

CPNewsN letter

30 December 1999

In this issue, a New Millennium Message and news from around the globe to tour!

Happy International Year for a Culture of Peace!

On the eve of the new millennium it gives me great pleasure to think of the role that CPNN can play. The year 2000, the International Year for a Culture of Peace can be turning point, a fulcrum for the global transformation from a Culture of War to a Culture of Peace. For the opportunity provided by the year to be realised UNESCO and the United Nations are making every effort to implement a Culture of Peace. But this is not enough. The Culture of Peace is a movement, a movement in which partner organisations such as yours, must play their part, and provide a means for individuals to do their part as well. I was pleased to see this in action during a recent mission to the Balkans (Thessaloniki, Greece).

CPNN is a project, which complements other Culture of Peace Projects. It reports on local actions, for peace and is itself a form of action for peace. It provides a way for individuals to be invited to sign the Manifesto and read about peace actions and become reporters for peace.

Our goal for the International Year is to launch CPNN sites in all six official UN languages. During the year there should be moderated CPNN sites in all parts of the world, that are:

- in each of the official UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French; Russian and Spanish;
- operating on internet; and
- linked to provide global coverage in the Year 2000.

A further target is to expand by developing further partnerships around the world.

I congratulate you on the pioneering work you have done for CPNN and look forward to meeting our goals together in the New Year. The New Year's message that you may find on the Russian site (www.culture.of.peace.ru) expresses our greetings as well.

David Adams, Director International Year for a Culture of Peace, UNESCO

Take a Tour

You are invited to take a tour of CPNN sites in different stages of developing the moderation process (China, Australia are under development and their URLs will be sent to you soon):

- France -- International School of Paris: www.isparis.edu/ispeace
- Greece -- Aristotle University: www.unesco.auth.gr/unesco
- Jordan -- UNESCO Amman Office: www.unesco.org/jo/cpnn
- Macedonia -- Balkan Peace Studies Center: www.bpsc.ukim.edu.mk/news_letter.htm
- Russia -- UNESCO Moscow office: www.culture.of.peace.ru/
- Spain -- University of Murcia: www.um.es/paz

What are your impressions of these sites? What works well? What could be improved? For example, is it immediately evident that the main purpose of the site is to provide moderated reports on news and media? Then think about your own site. Does your site share some of the strengths and weaknesses of other sites? Please write back to us and give us your feedback, beginning with your own site.

ISPeace at the International School of Paris

The International School of Paris (ISP) has opened a CPNN site called ISPeace (www.isparis.edu/ispeace). The contents come from the ISPeace reporters -- the students (ages 3 to 18) of ISP. Throughout the school, students are being asked to think about the 8 keys and to do projects related to a culture of peace. Reflecting the many nationalities, there is now material in English, French, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Hindi, German and Spanish. Each language is divided into four sections representing different age groups at ISP (3-7 years old, 7-11 years old, 11-14 years old and 14-18 years olds).

Intern Programme

During 1999 ten interns, overseen by Dr. Marshall Conley, Professor at Acadia University and funded by the Canadian government, were placed with CPNN. The interns received two weeks of training in Nova Scotia, Canada, and a 6-month



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placement overseas. The internship scheme contributed to the development of CPNN. Each of the interns was responsible for the aiding in the promotion of a CPNN through the identification of potential partners, information sharing, site design, and the reporting of peace and peace-related events. The interns shared contact names, experiences, and advice with the interns located in other parts of the world via a weekly on-line meeting thus ensuring the cohesion of the group and the project. The weekly on-line meeting also served as a pilot for the future process of on-line mentoring of CPNN partners.

Moderator Training in Amman

The UNESCO office in Amman has taken responsibility to launch the first Arabic CPNN site. A Moderator Training, facilitated by Di Bretherton, was held at the UNESCO Amman in November 1999. Danielle Schami and Craig Stenhouse, two Canadian Interns placed in UNESCO Amman, worked with the staff at the Amman office to organize the event.

Representatives from the following organisations attended the training: Ad-Dustour Newspaper; Arabia On-Line; Centre for Development and Peace, the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy, the Jordan National Commission for UNESCO; the Noor Al-Hussein Foundation; Search for Common Ground in the Middle East; the University of Jordan; Peace Corps; Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature; Jordan Royal Ecological Diving Foundation; Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development; and the French Schools of Amman. Mr Martin Hadlow, the Director of the Office, spoke at the opening and also, during the training, gave a valuable session on copyright and the ethics of journalism.

The patronage of Queen Noor, which recognises the work of the UNESCO office in Amman, raised the media profile of the training. Reports on the training appeared in the daily Arabic press, on the television news and in on-line news services.

Three Teams for follow-up

During the training three teams were set up to work on the site: 1) a technical team to set up the CPNN site; 2) a reporter and moderator team to recruit and train more reporters and to moderate their reports; and 3) a peace education team to organise activities that promote the Culture of Peace and CPNN. This idea of three teams is something that other sites might want to try.

CPNN in Australia

A CPNN moderator training was held at the International Conflict Resolution Centre, University of Melbourne in early October. Among the participants were staff and students from the University of Melbourne, staff and students from Deakin University and members of Soka Gakkai Australia. One outcome of the training was an agreement to extend the Australian partnership to also include the University of South Australia, and to investigate the possibility of including contribution to CPNN as part of the practical requirements for social work students. This training was facilitated by a team lead by Di Bretherton who will return to Australia this year. A further moderator training will be offered in April 2000 and this will launch the Australian CPNN site.

International Day for Peace CPNN Launch in Murcia

The University of Murcia, one of the pioneers CPNN partners, launched their site (www.um.es/paz/) on 14 September 1999, the International Day for Peace. The site, co-ordinated by Dr Maria Trinidad Herrero, and supported strongly by the University of Murcia president, Dr Ballesta, is the result of a year of the efforts of the site team. The launch took place during the Model United Nations, following a Moderator Training with participants from Argentina, Ecuador and Spain.

'Constant updating and an atmosphere that makes you feel like someone who has a say in its development' came up as top hits when students at the launch were asked their ideas on what makes a great CPNN site. The Murcia Team's target is to mobilise reporters in the community and work closely with their partners in Latin America.

CPNN in Latin America

Three moderator trainings took place in Argentina this December. The first training was held at the University of Parana (Entre Rios Province) and was organised by the University Association Grupo Montevideo, which is composed of 14 Universities in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. The second training was held by the Culture of Peace in Schools Project run by the Secretariat of Education of the Government of the City of Buenos Aires. Teachers from the UNESCO Associated Schools Network participated in this training. This training was followed by a workshop held in Mendoza organised by the National Cuyo University with the participation of trainers from the Informatics programme of the Ministry of Education (Province of Mendoza).

Some 100 people attended these Moderator Training Sessions, which were facilitated by Sergio Sarmiento. The reports produced by these participants were sent to Moderators at the University of Murcia site providing an electronic link across the Atlantic to the development of CPNN. Further actions are foreseen in Argentina, Brazil and Chile for the Year 2000.



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