

The UN Studies Working Group
NEWS – December 20, 2007

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

With 2007 coming to a close, we hope you will enjoy reading about our latest activities and updates on our plans for 2008!

Past / future events and activities:

Results of conference call about Journal of International Organization Studies (JIOS). Thanks to all who participated in our phone conference on December 7! We decided to keep the journal's working title for the time being. Furthermore, we deemed it important to intensify our efforts to gather the requested information for publishers so that we can **submit the journal proposal by June 2008** the latest.

Subsequently, we developed a ***JIOS Action Plan for 2008*** which is posted on our wiki portal: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/ProjectJIOSActionPlan2008>. We need your help to make this project a success, so please take a look at the action plan and **provide us with your feedback and suggestions** concerning potential content, the editorial board, or the peer-review process, among other issues. We have set up comment boxes for each issue, so adding your input should be (hopefully) easy.

Colloquium on the UN and the New Media / Information Age. This unique international real-virtual colloquium took place on November 16, 2007 in Wels, Austria, and delivered highly interesting insights into the possibilities and limits of information and communication technologies. For more detailed information about the event such as individual presentations (including video streams) and a summary of findings, please see the material and links at: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/ProjectColloquiumNewMediaWels#Results>.

Workshop panel at ACUNS 2008 Annual Meeting in Bonn. Based on the feedback of interested panelists, we will circulate an updated panel proposal soon. If you consider to come to Bonn, we highly encourage you to also attend the following working group event:

Seminar on research and teaching prior to the ACUNS 2008 conference. We will continue to collect ideas for this first seminar of our working group which is scheduled to take place in Bonn on June 4 and 5, prior to the official beginning of the ACUNS conference. During the seminar, we will discuss research and teaching methods, approaches and tools as well as generally brainstorm about our common vision of UN Studies.

In early January, we will provide you with an update on our planning and poll you for your interest and availability to participate in a planning phone conference which is scheduled to take place in the second half of January (this time, we will offer different weekdays). For a first outline see: <http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/ProjectSeminarTeaching2008>.

Working group news

Legal form. We will further advance the institutionalization of this group and found a non-profit association in early 2008, based in Berlin. This way, our group can apply for funds. The first official business meeting of our new association will take place on occasion of our seminar in Bonn on June 4, 2008.

Wiki-based portal. With your active help, we will continue to add project information, resources and links as well as new features to our portal. We are currently working with students to provide for services and features specifically designed to meet the younger generation's needs. Moreover, we will soon finalize our work on the portal's legal policies (terms of service, privacy policies, copyrights/licences), as the required legal foundation to govern the contribution, sharing and editing of content.

Thank you for your support and your active engagement in our activities without which this project would not be possible! We very much look forward to continuing our joint work and hopefully, meeting you in person in 2008.

Seasons greetings and a happy new year!

Best wishes,

Julia and Henrike