgeni Gontmacher

the situation today with the adoption of additional bylaws regulating the mechanism of observance of quotas for employment of disabled?

Evgeni Gontmacher: These are the consequences of the notorious Law 122, which in fact, abolished payments an employer should make in case the quota for disabled employees is not observed. The law increased the number of employees at a small enterprise from 30 to 100 people, while it is well-known that most disabled people are employed at very small enterprises. Thus an employer, in fact, may not take up the quotas that are formally established in every region because no sanctions will follow. Before the adoption of Law 122, employers had to pay certain amounts, and there were designated funds in a number of regions aimed at creating jobs for disabled people. Thus there was a relatively logical and transparent system, and Law 122 destroyed it. I hope that owing to the efforts of Oleg Smolin and his colleagues, the situation will be reversed.

Oleg Smolin: Several years ago, the State Duma adopted in first reading the

law of the Leningrad Legislative Assembly on reestablishment of the size of enterprises participating in quota assignment at the level of 50 people (not 30 as before, but 50, and this is a major step forward), that states clearly that if the quota is not taken up, the money should go to a special fund that deals with jobs creation for disabled people. Unfortunately, the adoption of the law has stuck up at this stage. We are told it can harm small business. To my mind, the state harms small business much more by numerous inspections, penalties, and other actions that cost much more to businesses than the employment of one or two disabled people.

Vladimir, Tomsk: *Can state agencies fine parents of children with disabilities if they do not get education due to parent's fault?*

Evgeni Gontmacher: There is a provision based on the Constitution that every child of school age should study, including children with disabilities, who should attend an educational establishment. However, as far as I know, there are no specific sanctions against parents who do not take their children to school neither in the Criminal, nor in the Administrative Code. While according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, two million children in the Russian Federation do not attend school, it is very likely that many of them are disabled children, and I think that it is a major problem.

Oleg Smolin: Nobody knows how many children exactly do not get school education in Russia. Ministers of education always say there are not more than just several thousands, while the Ministry of Internal Affairs says there are about 2 million of them. And if we look at the number of children of a certain age group attending educational establishments, we will see the difference of 2.3 million, including about 200 thousand disabled children. I am sure that first of all, the state is responsible for providing education opportunities for disabled children, while their parents should help them use these opportunities.

Evgeni, Volgograd: *Are there plans to develop and distribute for public discussion and local lobbying a package of laws aimed at the implementation of the norms of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Russian Federation?*

Oleg Smolin: Of course, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will require major amendments to the legislation. Without waiting for its ratification we have proposed draft laws aimed at bringing our legislation to compliance with the Convention, which will be ratified in future. One of the draft laws is dedicated to the social support of disabled people according to 'disability groups' rather than the level of incapacity; another – to education of people with disabilities. Therefore as soon as the Convention is ratified, we will propose other bylaws and will start with these two. Please ask your deputies to vote for proposed bylaws.

Denis, Moscow: *What can and shall NGOs do for the UN Convention on the*

Rights of Persons with Disabilities to be finally ratified?

Evgeni Gontmacher: Certainly, NGOs can make a significant contribution. That is why they should take an active part in drafting laws and legal acts that will help implement the Convention, raise awareness, and lobby this issue at all levels. By the way, the regional level is as important as the federal. We will adopt the Convention at the federal level, while in the regions local authorities still do not understand what this is all about, who people with disabilities are, and what should be done for them. And the main obstacle, to my mind, is not the lack of funds, although the ratification will require considerable spending, e.g. for inclusive education and new employment programmes... The main

problem is to change the attitude of the society, not only civil servants, to disabled people, and treat them as everybody else. We should stop dividing people into normal and abnormal. All people are normal, they just have different abilities. This is the most important thing.

Full text of the online conference is available here: <http://www.rian.ru/online/20081212/157100479.html>

UN
 Tel.: (7 495) 787-21-00
 Fax: (7 495) 787-21-01
 E-mail: office@undp.ru
www.undp.ru



Eighteen-year-old Lena and her three-month old son Maxim live in a little wooden house on the outskirts of the town of Gatchina, the Leningrad region. Lena has no documents, neither a passport, nor even a birth certificate, which means that she, as a person, does not really exist for the outside world, and there is no government entity that would be willing to extend a helping hand to her. Lena has never attended school. When her mother died four years ago, Lena's distant relative Yekaterina, who is retired on pension, gave her a home. Since then, all three of them have lived together on a tiny pension.

But for the assistance of professionals of the 'Sweet Home' Foundation in Gatchina, it would be extremely difficult for them to survive. In addition to basic supplies, such as food and children's clothing, the Foundation's experts are always ready to provide psychological

People

Keeping Children in Families Helps Cut Public Spending

support and counseling and offer a sympathetic ear to all the family grievances.

The Foundation 'Sweet Home' learned about the girl who had no documents when Lena was pregnant. "We managed to get her registered with a pre-natal clinic," Larisa Kalinina, the Foundation's Director, said. "She visited doctors and was examined regularly. That's why she gave birth to a healthy baby."

"But for us, no one would have bothered about her. She would have had to place her child with a children's institution", Larisa said. "Lena loves her baby and wants to take care of him herself".

There are 30 families in similar circumstances under Larisa's direct supervision, and each of them has problems of its own. The Foundation 'Sweet Home' has undertaken all possible efforts to enable children to stay with their families and provides the much-needed material and moral support to mothers. The results are by all means impressive: this year alone, child abandonment has been prevented in ten cases (which constitutes more than one third of all cases of child abandonment in the district). The district administration, international organizations, such

as UNICEF and 'Every Child', as well as private individuals, provide financial assistance to the Foundation.

On 2-4 December 2008, the international scientific and training conference 'A Family for Every Child. Ensuring a Child's Right to Live and Be Brought up in the Family' was held in Moscow. About 150 delegates from 17 Russia's regions and other countries participated in the conference. The event was organized by the RF Ministry of Health and Social Development, RF Ministry of Education



and Science supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and in coordination with the Foundation to Support Children in Difficult Circumstances, the Federal Agency for Education, non-profit organization 'Every Child', and the Institute of Social Communications.

According to the Ministry of Health and Social Development, there are about 700,000 orphans and children without parental care in Russia, and 160,000 of them are brought up in institutions. Although various forms of alternate family placement for orphans have been developed in the past years, the number of pupils in orphan homes and boarding schools has not reduced.

Still not enough attention is paid to the prevention of abandonment, supporting families in trouble – e.g. to all those measures, which would allow children to stay in his/her own family.



The 'Sweet Home' staffers

According to experts' estimations, around 40% of disadvantaged families deprived of parental rights could have returned to normal life, if they had been provided with timely support and assistance.

The experience gained by the 'Sweet Home' Foundation in Gatchina shows that it would cost much less to prevent child abandonment rather than provide for the upkeep of abandoned children at infant homes: 7,800 and 21,600

rubles accordingly (as calculated in 2006). Therefore, experts are sure that the funds used to cover the cost of children's upkeep at infant homes for long periods of time could be reassigned towards support programmes, which would facilitate the child's return to his/her biological family.

Today, the 'Sweet Home' Foundation sees its principal task as regards Lena's situation in getting appropriate documents issued both to her and her little son Maxim. Lena has big plans for the future. "Maxim will grow up a little, and I'll place him in a kindergarten. As to me, I'll find a job, may be of a shop assistant," the young mother said smiling happily.

UNICEF

Tel.: (7 495) 933-88-18

Fax: (7 495) 933-88-19

www.unicef.ru



Opinions

UN: 60 Years in Russia

24 October is annually celebrated as the United Nations Day, the date when the UN Charter was ratified by the

majority of states in 1945. This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the UN presence in Russia. In 1948, as a result of

an agreement between the first UN Secretary-General Trygve Lie and the Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union Viacheslav Molotov, the UN Information Centre was established in Moscow with the main purpose to clarify and promote activities of the world organization. At present, offices of almost two dozen UN specialized agencies, programmes and funds are doing a useful work in Russia, contributing to the human and sustainable development of this country, addressing issues related to education, health care, and environment protection.



The commemorative event to mark the UN anniversary in Russia was held at the Zurab Tsereteli Fine Arts Gallery on 24 October. Ambassadors of many UN-member states, representatives of the international organizations, parliamentarians, Russian diplomats, partners from government ministries and agencies, civil society activists, prominent figures of science and art came to congratulate the UN Country Team.

The UN Resident Coordinator Marco Borsotti opened the ceremony by

reading out the message from the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon dedicated to the occasion. The Secretary-General stressed that throughout the history of the UN, it has come to expect a great deal of Russia. As a founding member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the Russian Federation has an enormous stake in a predictable, comprehensive system of global relationships, able to address major issues in a strategic and pragmatic way, Ban Ki-moon noted.

The Secretary-General also expressed confidence that Russia could play an even greater role that it had once played – “a role commensurate with its tremendous size, wealth and global reach”.

As if answering to the Secretary-General's points, the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stressed that, in Russia, the UN is considered as an indispensable, universal global forum, a key element of the entire international system based on principles of collective action and rule of law. “We have a stake in making the best use of the Organization's potential as a center of open, honest debates and coordination of international policies on an equal and fair basis without double standards”, noted Sergei Lavrov. “The commitment of all States to the generally accep-

ted rules of international law is especially important for the emerging multipolar world to become well balanced”.

The Foreign Minister expressed his gratitude to all UN staff members working in Russia for their contribution to the solution of a number of key problems, making a special mention of their



assistance in coping with the difficult humanitarian situation in the North Caucasus. He also said, that “an increasingly strong Russia, in its turn, is becoming a donor country providing through various channels, including the United Nations,

an ever greater assistance to international efforts aimed at combating famine and diseases, ensuring a greater access to education and overcoming energy poverty”. The Minister said he was pretty sure the UN activities in Russian would remain visible and relevant.

A photo exhibition organized by the AUN Country Team and displaying the story of the UNIC Moscow, as well as present-day work of the UN agencies in Russia, stirred up a keen interest of the guests.

The official part of the event was followed by a concert of classical music performed by a group of soloists “Première”. Musical compositions by Mozart, Vivaldi, Haydn, Bach, Tchaikovsky performed by young and gifted musicians from the Moscow P. Tchaikovsky State Conservatory were warmly acclaimed by the audience.

Marina Shirshova

UN Information Centre in Moscow

UNIC

Tel.: (7 495) 241-28-01 (Library),
241-28-94

Fax (7 495) 695-21-38

E-mail: dpi-moscow@unic.ru

www.unic.ru



Marco Borsotti, the UN Resident Coordinator in Russia, and Zurab Tsereteli, the President of RF Academy of Arts, with a group of soloists “Première”



World Food Programme

Regions

Food Force

An aircraft circles over a crisis zone. War. Drought. People are starving. The aircraft goes into a steep climb before launching its first airdrop of food aid. A truck struggles up a muddy, treacherous road, and rebels loom. People are anxious, waiting food, with stocks depleting.



This is a virtual world of 'Food Force'. This is not an action film, but the first humanitarian video game about global hunger presented by the United Nations World Food Programme and designed for children between 8 and 13 years old. The project has been developed specifically to help children learn about the fight against hunger and the work that goes into feeding people.

While playing the game's six different missions alongside 'Food Force' crack team of emergency aid workers, children will be faced with a number of realistic challenges to quickly feed thousands of people in the fictitious island of Sheylan – piloting helicopters on reconnaissance missions, negotiating with armed rebels on a convoy run, and using food to help rebuild villages.



'Food Force' is available as a free Internet download from its dedicated website www.food-force.com. It was created in English and has already been translated into 13 languages: Chinese, Polish, Japanese, Italian, French, Hungarian, Finnish, Norwegian, German, Arabic, Spanish, Swedish, and Hindi. WFP, jointly with the UN Information Centre, already applied for the support of the Moscow City Government in getting the game translated into Russian.

WFP teamed up with the 'Feeding Minds Fighting Hunger' website to provide downloadable lesson plans for teachers, available in multiple languages. The lesson plans contain a structured information developed for different school levels for teaching children exactly what hunger is, why it exists, and how it can be ended.

The game itself consists of six missions. Each mission begins with a briefing by one of the 'Food Force' characters, who explains the challenge ahead.

The player then has to complete the task, in which points are awarded for fast, accurate, and correct decision-making.

Each mission uses a different mode of a game play to appeal to children of all abilities. Each mission represents a key step of the food delivery process – from emergency response through building long-term food security for a community.

Following each mission a Food Force character returns to present an educational video showing the reality of WFP's work in the field. This allows children to learn and understand how WFP responds to actual food emergencies: where food originates from, the nutritional importance of meals, how food is delivered and used to promote development.



If you completed all the missions, then you may log on www.food-force.com, which is also designed to appeal to kids and is set to become a community of children, united in the fight against hunger.

WFP has already presented the game to teachers of Moscow schools and tested it at school 2012 among 270 students. Both the teachers and the students confirmed that the game is topical and needs to be translated into Russian. WFP is especially grateful to Anna Myagkova, the school Director, and to Anna Ryleeva, Director of the Methodological Centre for Cultural Education of the Russian Institute for Cultural Studies for the support provided in testing the game.

Schoolchildren of Chechnya also enthusiastically participated in testing the game. On the World Food Day (16 October 2008), the centre of Humanitarian assistance NGO made a presentation of the game at several schools in Grozny covered by the Food for Education (FFE) programme. While playing the game, the

schoolchildren learnt how the hot meals they are served at school get on their tables, how much work goes into feeding children on the part of WFP and its partners.

The pilot programme in Chechnya started in December 2001 covering 6,000 primary school children, who were provided with hot meals daily, cooked from food commodities supplied by WFP. With years, the programme expanded to cover some 137,000 pre- and primary school children (1st to 6th grades) in 450 school institutions in 14 districts of Chechnya.

During 2000 – 2008 14,192 MTs of food were distributed in Ingushetia and Chechnya under Food for Education programme at the total cost of US \$7 million.

Many school teachers in Chechnya acknowledged that the WFP FFE programme has helped not only in increasing attendance and enrolment rates, but also in improving children's overall academic performance and classroom behavior. FFE programme has therefore invested in both long-term social dividends by improving the prospects for present primary school children to become successful and educated adults in the future.

The cooperation between the European Commission and WFP in the North Caucasus started in 1996, when the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department co-funded the WFP emergency operation of food distribution in Chechnya. After the return of the WFP to the region, the European Commission resumed its support in 2001 by funding the distribution of basic commodities, such as flour, sugar, and salt. The programme targeted people who had fled from Chechnya to Ingushetia, displaced persons, and vulnerable population groups in the republic. When WFP was planning to complete its FFE programme in Chechnya in the middle of 2008, ECHO, on the request of the



The Humanitarian Aid

Ministry of Education of the Chechen Republic, provided additional funds to ensure that the programme would be continued till the end of the year.

The European Commission, through its Humanitarian Aid Department, funds relief operations for millions of victims of natural disasters and conflicts outside the European Union. Since autumn 1999, the European Commission began providing humanitarian

assistance in the Northern Caucasus to the population affected by the conflict in Chechnya.

More information on the EC humanitarian assistance:

<http://www.delrus.ec.europa.eu>

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

At the end of 2008, WFP completed the FFE programme in Chechnya due to the positive changes that have recently taken place in the republic and the closure of WFP operation in the region.

WFP was fortunate to enjoy a generous donor support for the FFE

programme in the North Caucasus and particularly from European Commission (ECHO) and USAID.

WFP

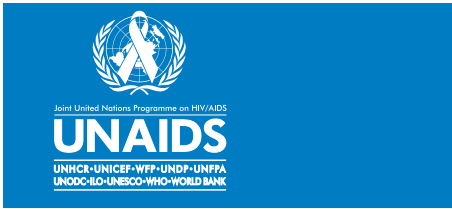
Tel.: (7 495) 956-49-68

Fax: (7 495) 956-49-89

www.wfp.org

www.fightbunger.org





Highlights



Artists against AIDS

For the first time in Russia, artists have been united against the HIV epidemic in a project initiated by the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

The initiative 'Artists Against AIDS' has been supported by 23 prominent artists from Russia, Ukraine, the United States, Spain and Greece, including Rustom Khamdamov, Georgy Frangulyan, Andrei Makarevich, Andrei Bilzho, Sergei Tsigal and others.

Painters and graphic artists donated 35 works of art for the November charitable exhibition and sale at the Moscow Central House of Artists. A total of 15,000 USD were raised by the sale and went to the Lomonosov Psycho-Neurological Orphanage in Leningrad Oblast, which is a home for 25 HIV-infected children.

Valentina Maksimova, an artist in textile appliqué from Uglich, gladly accepted the invitation to support the charity project, saying: "Children growing up without parents need additional support and warmth. The funds raised from the sale of our work will go towards specific goals. It is no less important, however, that while we are talking about these children, people may consider and want to bring them into their families."

Sergei Tsigal, a well-known graphic artist and one of the 23 painters, whose works were on display at the exhibition, said: "Even though I am not a wealthy person, I view my participation in this charity project as a significant part of my own life. Artists can play a sig-

nificant role in speaking out against AIDS through their work."

"HIV does not know national borders, ethnicity, or age. Everybody, absolutely everybody, has to know how HIV is contracted," Alexander Yastrebenetzky, a graphic artist, whose works have been presented in more than 100 exhibits throughout Russia and abroad, underlined. "Parents must talk about it, as well as about various other important things, with their children. My elder son is already an adult, and I hope that he is well enough



The artist Sergei Tsigal and Antonina Petrova, the chief physician of the Lomonosov Psycho-Neurological Orphanage

versed in HIV prevention. I will certainly talk about it with my younger two children as well."

Antonina Petrova, chief physician of the Lomonosov Psycho-Neurological Orphanage, explained: "We opened groups for HIV-infected children in January 2005, after the need arose in Leningrad Oblast, and had to extensively train the staff. We encountered the standard apprehensions in regard to people living with HIV; however, we managed to resolve the situation. Today, two groups of children diagnosed with HIV play with other children, and the staff do not treat them differently. A joyous



The artist Daria Sintsova

and encouraging event occurred in 2008 with the adoption of three two-year-old HIV-positive children. The support and understanding of the artists – who took it upon themselves not just to donate their masterpieces but to also speak so openly about the issues of stigma and discrimination – are very important to us. We thank everybody, who participated in this project."

Approximately 20,000 people attended the 'Artists against AIDS' exhibition during the two-weeks it had been shown at the Central House of Artists. The project gained support of a significant number of artists. In January 2009, the 'Art against AIDS' exhibition, which featured the works of 38 painters, took place at the Central House of Artists and featured a cycle of photographic portraits by Serge Golovach entitled 'Stars Against AIDS'.

In Russia, art is traditionally highly respected; therefore, artists speaking out against stigma and discrimination have a powerful voice. The 'Artists against AIDS' project helps people overcome prejudice against people living with HIV and misunderstandings about them, as well as bring about a real change in social mentality.

Anna Chernyakhovskaya

UNAIDS

Tel.: (7 495) 663-67-90

Fax: (7 495) 663-67-98

www.unaids.ru





UN Development Programme

Publications

Human Development: a New Dimension of Socio-Economic Progress

In autumn 2008, a new revised edition of the textbook *Human Development: New Dimension of Social and Economic Development* was issued, which was produced by professors of the Department of Economics of Moscow State University (MSU) within the framework of a joint project with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Russia. On 26 November 2008, the new edition was presented at a seminar, dedicated to the promotion of the concept of human development in Russia, for lecturers and professors of Moscow and regional universities.

The textbook clearly and coherently presents all components of the of human development concept. Special chapters are devoted to gender disproportions in terms of human development, ecological aspects of human development, and the role of the State in human development.

The authors have vastly revised the first edition, and added five new chapters: 'Human development and the economics of knowledge', 'Housing provision and human development', 'Private finance planning and human development', 'Demographic policy', 'Healthcare system and human development'.

These chapters were presented by their respective authors, while the participants of the seminar reported on a scientific research and theses written on the topic. They also spoke about the way the human development concept is promoted in Russian universities.

There is a long list of such universities: Bashkir State University, Dagestan State University, Kuban State University, Kazan State University, Nizhny Novgorod State University, Novosibirsk State University for Economics and Management, Novosibirsk State University for Consumer Cooperation, Novosibirsk State University, Orel State University, Russian State Pedagogic Gertsen Univer-

sity (Saint-Petersburg), Saratov State Technical University, and Southern Federal University.

Mr. Vassily Kolesov, the Dean of the MSU Department of Economics, and other professors of this department addressed the audience at the seminar.



The new revised edition of the textbook *Human Development: New Dimension of Social and Economic Development*

Mr. Rim Valiakhmetov, Head of the Social and Political Research Center of the Bashkir Academy of Science, shared the experience of the production of the first regional Human Development Report for Bashkortostan in 2008.

The cooperation between the Department of Economics and UNDP Russia started in 1995, when a group of MSU professors became authors of the first National Human Development Report in Russia. In 1997, within the framework of the Masters' Program the pilot course 'Human Development' was first introduced. It became the basis of a new educational programme on human development, and then the manual

The Basics of Human Development Studies was produced.

In 1998-2000, UNDP Russia, together with the Department of Economics of MSU, implemented a new project, 'Launching a masters' programme on human development'. Under this project, several educational courses had been worked out. In 1999, MSU hosted a two-week training course on this topic, which brought together over 40 professors from a wide range of Russian and CIS universities. The work in the area has been facilitated by the fact that the department has a long-established tradition of a broad socially-oriented approach to issues of economic development. For decades, the Centre for Population problems Research, chairs of Economics of the Social Sector, Economics of Nature Management, and Economics of Labor, have been working at the Department, focusing mainly on ecological and social aspects of economic development. In 2000, the first ever textbook *Human Development* was published both in Russian and English, as well as range of training manuals.

Taking into account the ever-increasing interest of Moscow and regional universities in the topic of human development, UNDP Russia considers the further promotion of this concept as one of the priority areas of its work in the country. A wider dissemination of the experience of MSU professors on the development of new educational programmes and curricular, as well as giving lectures on human development and the production of a new on-line course on this topic, which UNDP plans for 2009, will help reach these objectives.

Natalia Voronkova

UNDP
Tel.: (7 495) 787-21-00
Fax: (7 495) 787-21-01
E-mail: office@undp.ru
www.undp.ru



Society

A Network for Young Journalists

After a 6-hour flight from Moscow I found myself in the center of Madrid. We, young journalists, have arrived in the Spanish capital to attend a media school, which the WHO organized for us. But this was to come a day later. And in the meantime, we had some free time to go sightseeing in one of the most beautiful cities of Europe and to enjoy the fine weather, unusually warm for the end of October.

On 21-22 October, Madrid hosted an international symposium on environment and health research. And attached to it, the media workshop for young journalists, 'World Health Youth (WHY) Communication Network on Environment and Health', was conducted. The WHO Office in Russia had chosen me to represent the country at this interesting event.

I would like to shortly describe the symposium on environment and health research 'Science for Policy, Policy for Science: Bridging the Gap'. It was organized by the WHO Regional Office

for Europe and the Carlos III Health Institute of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, in cooperation with the Spanish Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs and with support of the European Commission Research Directorate-General (EC DG Research). The symposium was aimed to bring together scientists, policy-makers, and other relevant stakeholders in order to discuss the progress in health and environment research, to develop cooperation strategies, and identify priorities in healthcare.

The forum gave an opportunity for information exchange on preparations for the fifth ministerial conference on environment, which will take place in Italy in 2009. Among other things, the participants discussed the issues of information accessibility, transparency of decision-making process, and the ways of involving mass media into covering the processes. The first step for it was the 'World Health Youth (WHY) Communication Network on Environment and Health'.



Twenty two young journalists from 15 European countries attended the 'World Health Youth (WHY) Communication Network on Environment and Health' workshop, including Albania, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Denmark, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, the Russian Federation, Spain, Tajikistan, etc. They became the first members of the Network.

The media school, comprising a seminar and a workshop, included several thematic blocks. It started with a discussion of the role of journalists and journalism in mediating between researchers



and policy-makers, on the one hand, and the society, on the other hand. Ministers, researchers, and civil society experts presented their views to young journalists. While underlining the importance of media coverage of the matters of concern, they drew attention to the necessity of a professional approach: referring to various information sources, verifying information, relying on expert opinions. Experienced journalists, working on the topics of public health and environment for many years, provided useful advice on effective reporting. Investigative journalism was named as one of the best ways to do it, and if successful, capable of significantly changing the situation.

In addition, the journalists were briefed on WHO history and its activities in the European region. One of the presentations was dedicated to international law and international agreements of various levels, so that journalists, who specialize in these topics, could monitor, to which extent government activities in public health and environment protection correspond to international commitments of their states.

During the training, the participants were given a task to identify reliable sources of information, which can be used in their work. This exercise caused a debate on professional issues: should Internet blogs be considered a reliable source and how to verify the obtained information. Many experts expressed their opinions on how to process information on these topics.

The presentation by Roger Aertgeerts was particularly impressive. He gave useful tips to young journalists on the ways of verifying information and spoke about how journalists and researchers should communicate. Mr. Aertgeerts stressed that journalists should work with researchers, looking at things from their perspective. "If you decide to interview me, think first, why it should be important to me and how I will benefit from it... If you secured an interview, please come well prepared by studying my work and biography," advised Mr Aertgeerts. "And remember one impor-

tant thing: a deadline for you is not a deadline for me."

On the second day, other thematic blocks were discussed – more focused and specialized. One of them was dedicated to WHO practice areas in the European region. Francesca Racioppi from the WHO Regional Office for Europe spoke about the prevention of



accidents and injuries. According to her, they are the third leading cause of death in the region. However, they can be prevented, and if it is done properly, 500,000 people could be saved in the region annually. The death rate from injuries in developed European countries is high: 28,000 children die from accidents every year, and it is unacceptable. Ms Racioppi spoke about the high rate of death on the roads and said that traffic accidents are the leading cause of death among young people – drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. The WHO Regional Office for Europe is seriously involved in the prevention of traffic accidents. For instance, laws are being discussed now, which would introduce older age requirements for getting a driving license and a permission to drive a motorbike. Francesca Racioppi specifically referred to the situations in Russia, which evaluated as really negative: "The number traffic accidents in Russia and other CIS countries is growing rapidly. This is caused by an increasing number of cars. However, we do not see any changes in the transport system that could improve the situation."

This was not the only negative mark given to Russia. The country has received a 'two' by a five-point scale for its work in regard to respiratory diseases, caused by environment pollution, prima-

rily due to insufficient involvement of the state in the solution of these problems.

Much can be told about other interesting presentations. The participants of the media school received a scientific and easy-to-understand knowledge on various topics, such as climate change and its consequences; shortage of portable water and the ways to resolve the problem. It was enlightening to learn about prospective scientific research priorities in the sphere of environment in the future. Impact of mobile phones on human health is likely to become one of the priorities.

I was happy to get answers to my long-standing questions on collaboration between government bodies and academic community and the financial side of it. Speaking about this problem, Dr Mark Danzon, Director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, expressed hope that the financial crisis would not affect scientific research in environment and public health.

The media workshop turned out to be a very successful initiative. The participants had a chance to discuss important professional issues, get official information from prominent experts, improve their skills in the coverage of relevant topics. In addition, the idea of the World Health Youth (WHY) Communication Network is very promising. The participants agreed that it would help to both get and exchange international news, as well as to support and help each other. If somebody wants to join the WHY network, the application can be sent to the secretariat. The detailed information can be found at http://www.euro.who.int/envhealth/media/20080923_1

Alexander Panchenko,
Department of Journalism
of Moscow State University

WHO Russia
Tel.: (7 495) 787-21-17
Fax: (7 495) 787-21-19
E-mail: whorus@who.org.ru
Web sites: www.who.int
and www.who.dk

To All and Everyone: Refugees Are Not a Threat

Public information, public awareness, and capacity building have always been among major goals of UNHCR Office in the Russian Federation. UNHCR works in partnership with many actors. They include other United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), governmental as well as inter-governmental organizations, and various civil society partners, such as universities, advocacy groups, foundations, and corporations. Between them, they provide an array of services for vulnerable people including immediate relief – food, water, and shelter – as well as legal assistance, education, and health care.

In addition to publishing and distributing educational and reference materials on various aspects of refugee protection, maintenance of the local web-site

of the European Court of Human Rights – the 3rd such event since 2006. Three national experts from the Federal Supreme Court, Moscow State Legal Institute and the

law and promoting the protection of UNHCR persons of concern. The participants' interaction, experience sharing and establishing contacts among themselves,



www.unhcr.ru, support of a special radio program on the Radio of Russia, etc., the Agency strives to equip lawyers, government and non-governmental organizations with knowledge base, skills, and tools essential for strengthening the asylum system and promoting the refugee law country-wide.

The three events conducted in the fall of 2008, provide a good example of the Agency's activities in this sphere.

Under the UNHCR-Council of Europe (CoE) Joint Assistance Program, UNHCR organized a seminar for nearly 20 judges of Supreme Courts of Chechnya, Ingushetia, Daghestan, and North Ossetia-Alania on key articles of the European Convention for Human Rights and procedures

Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, and one CoE expert delivered lectures.

The topics of the seminar were selected based on the feedback from the previous seminar and the growing interest among the judiciary of the North Caucasus in upgrading their knowledge about the European Court procedures (also in view of the fact that as of August 2008, the Court had delivered 40 judgments on cases vs. Russian Federation and related to alleged human rights violations in the Chechen Republic – the largest number of cases in the European Court of Human Rights).

In the opinion of both UNHCR and seminar participants, the event was another major step towards enhancing the rule of

with lecturers and the staff of the Federal Supreme Court also contributed to the seminar success. A senior judge from Chechnya stated they were seriously committed to achieving European standards of work, and seminars of this kind were very welcome.

Another event was a workshop for mass media managers and journalists from the Central Federal District addressing refugee problems 'Impact of Media on Attitudes towards Problems of Refugees and Stateless Persons' held in November 2008, jointly with Alliance of Managers of Regional Press of Russia (ARS-PRESS). The seminar aimed to provide over 30 journalists with new and useful information on the topic and help them educate readers about the plight of refugees and displaced

persons in Russia, tolerance, and respect towards those who had to flee war, persecution, dire socio-economic conditions, and natural catastrophies. Presentations made by UNHCR staff, experts from the Federal Migration Service of Russia, RF State Duma, Office of RF Ombudsman for Human Rights, sociologists, and non-governmental organizations provided a broad picture of current migration trends, asylum system in Russia, government policy, and potential social developments in this area. Conducted prior to the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights on December 10, 2008, the workshop could not but address the inseparable link between the fundamental principles spelt out in the UDHR and the UN 1951 Refugee Convention, namely, reference to refugees as a particular vulnerable group of people whose rights are often violated.

Concern about public attitudes to refugees and asylum-seekers underlie UNHCR decision to support the first St. Petersburg International Youth Film Festival on tolerance (organized by the 'InSight In' Art Center – youth NGO from S.-Petersburg) as an event that by artistic means could alert the young generation about



problems of racism and ethnic intolerance. The programme of the Festival (supported by the Committee on Youth Policy of S.-Petersburg Administration, Federation Council, St. Petersburg State University of Information Technologies, Mechanics and Optics, and other stakeholders) included documentaries produced by young filmmakers from Eastern and Western Europe,

Asian countries, Baltic region and CIS, United States and Central America.

The UNHCR has proposed the following movies for an out-of-competition programme: *Sporting Chance*, *Returning Home*, *The Refugee All Stars* and a short length feature Russian film *Santa's Curse* (which received UNHCR award at the 13th 'Stalker' International Film Festival on Human Rights in December 2007). The latter served as an introduction to a round table on tolerance attended by representatives from the S.-Petersburg Red Cross, Commission on Human Rights attached to SPb Governor, Public Chamber under the City Administration, several ethnic communities, and faith-based organizations. The round table helped bring to participants the following message: "Refugees are not a threat, they are threatened themselves".

UNHCR

Tel.: (7 495) 232-30-11
 Fax: (7 495) 232-30-17/16
 E-mail: rusmo@unhcr.org
www.unhcr.ru



Society

Inclusive Education for the Future

Today as in the past, children with disabilities and those from marginalized groups (migrants, street children, orphans) are still largely excluded from the school system. But even among those who attend school, a substantial number will never reach the educational level needed to succeed professionally and personally. Some 650 million people are estimated to be deprived of their right to education because of physical or mental disabilities, or their special learning needs.

The International Conference 'Inclusive Education: the Way of the Future' was dedicated to the discussion of issues of full inclusion of all segments of the population in the educational process. The conference was organized by the UNESCO's International Bureau of Education (<http://www.ibe.unesco.org/>) in Geneva (Switzerland) on 25-28 November 2008.

The participants to the Conference – among them, 100 ministers and

deputy ministers, as well as education experts, representatives of NGOs and United Nations agencies – shared experiences regarding education for inclusion, identified educational systems that take the diversity of pupils into account, and examined the role of governments in implementing policies promoting inclusion.

Inclusive education was also the focus of another international forum, which took place on 19-20 June 2008 at the

Russian State Pedagogical University named after Herzen in St. Petersburg. The International Conference 'Inclusive Education: Improving Education Policies and Systems' was organized with the assistance of the UNESCO Moscow Office, Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation in the framework of the innovative educational programme, 'Creating the System of Innovative Training of Professionals in the Field of Humanitarian

Technologies in the Social Sphere'. The conference provided a forum for the exchange of opinions among prominent public figures and experts in the field of training of teaching staff.

The agenda of the conference included a wide range of issues related to ways of developing education policies

and strategies aimed at excluded and vulnerable groups of the population in accordance with the provisions of the World Declaration on Education for All as well as at the development of social partnerships. The participants discussed the best practices in inclusive education and the use of innovative approaches in the countries, which took part in the

meeting. Among the outcomes of the forum was the preparation of a set of practical recommendations for a successful training of a new kind of teaching staff with broad understanding of social inclusion. The conference was aimed to help improve national education policies in inclusive education and promote international cooperation in this field.

For Women, for Science



In the center – Tatiana Birshtein, a Russian scientist, Professor, Doctor of Science (Physics and Mathematics)

National L'Oreal-UNESCO fellowship award ceremony for the young women in science was held in Balchug-Kempinsky Hotel on 12 November 2008. As was announced, 10 women from various Russian cities have become prize winners. The competition was organized with the support of L'Oreal-Russia, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, the UNESCO Moscow Office, and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

L'Oreal and UNESCO have been jointly implementing the programme 'For Women in Science' since 1998. This programme is unique not only because it supports women in science, but also because it contributes to the science development on different continents. Every year, 5 women from Africa or Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Europe, North America and South America become winners of the international L'Oreal-UNESCO award. Tatiana Birshtein, a Russian scientist, Professor, Doctor of Science (Physics and Mathematics), became the winner in the nomination 'Europe' in 2007. In addition to the international awards, there are international and national L'Oreal-UNESCO fellowships.

This year, Russian national L'Oreal-UNESCO fellowships 'For Women in Science' were awarded for the second

time. In 2008, 320 applications from 65 Russian cities were received, which is twice as much as in 2007. The jury selected 10 research works. Ten young women-researchers were awarded L'Oreal-UNESCO national fellowships of 350,000 roubles. The fellowship winners are: Irena Artamonova (Moscow, Vavilov Institute of General Genetics, Russian Academy of Sciences, senior researcher); Sophia Artemkina (Novosibirsk, Nikolaev Institute of Inorganic Chemistry, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, junior researcher); Eugenia Bogomolova (Saint-Petersburg, Komarov Botanical Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, senior researcher); Oksana

(Moscow, Institute of Radio-engineering and Electronics, Russian Academy of Sciences, senior researcher); Nadezhda Ustuzhanina (Moscow, Zelinsky Institute of Organic Chemistry, Russian Academy of Sciences, researcher); and Anna Federova (Moscow, Space Research Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, senior researcher).

The winners are young scientists (up to 35 years old). They work at Russian research institutions in the field of astronomy, bioinformatics, biology, chemistry, ecology, medical science or physics, and have high citation indexes of their publications. The winners have



The winners of the international L'Oreal-UNESCO award

Kaluzhnaya (Irkutsk, the Limnology Institute, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, researcher); Galina Lukova (Chernogolovka (Moscow Region), Institute of Chemical Physics Research, Russian Academy of Sciences, senior researcher); Anastassia Makarieva (Gatchina (Leningrad Region), Theoretical Physics Department, Konstantinov Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, senior researcher); Ekaterina Merzlyak (Moscow, Lomonosov Moscow State University, researcher); Lada Puntus

already reached certain success in their careers and proved the importance of their achievements in the scientific community largely dominated by men. These women will set an example for the future generation of young scientists.

UNESCO

Tel.: (7 495) 637-28-75

Fax: (7 495) 637-39-60

www.unesco.ru

Summary

You can find the full version of the UN in Russia Bulletin in English at www.undp.ru or www.unrussia.ru (Documents)

UN / The Secretary-General Message on the Occasion of World AIDS Day

In his message on the occasion of the twentieth World AIDS, Day Ban Ki-moon emphasized that as fewer people are being infected with HIV and fewer people are dying of AIDS the challenge today is to sustain leadership and maintain the momentum in fighting this disease to create a future without AIDS.

UN / Films, Which Are a Real Contribution to Human Rights

On 10 December 2008, when the world celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the 'Stalker' International Film Festival on Human Rights started its week-long programme by opening two UN Days of movie shows and other events in Moscow. As Navanethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, rightly put it, describing the role of cinematography in human rights advocacy: "Remaining faithful to the core values of the Universal Declaration... films can indeed be an important tool to highlight human rights issues and demonstrate action in defense of human rights.

UN / Disabled People in Russia: on the Way to Equal Opportunities

On 24 September 2008, Russia signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. On the occasion of the anniversary of the Convention in December the UN Office in Russia organised an online conference at RIA Novosti news agency. The conference participants, well-known experts in this area, answered the questions about implementation of the Convention principles in Russia, steps towards its ratification, education and employment for people with disabilities and other issues.

UNICEF / Keeping Children in Families Helps Cut Public Spending

In December, the conference 'Family for Every Child. Ensuring the Right of Every Child to Live in a Family' was held in Moscow with the support of UNICEF, ministries of education and science, healthcare and social development. UNICEF experts are convinced that family is the best environment to bring up a child. According to estimates, about 40 percent of disadvantaged families with terminated parental rights could have kept their children if they have received assistance when they needed it.

UNIC / UN: 60 Years in Russia

On 24 October, a reception dedicated to the 60th anniversary of UN presence in Russia was held in Moscow. On this day in 1945, the UN Charter was ratified by the majority of its member states. In Russia, the United Nations Information Centre was opened in 1948 following an agreement between the then Secretary-General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

WFP / Food Force

'Food Force' is a new video game for children aged 8-13, which the World Food Organization has recently launched. It was successfully tested by Russian teachers and pupils. The game demonstrating how WFP fights hunger in the world has been produced in English and already

translated into 13 languages. WFP, together with the UN Information Centre, approached the Moscow government with a request to assist in translating the game into Russian.

UNAIDS / Artists against AIDS

A project with the participation of well-known Russian artists was launched in Moscow on UNAIDS initiative. Artists working in different genres contributed 35 works to a charity exhibition held in the Central House of Artists to help an orphanage, which cares for HIV-infected children.

UNDP / Human Development: a New Dimension of Socio-Economic Progress

In autumn 2008, the Department of Economics of the Moscow State University presented a new revised edition of the textbook 'Human development: a new dimension of social and economic development', which was issued within the framework of a joint project with UNDP Russia. The textbook, which includes five new chapters and revised information, provides a clear and coherent description of all components of the human development concept.

WHO / Network for Young Journalists

Twenty two young journalists from 15 European countries attended the World Health Youth (WHY) Communication Network on environment and health. They came from Albania, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Denmark, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Spain, Tajikistan etc. They were the first members of the Youth (WHY) Communication Network. A young Russian journalist, selected by WHO to represent the country there, reports on the event, which took place in Madrid in October.

UNHCR / To All and Everyone: Refugees Are Not a Threat

Public information, public awareness, and capacity building are major aspects of UNHCR work in Russia. This autumn, UNHCR organized a seminar for 20 judges from the North Caucasus republics on the European Convention for Human Rights and procedures of the European Court of Human Rights, a workshop for mass media managers and journalists from the Central Federal District addressing refugee problems. It also supported the first International Youth Film Festival on tolerance in Saint-Petersburg.

UNESCO / Inclusive Education for the Future

Today, disabled children and children from marginal families are almost excluded from the system of education. On 25-28 November 2008, the International Bureau of Education conducted the international conference 'Inclusive Education: Road to the Future' dedicated to the problem of including all categories of population in education in Geneva.

UNESCO / For Women, for Science

On 12 November 2008, the National L'Oreal-UNESCO fellowship award ceremony for young women in science was held in Moscow. The Competition was organized with the support of L'Oreal-Russia, the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO, the UNESCO Moscow Office and the Russian Academy of Sciences.

United Nations



Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals is a set of specific and measurable targets aimed at reducing poverty and raising living standards, which was adopted by 191 United Nations member-states, including the Russian Federation, at the Millennium Summit in 2000.

These Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be reached by 2015 or earlier, are as follows:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Goal 1 | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger |
| Goal 2 | Achieve universal primary education |
| Goal 3 | Promote gender equality and empower women |
| Goal 4 | Reduce child mortality |
| Goal 5 | Improve maternal health |
| Goal 6 | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases |
| Goal 7 | Ensure environmental sustainability |
| Goal 8 | Develop a global partnership for development |