

NEWS – April 3, 2009

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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are happy to present our first newsletter in 2009 with a special report on our plans for 2009 and 2010. A group of UNSA members recently discussed possible roads for action. Below please find a brief report on the main project ideas and discussion results.

Please enjoy the reading!

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**UNSA Dialogues / ISA 2010 panel on UN Studies.** In January and February, we continued our discussions with an intensified debate on how to build bridges between academics and practitioners – for more information, [click here](#). We will continue our discussions, and also organize a panel on this topic at the 2010 ISA conference (more information to follow).

**March 26 conference call on UNSA's future activities.** For a detailed report and related material, [click here](#). **The results in brief:**

### **1. Our working group's mission and relationship with ACUNS**

We will propose a more concise formulation of our mission as well as of our special relationship with ACUNS, including possible roads for joint action. We will work on a proposal for Henrike to take to the 2009 ACUNS annual meeting in Trinidad.

### **2. Expanding the knowledge on UN Studies**

First, we wish to simplify and add structure to our wiki ([www.unstudies.org](http://www.unstudies.org)), which lacks structure and usability. We will "downsize" our wiki to serve as UNSA's informal working platform, and make it a tool as easy as possible.

Secondly, we are hoping to build a larger UN Studies knowledge base, in close cooperation with and under the umbrella of ACUNS. A new online portal could host all relevant information on UN Studies, including research and teaching material, courses, a future master syllabi, etc.

One possible way to kick off this project is the **cybershelf idea**: Jamie Arbuckle suggested to provide reference and reading material on UN Studies, for practitioners-turned-educators. Cybershelf content could be developed by a small developer team. For a more detailed description of the project's background and a first project draft, [click here](#).

### **Proposed panel at ACUNS Annual Meeting in Trinidad**

In our Vienna meeting in November 2008, we discussed to organize a panel session at the [ACUNS 2009 annual meeting in Trinidad and Tobago](#) to connect with partners from the Caribbean and discuss "UN Studies" from a regional perspective. Key local experts could be invited to address views on the UN, methods and approaches, teaching techniques and tools. Goal is to offer alternative perspectives, beyond the Northern American / European views: What is different, similar, distinctive? For instance, in terms of subject matters and issues of primary interest; lessons learned and best practices; or possible contributions to developing a UN Studies syllabi.

We are interested in learning who will be attending the annual meeting and would be willing to help organize such a panel.

### **UNSA at 2010 UNESCO Summer School in Vienna**

At our November meeting in Vienna, Gerhard Budin of the Center for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna suggested to piggyback on the UNESCO 2010 Summer School on diversity management and arrange for workshops and seminars, e.g. on UN Studies and global understanding, global learning and ICT. We will post more information on our wiki as we proceed with our plans - please feel free to add your comments and ideas at:

<http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/SummerSchoolVienna>

### **Journal of International Organization Studies**

Kirsten Haack, John Mathiason and the entire JIOS team have made further progress on preparing for the launch of the Journal. For more information, please visit the new JIOS website at <http://www.unstudies.org/jios> or contact the editors at [jios@unstudies.org](mailto:jios@unstudies.org).

We look forward to hearing your comments and thoughts.

Sunny greetings from Berlin,

Henrike and Julia

***Julia Harfensteller & Henrike Paepcke, Co-Chairs  
UN Studies Working Group - UNSA***

UN Studies Working Group - UNSA c/o Coconets  
Hannoversche Str. 2, D-10115 Berlin, Germany

Phone: +49-30-2758-1564

Fax: +49-30-2758-1569

Email: [workinggroup@unstudies.org](mailto:workinggroup@unstudies.org)

Internet: [www.unstudies.org](http://www.unstudies.org)

*If you do not wish to receive emails and news any longer,  
please send an email to [workinggroup@unstudies.org](mailto:workinggroup@unstudies.org)*