

Working Group on UN Studies
NEWS – August 10, 2007

Dear All,

We hope you have been enjoying the summer time so far, and are very excited to provide you with the latest news today. All July, we have been working on developing the key infrastructure of our group, which is almost complete now.

In the following, we will provide you with a report on what has been achieved during the past month and give you an overview of our upcoming activities:

1. Online conference on July 6, 2007. 12 participants joined this successful online brainstorming session and discussed our joint vision and concrete project ideas, including the improvement of our internet presence (see point 3). For the full report, please visit our current website at www.igloo.org/unstudies and follow the link to the library > meetings folder.

2. Business plan / mission statement. Based on the results of the group's discussions, we have started to work on a draft business plan for the coming year(s), including a mission statement. This plan will be presented to the group soon, along with suggestions for future fundraising and related activities such as the search for an institutional home. We will be happy to take your comments.

3. (Re-)Launch internet presence and online portal

IGLOO website. The existing website will be re-designed by the IGLOO technical team in August -- for free! They will streamline the navigation structure and develop a corporate design including a logo. We will further register the following online domains: www.unstudies.org, www.unstudies.com, www.unstudies.net.

This website will comprise the main information on the working group: mission, background and purpose; our library with the key material such as newsletters, meeting reports and agendas; a calendar and news section. The relaunch of the website is expected for early September.

Wiki-based online portal. We have managed to set up a wiki-based online portal that will be incorporated into the IGLOO website. This portal will serve as our main communication and collaboration tool to develop and exchange new ideas, as well as to build and share knowledge. The wiki-style is considered an appropriate tool for these purposes as it fosters the interaction between members – articles can be easily created, edited and annotated by everybody.

We will send you an email with the url soon, so that you get an impression of how our future articles might look like, and will offer a training in early September. (Please be assured that the wiki technology is easy to use and can be learned within minutes.)

Project updates / content for articles. We have started to integrate all the available group and project information to the new portal; and will continue to do so. To create more initial articles, we would like to ask you to provide us with further input, content or progress reports concerning the various project ideas – regardless which format you use.

Once the online portal is ready for use, you can test all the features and/or start working on your own articles.

Special project: We will prepare and submit a proposal for a workshop panel at the 2008 ACUNS annual meeting in Bonn on behalf of our working group (due on September 1). We will include our mission and agenda for the next year and propose to feature working group members, their activities and first results.

Next online meeting. We will hold our next online meeting in early September – when summer vacation time will be over and you will have had a chance to settle in at work.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us with any ideas or suggestions.

Best regards,

Julia and Henrike