

**UN Agencies connecting with Academics and Civil Society Jan 11-13, 2012
at the UN Office at Vienna**

International Networks, Jan 12, 2012

By Theresa Neumeister

Peter Colgan, IAEA

Mr. Cogan presented an IAEA publication: Educational Programme in Nuclear Security, April 2010. The publication includes a list of recommended M.Sc. courses. In addition, he introduced the “**International Nuclear Security Educational Network**” (INSEN), which was set up in March 2010. It constitutes a partnership between the IAEA and a number of educational and research institutions. Objectives are: A) the elaboration of textbooks, computer-based teaching tools and other instructional material. B) faculty exchange and joint development and implementation of nuclear security training programmes and schools, C) joint research, D) student exchange programmes, E) quality assurance: consistently with IAEA defined terminology, F) performance of surveys of effectiveness of nuclear security education among students and faculty.

INSEN is divided into 3 working groups: I) exchange of information and development of educational material, II) faculty development of cooperation among universities, III) promotion of nuclear security education. Besides, INSEN has a “Nuclear Security Information Portal”. Achievements: e.g. September 2011: launch of the professional development course for faculty members on “Introduction to nuclear security”.

Julia Harfensteller, UNSA; Henrike Landré, UNSA

The United Nations Studies Association is an informal working group of UN practitioners and academics founded in 2007. UNSA is working on a conceptual level. Objective is to promote the formation of an interdisciplinary, UN-focused field of studies. JIOS, the Journal on International Organization Studies, is published online for academics, as well as researchers, PhD students on an advanced level. Latest project is the social community network UNSAnet.

UNSAnet- the social community platform to connect UN practitioners and academics worldwide is for free and open to everybody. Members are UN practitioners, university professors, scholars, as well as students. It provides a private space where people can communicate, upload materials, etc. The benefits are: the visibility to the worldwide community, search and find people with same interest, share materials, launch discussions and projects. All features and tools were explained and demonstrated.

Nikolai Sokov, Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP)

Mr. Sokov presented CNS, the Centre for Non-proliferation Studies, which is the largest organisation in the world aiming at non-proliferation. A visiting follow-programme was established in 1993. It provides: I) individual faculty training in Monterey in the Visiting

Fellows Program; II) train-the-trainer workshops and programs for faculty in Russia, China, and the US; III) since 1998: assistance with curriculum elaboration and implementation in nuclear security in Russia; IV) organization of numerous regional, national and international conferences and workshops for faculty and students. Further, a community of non-proliferation experts in the Urals and Siberia was established: information and education centre of the Urals' Nuclear Cities. In 2006, the Moscow Seminar on Education and Training in Nuclear Security took place.

Ludovico Alcorta, UNIDO

Mr. Alcorta talked about his experience. 4 issues are key:

1. Context: development context changed immensely. At present countries are defining their role in the international community. Concerning environment: no issue with global apply was identified. Developing countries are just finding their role/haven't jet.
2. Tango: interaction needs to be established. Dialogue.
3. Requirements: content: environment and energy are global issues. However, are not well-featured in contrasting experiences and difference of thinking exists. Different environmental options are not well discussed. Mechanisms: consultancies are required and an important mechanism. Joint-initiatives are important, too, but at present funder driven (financial supporter plays prominent role). Networks: priorities can be agreed on. People: smooth exchange of information and ideas.
4. Learning to mainstream: a common language of ideas needs to be communicated. Like most relationships interaction needs time to work.

Miroslav Polzer, IAAI

Before Mr. Polzer worked at the Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office in Ljubljana (ASO), which closed recently. Ideas and activities were moved to the NGO IAAI-International Association of Innovative Approaches. Its main objective is a „Systemic Innovation regarding Resource Mobilization of Global Civil Society for Effective Global Governance in Support of the Work of United Nation System”. A strategy development workshop will be held in New York this Jan, 2012. Youth is key issue.

Minister Janez Podobnik, ICPE

The International Centre for Promotion of Enterprises is a intergovernmental organization, with headquarter in Slovenia. It was set up on a United Nations initiative in 1974, with member countries from Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe. ICPE is mandated to pursue and promote international cooperation in areas related to the transfer of technology, sustainable entrepreneurship and promotion of knowledge-based societal change through research, training, consultancy and information services in these fields. Some services are: work on short time training programmes or the new Green industry MBA programme.

Jessica White, IAAI

Mrs. White introduced the “Rio+20 Global Youth Music Contest”. The initiative is a global competition for young people with a wide number of partners and youth networks on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Earth Summit) to be held in June 2012 in Brazil. This opportunity encourages youth to express their hopes, concerns and thoughts on future of our earth through the resonance of music as a powerful expression that incites commitment for sustainable development. The contest will collect musical messages from global youth exploring global solutions for sustainable development and the winners will win a trip to Rio de Janeiro to attend the Rio+20 Earth Summit in June 2012 and make the voices of global youth heard through their music. In this, people are helping and mentoring each other in Rio issues. There is a lot of peer to peer work, meaning, youth educating youth. The Earth Charter is part of initiative.

Christer Jonsson, Academic Council on the UN System

Mr. Jonsson pointed out, that it is not only a matter of information technologies to build efficient networks. A distinction between technological reach and human range must be made since there has been no similar revolution in human reach as it took place in technologies. Networks are a combination of internet communication and actual contact.

ACUNS was founded 25 years ago in North America by a number of university professors, who were dissatisfied with the existing academic research and material provided and communicated on the UN. ACUNS is classified as a NGO. The annual meetings bring together academia and practitioners. Usually 300 participants take part. It is very useful for younger researchers to present their work in workshops. Also, a summer school is organized every year covering international public-private partnerships, etc. Besides, the journal Global Governance is sponsored by ACUNS and there is also a newsletter. The network character is essential. They approached ACUNS for cooperation. Question: How can children be educated in the field of security?

Imgard Marboe, University of Vienna, Law School

Public International Law is a required course, where issues on the UN are communicated and ideas shared. At the Department of International Law: Erasmus programmes has been ongoing for a long time. There are 142 exchange places for law students. In addition, exchange programmes with non-European countries were set up. Courses are held in English for incoming students. For instance, International Courts and Tribunals, Space Law, Human Rights, etc. The Vienna Law School works together with UN Headquarters in Vienna. Especially, with the Centre of Outer space Affairs. In addition, the Vienna International Christian-Islamic Summer University was set up in 2008, which takes place on a biannual basis with students from all over the world.

Mihaly Simai, Corvinus University

Mr. Simai had two remarks concerning the previous speakers: Prof. Simai was one of the founders of ACUNS. He is president of the World Federation of UN Associations (UNA). The federation has 112 members all over the world. It deals with UN-related matters and regional issues. Concerning UNA Hungary: in all Hungarian universities there is teaching activity on the UN. Teachers are connected through UNA. Also, UNA Hungary is assisting Hungarian students in their research on the UN and is cooperating with Hungarian NGOs working in UN related matters. Besides, UNA is working with former peacekeepers using their expertise in teaching.

Zuzana Lehmanova, University of Economics, Prague

Mrs. Lehmanova is head of the Jan Masaryk Centre for International Studies. It offers various interdisciplinary study programmes and academic networks. The Centre is cooperation with several institutions, such as ACUNS, the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, etc. This network is very useful to students and several important conferences are held. For example, 16th young scholars' conference. The materials from the conference have been published.