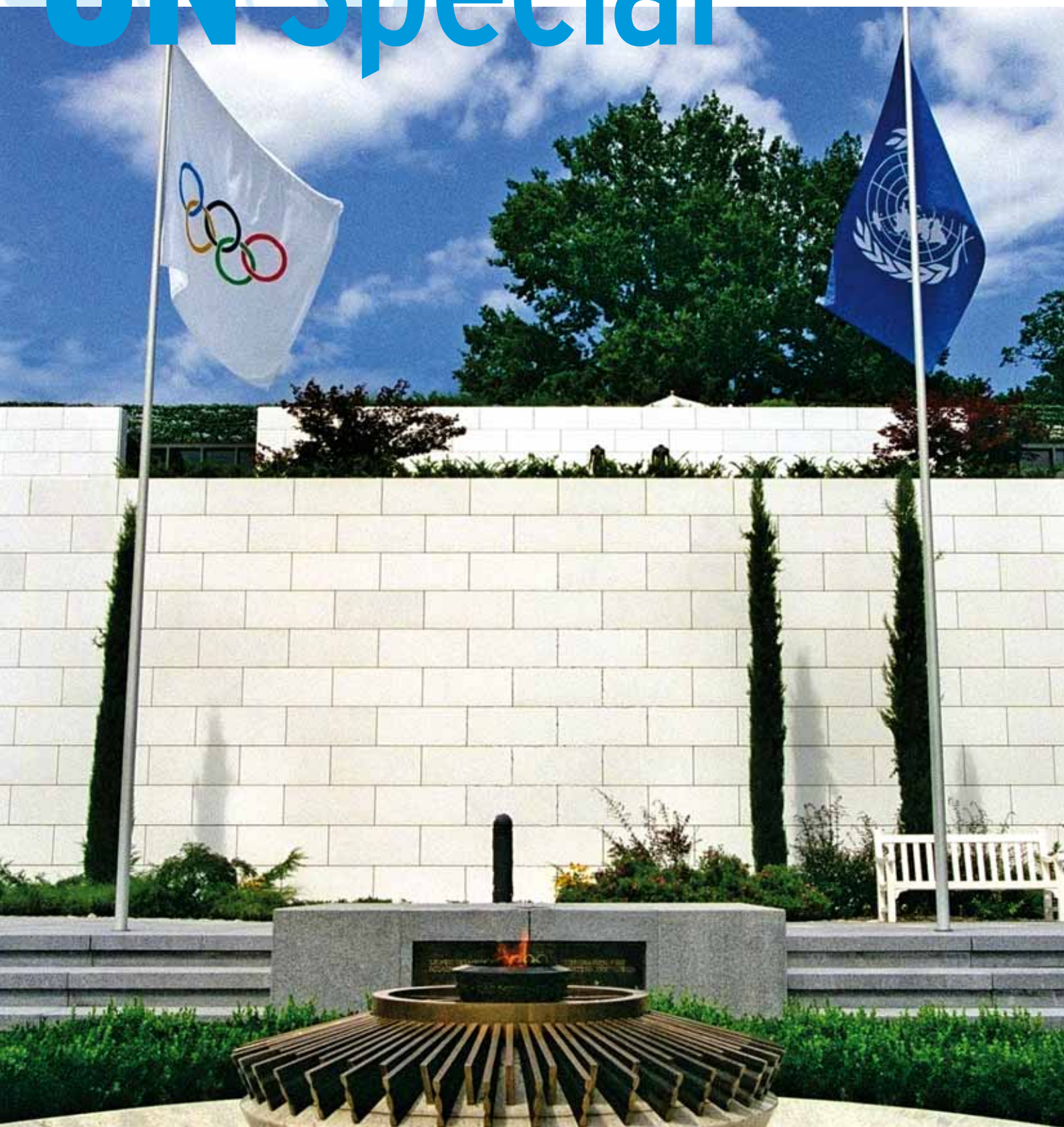


UN Special

N° 696 - Juin 2010



- J. Rogge, Président, CIO
- A virtual visit of the Palais des Nations
- La «Green Map» du quartier des Nations Unies

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CHRISTIAN DAVID
rédacteur en chef

JOURNÉE VERTE DES NATIONS UNIES: HISTOIRE D'UNE IDÉE

C'est en septembre 2009 que l'idée de proposer l'organisation d'une journée verte sur la Place des Nations, fut déposée, par votre serviteur, sous l'égide du magazine, sur le bureau du Directeur général de l'ONUG.

La journée mondiale de l'environnement constituait une formidable opportunité pour réunir sous une même bannière, qu'elle soit bleue ou verte, toutes les composantes de la Genève internationale qui se cherche sans parfois parvenir à se trouver. Le constat est particulièrement visible au travers des différents articles et dossiers qui ont été proposés au lecteur ces derniers mois.

Pour ce magazine dont les fondements sont basés essentiellement sur le texte de la Charte des Nations Unies, la mention de: «constituer un centre où s'harmonisent les efforts des nations vers ces fins communes»

revêt une signification particulière dans la spécificité de Genève, sa concentration d'organisations, son ouverture vers l'extérieur: les Nations Unies dans toute l'acceptation du terme.

Au moment où sont écrites ces lignes, l'organisation de cette journée bat son plein, sous l'égide du Réseau Environnement de Genève et le patronage du Directeur général. Gageons que cette petite idée initiale prendra toute l'ampleur nécessaire, sera renouvelée avec davantage de partenaires et préfigurera d'une réelle synergie future pour regrouper toutes les volontés qui peuvent contribuer à faire d'un concept, une réalité et d'une pensée, une énergie. A propos de synergie, l'exemple du CIO est significatif, il vous suffit de tourner la page. ■

UN GREEN DAY: THE HISTORY OF AN IDEA

It was in September 2009 that I had the idea to create a "Green Day" celebration at the Place des Nations. An article about my idea appeared in this magazine and found its way to the Director General's desk.

An International Environment Day seemed to be an excellent opportunity to unite all the like-minded international community of Geneva who wanted to but didn't always know how to contact one another. Their concerns were voiced in various articles and projects over the last few months.

The principles of this magazine are founded on the text of the UN Charter. Therefore, (see Chapter 1, article 1, para.4) "to be a cen-

tre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of (these) common ends" carries a real significance in Geneva with its concentration of organizations and open-mindedness – the United Nations at work.

As I write this, the first UN Green Day is being organized by the Environmental Network of Geneva and the UNOG Director General. May this idea take on the needed scope and may the celebration be renewed each year by an alliance of associates regrouping their energies to turn a concept into reality and an idea into energy.

To read an article on the International Olympic Committee, please simply turn the page. ■



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ENTRETIEN DU MOIS

JACQUES ROGGE, PRÉSIDENT DU COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE



C. DAVID/D. WINCH

Le 19 octobre dernier, le CIO a obtenu le statut d'observateur indépendant auprès de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, comment envisagez-vous la collaboration entre ces deux institutions?

Le fait d'avoir obtenu ce statut est avant tout un honneur pour le sport en général et pour le CIO en particulier. C'est surtout une opportunité extraordinaire destinée à porter la parole du sport au sein de l'Assemblée générale et un moyen idéal de forger et de renforcer les alliances avec les différents départements et structures des Nations Unies. Je constate qu'il y a énormément de contacts et de vues communes entre nos deux mondes en termes de valeur éducative au niveau de la population et de la jeunesse. Le sport ne se limite pas à l'activité physique, la compétition, les médailles et les podiums. Il a une responsabilité sociale. Avec 750 millions de pratiquants, cinq millions de clubs, ajoutés à environ trois milliards de téléspectateurs selon des estimations, vous avez les deux tiers de la population mondiale qui est concernée par le sport. Il n'y a aucun problème de nationalité, de groupes ethniques, de langues, c'est un «melting pot» de l'humanité. Il existe dans les villages olympiques cette atmosphère d'universalité, de courtoisie que l'on ne trouve pas, malheureusement dans le monde actuel. Notre responsabilité est de partager cette universalité et l'appui des Nations Unies est, dans ce cadre, essentiel. La cohérence entre le Mouvement Olympique et les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement est évidente. Je pense à l'environnement, l'aide humanitaire, la parité hommes femmes, la santé, l'éducation, le développement. Le mouvement sportif a besoin d'alliances avec des institutions, des pouvoirs publics; nous sommes une organisation privée qui a besoin de passerelles. Seule cette synergie est un gage de réussite. Nous tentons de véhiculer, au travers de ce

Un bâtiment ancien, jouxtant un autre plus récent sont harmonieusement reliés entre eux, au milieu d'un parc, avec vue sur le lac. Non, nous ne sommes pas au Palais des Nations mais au Château de Vidy à Lausanne, siège du Comité International Olympique. Comme vous pourrez le lire, la comparaison entre l'ONU et le CIO ne se borne pas à leur implantation géographique, elle va beaucoup plus loin...

réseau, des valeurs d'éducation, de socialisation: si le sportif respecte les règles de son sport, il respectera celles de la société plus facilement; l'intégration, notamment des minorités, s'en trouvera facilitée. Au sein des Nations Unies, les collaborations sont permanentes entre le PNUE, UN Habitat, UNHCR, OMS, ONUSIDA, UNESCO, en tout plus d'une vingtaine d'agences avec lesquelles nous avons mis en place un protocole d'accord. Nous travaillons également avec le CICR, les fédérations de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant Rouge et finalement tout ce qui est pouvoirs publics ou assimilés. La trêve olympique est également relayée par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. A titre d'exemple, au moment des émeutes en République Démocratique du Congo, nous avons organisé des rencontres sportives avec la MINUL (Mission des Nations Unies au Liberia) qui ont été un grand succès.

Votre prédécesseur le président Samaranch est décédé en avril dernier, quel héritage a-t-il laissé à l'olympisme?

Il a laissé un très bel héritage. Le CIO est un organisme qui est financièrement indépendant grâce à lui. Il a pu donner une dimension supplémentaire aux Jeux Olympiques surtout en se débarrassant de l'hypocrisie de l'amateurisme qui avait pour conséquence que seuls les pays riches pouvaient participer aux jeux. Il a combattu les boycotts, il a créé beaucoup d'associations qui sont importantes pour le sport comme le tribunal arbitral ou l'agence mondiale anti-dopage. Un bilan vraiment remarquable!

Malgré les intérêts économiques, l'esprit et la philosophie du Baron Pierre de Coubertin animent-ils toujours le monde du sport olympique?

De Coubertin était un éducateur, il a créé l'Olympisme à la Sorbonne à Paris en expliquant que le sport constituait une formidable opportunité d'éduquer la jeunesse. Les JO étaient, et sont toujours un moyen et pas un but en soi, ils attirent les jeunes qui s'identifient aux athlètes. Nous avons conservé cette philosophie commune avec notre fondateur.

Dans le contexte de l'époque l'amateurisme était la base de l'Olympisme. Cet amateu-

risme a dévié lorsqu'on a commencé à payer les athlètes sous la table. L'époque voulait aussi que les femmes ne soient pas admises aux JO. Les temps changent et l'olympisme a évolué en même temps que la société.

La couverture médiatique n'est pas la même pour les jeux olympiques valides et handicapés, est-il prévu de les regrouper sous une «même flamme»?

Techniquement, c'est très difficile, notamment pour les épreuves. Les dirigeants du monde des handicapés ne souhaitent pas eux-mêmes cette intégration car ils perdraient leur identité. Ils ont reçu l'appellation olympique et paralympique, cela prouve que le CIO les considère comme des athlètes à part entière. J'ai d'ailleurs traité des patients en tant que chirurgien orthopédiste, je connais donc bien cette problématique et j'ai beaucoup de respect pour ces athlètes qui ne désirent pas l'amalgame.

Comment l'apport de la technologie pour l'amélioration des performances est-elle contrôlée?

Un sauteur en hauteur avait utilisé des semelles plus hautes. La fédération internationale l'a «stoppé dans son élan» et a régleménté. Pour revenir à votre question précédente l'athlète Pistorius qui a des prothèses en carbone et qui est sprinter avait clairement un avantage en terme d'effet d'accélération et d'économie d'énergie. La fédération a refusé sa participation, il a interjeté un appel au tribunal arbitral. Ce dernier lui a donné raison. Finalement, il n'a pas pu atteindre les minimas pour sa sélection. L'équipement, le matériel, les terrains sont régis et codifiés pour permettre à l'individu de s'exprimer et non pas à la technique ou à la science de prendre le dessus.

Le CIO s'implique-t-il dans la formation scolaire et la promotion du sport dans les écoles et les lycées pour lutter notamment contre l'obésité?

Promouvoir le sport à l'école reste l'un de nos objectifs. Un programme d'éducation aux valeurs olympiques (le PEVO) incite des jeunes entre 9 et 15 ans à faire du sport, à respecter les valeurs par une sorte d'introduction à l'olympisme. Nous multiplions



ces initiatives dans la plupart des pays. En Chine, 400 millions d'enfants sont concernés! Les jeux olympiques de la jeunesse, créés il y a trois ans permettent d'encourager cette envie d'accomplissement dans le sport. Le CIO stimule également directement le sport pour tous par des initiatives locales. Le problème de l'éducation physique et de l'obésité est multidisciplinaire. L'Etat doit faire en sorte qu'il y ait du sport à l'école, inciter également à une alimentation correcte. Les parents ont évidemment un rôle essentiel dans ce domaine. Le CIGEPS est un groupe au sein de l'UNESCO, composé de ministres de l'éducation et du sport avec le CIO dans lequel nous essayons d'avoir une action commune. Un réseau d'associations de sport pour tous fait aussi un travail essentiel en ce domaine.

Comment qualifieriez-vous les neuf ans que vous avez passés à la présidence du CIO? Quels sont les accomplissements dont vous êtes le plus fier?

Ces neuf années ont passé très vite! Nous sommes parvenus à améliorer la perception des valeurs du Mouvement Olympique. La tolérance zéro contre le dopage était ma priorité, le CIO est aujourd'hui pris au sérieux dans ce domaine. La lutte contre les paris illégaux est concomitante à cette valorisation. Enfin, nous nous sommes battus pour améliorer la qualité de l'arbitrage.



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La responsabilité sociale que nous avons évoquée s'est accomplie en corrélation avec nos partenaires des Nations Unies et dans l'humanitaire. Les JO de la jeunesse enfin, c'est une nouveauté qui allie le côté compétitif et éducatif et culturel: Hygiène de vie, préparation sportive, réinsertion sociale, prévention de maladie (HIV), respect de l'environnement. L'aspect financier enfin: nous sommes parvenus grâce à une politique d'investissement, à quintupler les revenus du CIO. En 2001, nous avions 98 millions de dollars de réserve contre 460 maintenant. Ces revenus proviennent uniquement des jeux olympiques. Aujourd'hui, nous pouvons tenir quatre ans sans revenu. Imaginez que les JO n'aient pas lieu pour cause de tremblement de terre, pandémie, volcan... outre les difficultés ou les drames que cela implique, nous ne pourrions plus continuer.

Comment voyez-vous l'avenir des jeux par rapport à l'image de ce hockeyeur des années 1940 qui jouait en bonnet par -20°C avec un matériel amateur? L'évolution va continuer sur le plan technologique. Tôt ou tard vous aurez un écran interactif vous permettant depuis votre fauteuil de spectateur, ou de téléspectateur de visualiser votre athlète, les statistiques et tous les paramètres sur son sport. Le matériel, les vêtements, l'entraînement par l'analyse du mouvement et la détection des athlètes seront plus scientifiques. Le décodage du génome permettra de déterminer si tel athlète a un meilleur potentiel. Les paramètres qui font la valeur des jeux ne changeront pas: la rareté de l'événement tous les quatre ans, l'unité de temps de deux semaines, l'unité de lieu dans un pays et enfin l'unité d'action: les meilleurs athlètes dans les plus grands sports du monde. Enfin, vous ne verrez enfin jamais de publicité dans les stades.

Dernière question, avez-vous le temps de faire du sport?

Je m'entretiens, je cours cinq fois par semaine et m'efforce de rester en mouvement. Je me suis entraîné toute ma vie, notamment pour ma carrière olympique modeste et je continuerai. ■

Société

A SMALL ACT

INTERVIEW OF CHRIS MBURU



NICOLAS-ÉMILIE ROZEAU

This time I would like to share a story with you. This is a marvellous story, because it is happening in our daily lives.

Once upon a time, a woman, a teacher, sent an immaterial gift to a young child by picking a name on a list of children which would allow him to attend secondary school. This child was an excellent school boy in Africa, but poor and therefore had no chance of continuing his path because of the lack of money.

* Au cours du Forum qui s'est déroulé les 22 et 23 mai au Musée Olympique, il a été affirmé que «Les objectifs du Mouvement Olympique en matière de développement correspondent en grande partie aux huit objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement fixés par les Nations Unies»

Many children around the world at that time dreamed of a better life. They dreamed of the possibility of studying, of having an interesting job and also of becoming, neither an athlete nor a star, but simply a great person who would one day help and serve others. This child was dreaming of maybe working in a school as a simple worker to help his mother and family to live. But reality was cruel, and sometimes he would say to himself "with no future you can't plan to be anybody"...

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During one of these moments, the teacher woman appeared and simply offered him a drop of energy. His young heart felt full of hope, passion reigned, and he flew on its energy.

After some time, the young man became a great man. The universal power of this little drop of energy filled his entire being and became his own unconscious power. He used it to become a bigger and stronger man, in his mind and intellect, and mainly in his heart.

What is extraordinary about this story is the great man looked and found ways to give thanks to this unknown woman years later, to thank his family, his community, his country and the whole world in becoming not only a civil servant for the United Nations, but a human being with a heart full of love, pride and gratefulness.

As I wrote one day, in all cases, let us never forget that what comes from the heart always

returns to the heart and what is given from the heart is always received by the heart.

Dear Chris Mburu, I am delighted to discuss your story, how would you define what happened to you? Was it "chance", "opportunity" that you attracted and caught, results of work, or good vibes that you sent to someone and that someone sent back to you?

As I say in the film, I think it was fate, because I have no other way of explaining how someone from a faraway continent could have walked into my life when I needed help most and offered me a hand the way Hilde did. I also think there was some luck involved, because there were other needy children in my village who did not benefit from the support I received.

What gave you the idea to make a movie about your life?

The idea to make the film did not come from me, it came from a filmmaker from

Hollywood who happened to hear of my story and convinced me that it would make an interesting movie. At first I was hesitant, because I did not see how my story was different from other kids who had received help. However, later I decided to cooperate with the filmmaker, after she explained that my story might inspire people to donate to millions of other needy children around the world.

What is the purpose of this documentary?

The director of the documentary says that she made the documentary to show that even a small act of kindness can lead to positive change in the world, and to encourage people to make small steps to address problems surrounding them instead of being overwhelmed and giving up.

Certainly in our world there are other beautiful stories such as yours, what message would you like to convey to people?

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I think this film sends a very important message that people should help those in need, and should not expect development to come from the top down, but from the grassroots level up.

You have created a foundation in Kenya, what are the main purposes of this foundation?

My foundation was created with the purpose of providing scholarships for talented children whose chances of continuing in school are diminished by poverty. As a human rights professional in the UN, I also wanted to make the point that education is a basic human right which must be available to all, irrespective of social status, and the foundation advocates for this also.

Is it true to say that this documentary and the whole story is a question of what life brings to us – respect for ourselves and our dreams, respect for others, taking responsibility for our lives and actions, making a conscious commitment to our daily work and behaviour towards others.

The documentary shows that when one gives, one not only enables others to succeed, but in fact improves his or her own chances of receiving. As UN staff members most of us are privileged to have well paid jobs and comfortable lives. But I argue that unless we find ways of giving back to the communities that produced us, our own individual success is meaningless.

Are there any conclusions or morals that you want to bring to us to conclude our discussion?

Each one of us should strive to do one small act that changes other people's lives. It does not take much. Sometimes what you give is a drop in the ocean, but it could be all that is needed to change a life somewhere. And a drop here and another there can result in a sea of positive change for the world. Unless all are free from want, none of us are truly free. ■

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AN AGENDA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS

To mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Government of Switzerland, with the support of Austria and Norway, asked eight individuals with extensive human rights experience to join together to reflect on contemporary human rights challenges and to develop an Agenda for Human Rights.

BERTRAND G. RAMCHARAN,
MEMBER OF THE PANEL

The Panel's report, *Protecting Dignity: An Agenda for Human Rights* was presented to the international community on the occasion of Human Rights Day 2008. The report covers a wide range of issues and contains a variety of conclusions and recommendations. The following presentation synthesizes and gathers together the principal findings and recommendations of the panel.

Findings and recommendations

The international community finds itself in a veritable human rights crisis. The gap between the high aspirations of human rights and the sobering realities on the ground, between human rights law and its implementation, between the lofty rhetoric of governments and their lack of political will to keep their promises is the major problem, and bridging this gap the major challenge of our times. The big challenge of the twenty-first century is to close or at least significantly narrow this implementation gap which clearly undermines the validity and legitimacy of the legally-binding universal human rights framework. We urgently have to move from standard setting and monitoring to genuine protection, implementation and enforcement of human rights and to the effective prevention of human rights violations.

International human rights law must be developed so that it can more effectively regulate issues of accountability and cooperation between States, and define the responsibili-

ties and accountability of non-state actors. In a globalized world it is no longer sufficient to rely exclusively on national and local governments for the protection and fulfillment of human rights, as they are either unable or unwilling to address human rights' violations that their populations suffer because of the actions or policies of entities beyond their control. All of us have a shared responsibility to find effective ways to facilitate the implementation of human rights for all.

Climate change causes violations of various human rights, including the right to food, water, shelter, property, health and life. Climate change raises major concerns about equality and global social justice. A human rights based approach to climate change will sharpen the focus on the human rights effects of both mitigation and adaptation policies.

A human rights strategy for the decades ahead must effectively address the challenges of poverty. Poverty remains the gravest human rights challenge in the world. Poverty can be eliminated by protecting and empowering the most marginalized. We should adopt a human rights based approach to development and poverty eradication. Human rights principles should inform both the process of formulating, implementing and monitoring a poverty reduction strategy as well as the content of such a strategy. Along the lines of the RTP, it is high time to create a similar international responsibility to protect human beings against attacks on their dignity, above all extreme poverty and



consistent violations of economic, social and cultural rights. Another way of empowering the poor to lift themselves out of poverty is a rule of law approach. Four crucial pillars are central in national and international efforts to give the poor protection: access to justice and the rule of law; property rights; labour rights and business rights (as recommended by the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor).

We must transform the goal of eradicating poverty from a merely voluntary development target into a legally binding human rights obligation of poor and rich countries and other actors of the international community alike. Such an obligation should equally be incorporated into the national laws of States, whether as a constitutional right or through ordinary legislation, in order that courts and other domestic organs can apply and uphold the international standards in practice.

An approach to addressing the actual situation of poverty is to work on creating social security safety nets and to focus on preventable poverty. Preventable poverty refers to that poverty which could be avoided using the resources already available to the State. Policies of preventable poverty have an essential role to play in protecting against violations of economic, social and cultural rights. States should scrutinize and review what can be done to prevent and reduce poverty by using all available national resources. The international community should also accept its responsibility to protect against gross violations of economic, social and cultural rights and to manage preventable poverty. Those responsible, where parts of the population are suffering from preventable poverty, must be held to account. Accordingly, national courts should be vested with the competence to hear claims from victims of poverty in situ-

ations where the Government could have acted to prevent this but failed to do so. The international community as a whole should have arrangements and institutions in place to detect and act on situations of consistent patterns of gross violations of economic, social and cultural rights.

The incorporation of international human rights principles into international trade and finance laws and agreements has the potential both to mitigate the negative effects of globalization on the poor and to contribute to the eradication of poverty.

Violence against women and children are pervasive. Women and children are more often victims of domestic violence than men. From a human rights' perspective, comprehensive anti-discrimination policies, democratic governance and measures aimed at providing special protection to vulnerable groups significantly contribute to the prevention of violence and the strengthening of human security.

Global terrorism constitutes one of the most serious universal threats to human security and the right of human beings to live in



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freedom from fear. Human rights and the rule of law have a central role to play in the fight against terrorism.

Millions of human beings in a great variety of countries around the world are victims of arbitrary detention for various reasons. There are over 9 million detainees and prisoners worldwide, whether arbitrarily detained or not. Most of the victims of arbitrary detention are human beings who spend many years behind bars for the simple reason that the administration of justice in their countries is not functioning properly. One of the major human rights challenges we face is to improve prison conditions, through national action and with international cooperation, such that detainees can live in dignity.

Torture is one of the most serious human rights violations and, like slavery and enforced disappearance, constitutes a direct attack on the core of human dignity. For the first time in years, the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment under international law has been challenged by Governments, including those of highly democratic States, in the context of the fight against terrorism. The international community as a whole has a responsibility to ensure that there exists no safe haven for perpetrators of such practices and for those under whose military or political responsibility such practices are tolerated.

Since some of the worst human rights' violations occur during wartime, preventing international and internal armed conflicts and controlling threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons must also become part of a comprehensive agenda for human rights. Reducing the risk and prevalence of international and internal tensions and armed

conflicts is essential for preventing human rights violations. Human rights principles equally have a role in conflict prevention, as human rights abuses themselves constitute some of the root causes of armed conflicts. In post-conflict situations, human rights play an increasingly important role for establishing sustainable peace. The UN should enhance its early warning mechanisms by fully integrating the system's multiple channels of information and monitoring. The United Nations should establish military standby capacities as a first step towards the creation of a standing rapid deployment force.

Democratic governance based on the rule of law, human rights and protection of minorities is one of the best safeguards against armed conflict.

Migration policies should be adopted and implemented in accordance with international human rights obligations, including principles of non-discrimination and due process, procedural safeguards, and the obligation to ensure that those at risk of persecution are not returned. A human rights based approach should also be applied by States in formulating policies to manage urban problems.

Most threats emanating from non-State actors, in particular organized crime, trafficking, terrorism and domestic violence are human rights problems triggering obligations for States and the international community. Trafficking in human beings is one of the most widespread phenomena of transnational organized crime which constitutes a direct attack on the core of human dignity of powerless victims, above all poor women and children in search of a better life abroad as a means of lifting themselves out of poverty. Since trafficking in human beings is the most widespread practice of modern slavery which directly attacks the dignity of the victims, Governments and the international community are urged to shift their focus from an anti-migration to an anti-trafficking policy by fully applying a human rights based approach and effectively protecting the victims of trafficking. Identifying and addressing the root causes of trafficking through a policy of prevention would ultimately be the most effective means of managing this human rights challenge. It is essential that we combat such

threats preventively, by addressing the root causes with effective early-warning systems and early-action strategies making use of the full range of instruments available as part of the security, development and human rights agenda.

It is crucial to invest in building effective national protection systems for human rights. It is high time that all States establish truly independent and self-resourced national human rights institutions and adopt a comprehensive national Human Rights Action Plan with clear goals, priorities, time bound targets, indicators and benchmarks. We therefore call for the establishment of a new Global Fund for National Human Rights Protection Systems which should build on the recognition of the importance of preventive strategies and the need for effective and accountable justice systems. Effective national protection systems, including properly constituted national human rights institutions must be complemented by space for civil society and human rights defenders, and support for their relationship with the formal system of promoting and protecting human rights. Effective national protection systems, including properly constituted national human rights institutions, must be complemented by space for civil society and human rights defenders, and support for their relationship with the formal system of promoting and protecting human rights.

A fully independent World Court of Human Rights should be created as a counterpart to the Human Rights Council, entrusted with the judicial protection of human rights against all duty bearers. The UN Secretary-General is requested to commission an expert study on ways to advance towards the establishment of a World Court of Human Rights.

Conclusion

As with all exercises of this nature, the report of the Panel sought to accommodate the positions of different members and to present a reasonable compromise of the different views. The report of the panel must be read on its own. The foregoing synthesis represents one member's selection of some of the findings, ideas and proposals that would merit further study within the human rights community. ■

THE LIBRARY CORNER

RACHEL FORMAN

This month in the "Library Corner" we would like to present some of the resources in the UNOG Library's electronic collections that enable you to access the full text of entire books directly from your office work station. UNOG Library electronic collections have grown to include more than 40,000 electronic journal titles and dozens of bibliographic databases and information services, providing access to the latest news and analysis, statistical databases, and peer-reviewed academic research articles. The Library also subscribes to a number of databases that offer online access to the full text of books. These electronic publications include dictionaries and general reference works, along with specialized collections supporting research in the fields of economics, law, social sciences and international relations. A few of these resources are highlighted below.



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Le nouveau Petit Robert is an everyday tool for proper usage of the French language. This online dictionary contains 60,000 entries, 300,000 definitions, etymologies, and phonetic transcriptions. It also contains quotes, examples and expressions, homonyms and conjugation of 6,500 verbs.



OECD iLibrary (Formerly SourceOECD)
Online library of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development offers the OECD statistical databases (including the popular IEA Database) along with OECD Journals, Annuals, Outlooks, Working Papers, Glossaries, and thematic book collections. The collections can be browsed by theme or by country, and include titles such as:

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OECD Economics Glossary
L'avenir des migrations internationales vers les pays de l'OCDE



The World Bank e-Library

The World Bank e-Library is an online, fully cross-searchable portal of over 4,000 World Bank documents. (The Library also subscribes to WB Global Economic Monitor, World Development Indicators, Africa Development Indicators, Global Development Finance Online). The WB e-Library collection consists of over 1,600 World Bank

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The Social Dimensions of Climate Change (2009)
World Development Report 2010



The Hague Academy Collected Courses
Since 1923 The Hague Academy of International Law organizes prestigious post-university summer courses in private and public international law. The courses are published in the book series "The Hague Academy Collected Courses". This comprehensive online version includes full-text search and an option to download individual chapters in pdf format. Among the 320 available volumes:

Le droit international à l'épreuve du terrorisme/Pierre Klein (2007)
The evolving international regime of nuclear non-proliferation/Mohamed Ibrahim Shaker (2007)
The Evolution of International Water Law/Edith Brown Weiss (2009)



Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law

This online version represents a new edition of the *Encyclopedia of Public International Law* that was published between 1991 and 2001. Nearly all topics are being rewritten and many new topics included in

order to capture the latest developments in international law. The intention is that the Encyclopedia will be a work that reflects international law from a global perspective while taking into account regional perspectives. The authors of the articles are legal scholars and practitioners from all over the world.



Oxford Islamic Studies Online

This full-text database contains articles written, selected, and interpreted by renowned scholars. It includes 3'500 articles and chapters, more than 150 primary source documents with editorial summaries, along with an Islamic history timeline, images and maps, Qur'anic studies resources and a glossary. This database offers the full content of:

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Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World
The Islamic World: Past and Present
Oxford History of Islam
Oxford Dictionary of Islam



Yearbook of the United Nations

The *Yearbook of the United Nations* is the principal reference work of the United Nations and provides a detailed overview of the Organization's activities. Each Yearbook is fully indexed and includes all major General Assembly, Security Council and Economic and Social Council resolutions. The complete collection (1946-2005) is available here. Search options include full

text through the complete collection or a specific period. ■

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CONCOURS PHOTO

UN PRIX PRESTIGIEUX POUR NOTRE COLLÈGUE DAVE




David Freeman, sécurité de l'ONUG, qui nous a, à de nombreuses reprises, permis d'illustrer les pages du magazine s'est vu récompensé à l'occasion du concours de photos «les quatre saisons de Genève». Le prix spécial du jury

lui a été décerné par Genève Tourisme et le Bureau des Congrès. Les participants ont fait parvenir quelque neuf cents photos dont le but était de capturer de manière originale les différentes facettes de Genève. ■

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SECURITY FORUM 2010

THE LONG ROAD TO DISARMAMENT

On the 16th of April, Webster University's International Relations Department hosted the fourth edition of the Security Forum. In this year's edition, twenty-four speakers addressed the topics of disarmament, the limitations of war, non-proliferation in the Middle East and global perceptions of war.

EUGENE JAMES AND ELIZABETH JAMES

The topic was timely, as on 8 April, the American and Russian presidents signed an agreement in Prague to mutually decrease nuclear stockpiles by close to one half. This signature took place in the wake of the upcoming talks of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, set to be held in New York later this month. These events are an important signal, that "disarmament talks are back on track, after an eight-year parenthesis" said Alexandre Vautravers, head of the International Relations Department and initiator of the event. But these disarmament talks are not only motivated by pacifist concerns. Since the mid-1990s, the prevention of accidents, misuse, terrorism and proliferation have now become prime issues. And the unanimity of views of the two former Superpowers are, today, essentially geared to limit proliferation in Asia and the Middle East.

John King, former US Ambassador at the Disarmament Conference, outlined the linkages and distinctions between the concepts of "détente", denuclearization and demilitarization. In short, the limitation of nuclear weapons has not proven to necessarily induce demilitarization – as the doubling of the US defense budget between 1997 and 2007 has made abundantly clear. He noted that the rise of terrorism has encouraged détente between States, as these, East, West and South, face similar challenge from non-State actors. He added that the tone and outlook of the current US administration was a substantial facilitator for strategic talks. However, he added that demilitarization has proved rather disappointing, and concluded that there needs to be a stronger emphasis of conflict resolution efforts.

Bernard Boene, professor at the University of Rennes and former director of St-Cyr, discussed the status and relevance of nuclear weapons in the contemporary age. Even if the heyday of nuclear weapons is over since the end of the Cold War, their presence continues to structure international politics. In practice, the possessors of nuclear weapons have attempted to limit their proliferation, to keep them out of the reach of terrorists and mid-sized powers.

Michel Veuthey, Vice President of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, discussed the application of International Humanitarian Law in the context of disarmament and war, through the principles of reciprocity, economy, image, ethics and human values. Even in times of war, the search for mutual interest is omnipresent. This led the chair, Alexandre Vautravers, to reaffirm that "there is no such a thing as unrestricted warfare."

Nikolaus Rotenberger from the Austrian Ministry of Defense, described the efforts to ban antipersonnel landmines and cluster munitions. He commented on some political and technical pitfalls of these initiatives and conventions. In particular, these were primarily driven by small nations and civil society. It is a "moral victory," but a complete is still far from accomplished.

Oreste Foppiani and Anna Kondratyuk addressed disarmament in a historical and legal perspective, pointing out how the discourses have usually based on interests of the powerful nations to keep their military edge, avoid ruinous arms races and devote more efforts in social and economic welfare.



Ibrahim Souss and fellow researchers from the Centre for Security and Development in the Middle East (CSD).



The keynote panel, with Lt Gen C. Bellinzona (Italy), Maj Gen D. Juillard and Brig Gen D. Berger (Switzerland) and A. Vautravers chairing the session.

During the afternoon sessions, the Centre for Security and Development (CSD) presented its research on the issue of proliferation in the Middle East. Mohammad Taghi Hosseini, counselor at the Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran, assured of his country's wishes to continue with the NPT regime, extending it to the P5 nations. Francis Piccand, analyst at the Swiss Foreign Ministry and specialist of the Middle East, and Yama Maroofi, researcher at CSD, presented the challenge of a nuclear Middle East and a new arms race in the region. Alexandre Vautravers and Jubin Goodarzi warned that nuclear proliferation was not the only concern of the Middle East. Indeed, the immense wealth has allowed the region to become the main global importer of conventional weapons. And the issue has since expanded to South East Asia, as prosperity and industrialization has spread eastward.

For this reason, we cannot let disarmament become a topic in History. Arms limitation, given the destructive power, the miniaturization and the multiplication of actors, must be addressed or development and cooperation will remain in the back seat of the political agendas. ■

UNFCU AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

T. CHALLEN, PHOTOS A. TARDY

In 2006, the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) relocated its New York headquarters from Manhattan to Long Island City, providing its 300 staff with greater working and facility spaces. But as much as the move was based on economic factors such as real estate, it was also meant to contribute to the development of a formerly rundown area in the Queens' Borough of New York City. At the UNFCU groundbreaking event back in 2005, Mayor Bloomberg said Long Island City was becoming a hot spot for construction and that the area represented «one of the city's best opportunities to develop a central business district and create a capacity for job growth». Today, not only have more businesses sprung up, but residential buildings too.

At present, the improvement and rejuvenation of urban areas plays a most valuable role in society as at anytime in the history of mankind. Cities and towns around the world are constantly under some form of development, as they amass with people motivated by aspirations, hope and a sense of security. In 2007, the global population balance tipped from being a rural majority to a pre-dominantly urban society. And with rural-flight continuously on the increase, it is estimated that within the next two generations 70 percent of our global population will live in towns and cities.

With the rapid growth of our urban centers in mind, politicians, urban planners, UN experts and other representatives of the private and public sectors recently came together in Rio de Janeiro at UN-HABITAT's 5th World Urban Forum (22-26 March). Looking at the social, economic, environmental and security aspects of cities and towns, the aim of the conference was to highlight best practices, build policies and cooperation, with the goal to provide well-structured and all-encompassing urban development.

To highlight those intentions, at the opening ceremony, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan warned about

the dangers of rapid demographic shifts. Leaning on America's own history, he said «What the U.S. experienced over a period of centuries is occurring around the world in a matter of years. As a result, millions of people are increasingly vulnerable to the deprivations associated with overburdened infrastructure, inadequate housing, and outmoded health systems.» Secretary Donovan therefore called for international partners to work together and build on experiences.

Sitting in the audience at the 'Forum' was UNFCU CEO and President Michael J. Connery Jr. He was attending the conference to talk about UNFCU's support of the Kilimanjaro Initiative and how together they have upgraded a sports field in Kibera – formerly a hot spot for crime and now a vibrant community meeting point – in Nairobi, Kenya. «In today's world, urban development cannot only happen in our own yard (Long Island City) – ultimately, we have to go beyond our own walls and assist in the provisions of opportunities for all. It isn't just about urban development – it's about global social responsibility».

For the greatest challenges of urbanization lie especially in urban centers that do not have the resources or effective coordination to implement changes aimed at better living conditions for the whole city or town. It is a paradox to walk, for example, through the littered mud alleys of Kibera slum, in between one-roomed shacks of mud, wood and corrugated iron, and actually realize you are in the heart of a modern day city, Nairobi.

This Kenyan spotlight highlights endemic urban deprivation and brings to mind frightening figures – there are an estimated 1 billion slum dwellers around the globe, and one out of three urban dwellers live in an environment where inappropriate housing, sanitation, water supply and basic infrastructure replace essential services. The mudslides in Rio de Janeiro, in early April 2010, barely two weeks after the World Urban Forum ended, provide a close and



tragic reminder of the temerity of such urban substitutes.

In his message to the 5th World Urban Forum, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called conditions in slums a violation of human rights and said «Helping slum-dwellers to reclaim their rights will do more than improve the lot of individuals; it will strengthen society as a whole and protect our shared environment. Most of the world's commercial energy is consumed in cities; cities also generate 80 per cent of all waste and 60 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions. By tackling urban poverty, we can drive these numbers down. We can create cleaner, greener cities and promote human rights simultaneously.»

In conclusion, as the Secretary-General points out, urban development goes beyond the proximity of our own concrete boundaries. It is not just about urban spaces – it is about fellow beings increasingly amassed in search for greater opportunities and security. And it is a trend in desperate need of responsible and structured approaches, and more importantly, in demand of global cooperation between individuals and entities. Without an increased and concerted effort, escalating divisions will occur in urban environments – environments that ironically portray a 'coming together'. ■

MADAGASCAR (MAROMENA)



RAMON MORAES SALES MOURA

Eric's sustainable future

If one of the reasons for the massive misuse of the natural marine resources of south Madagascar is the increased number of fishermen, then there are certain analyses of human behaviour to be made. For in a culture lacking opportunity and choice, Eric will do what his brother Kyko does, which is what his father Maiky was taught by his father, and so on. In Maromena that is the tradition, where grandfathers, fathers, sons and brothers are likely to have one common life's work: fishing.

They just perform their job, and the passion for their task is something that seems not to matter. To a certain extent, passion does not exist; at least not in this realm. As there are no other opportunities, no complaints are made. Why should they complain about the only thing that they've got left? Some of them do what has been taught, taking no particular pleasure, because passion becomes superfluous when one's livelihood is chosen from necessity.

While much about the challenges of conservation and sustainable development are discussed, the main challenge is actually to combine the two with the most basic issues of human rights, not only for our generation but for those to come. Human rights become a natural priority that follows as the interdependence of these issues unfolds. They are each simultaneously a part of the other. Therefore, WWF and sponsors should look at the human element before diving into the coral reef, as the issues have their roots on the shore – at least until Eric is provided a choice to become something other than his livelihood as a fisherman.

After all, the community will have to deal with the impact of issues neither foreseen nor experienced by their ancestors: overfishing, global warming and rapid population growth, to name a few. And that requires a wiser management of their natural resource, whether or not they are, individually, particularly talented fishermen. Regardless of

their level of passion in their work, these issues will affect the whole community.

Nevertheless, here we reach the impact of the human rights' violation: the lack of education, which leads to a lack of opportunity and thus the lack of a future with choice. And with the lack of broader, longer-term aims as a community, sustainability becomes just a foreigner's word, impossible to be translated to any comprehensible local dialect.

If policies on the conservation projects become flexible and start to include development issues such as education, we may accomplish a more sustainable management of natural resources. Despite the Government's absence and failures, we ought to concentrate on the tools that remain, and while looking after the wildlife, mutually respecting human beings.

Perhaps then, Eric won't be compelled to go out fishing, and so his true passion – and



that of many others – will be protected, as opportunities will allow them to look and see a new horizon beyond the turquoise lagoon.

Recognizing footprints

It was a strangely tranquil morning in Maromena. Even through this silence outside of the house, I could feel an unquietness in the air. My departure was meant to be today, and the blue sky was unusually patterned with white clouds in disarray.

The backpacks feel heavier than when I arrived, full of dust and sand from neglect these last few months. It seems strange to use shoes again, let alone to prepare for the readjustment to the once familiar surroundings of basic civilization. I find my mind filled at once with a flash of three months' worth of activities and memories, from my arrival to today. I took stock of the various challenges which I now recall fondly, as they improved my character and my mindset, from the obstacles that were overcome to the fears enriched the soul.

In a fraction of seconds, the many faces which became familiar, the warm smiles and the simplest dialogues (due to my poor Malagasy!)... each sifted through my mind. I wanted to hold on to each memory in detail. Unable to recall every moment, I opt for holding on to the wisdom that they provided. Despite the lack of formal education, I appreciate the many skills which this community have acquired for reading signs of Nature, and the amazing discovery

of recognizing one's own footprint on the fine sand.

Within the three months' placement I always tended to picture the day of my departure as a joyful moment where, after all, I would strongly desire all the amenities which I missed in this challenging setting. But life has shown me otherwise.

My mind filling with memories, expressing promises of return, exchanging honest hand-

shakes and pure hugs, with eloquent watery eyes filled with heartfelt meaning. Unaware of my change, I had become a Vezo within.

To be a volunteer one needs to be able to acknowledge that there's no right or wrong, but different ways to perceive issues. A volunteer needs to be able to learn more than to teach, and become an eternal chameleon. He/She needs to be able to weep, get attached to people that they've never imagined being attached to — simple strangers

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on arrival. You need to be able to survive after this experience, knowing that somewhere in a tiny hamlet, where neither electricity nor mobile networks are available, there are people who somehow made you by simply showing how they are. And while these people were eager yet reticent about learning, after a while they would demonstrate pure acts of compassion which would blow you away. That's just the Malagasy way, it's never enough just to throw money at good causes and go away. We need respect, personal contact and tolerance in order to achieve things together. That's the foundation on which true friendships are built. Obviously to say goodbye to these people, who have become your extended family, community and only source of hu-

man connection for some months may be much harder than it sounds.

The hours dwindled to minutes, minutes to seconds, and soon I would be seeing Maromena, my "field home", for the last time – at least for the time being. Slowly I realize that whatever has been shared about Conservation and Sustainability, whatever impact was made on the ecosystem, would have had no meaning if at the time of my departure I didn't feel the bitter salty taste of tears. I would have needed more than guile to be drifted totally intact.

And walking through the fine sand, I leave footprints after me. Reaching the warm shore, where waves break knee high, I felt

the seaweeds interlacing on my legs. In some way it felt comforting and familiar, so I faced the turquoise lagoon one last time.

As we are bound to return to the source one day, I left Maromena through the same lagoon which to a certain extent brought me here. Riding off on a high tide, waves splashing on my face, drops of sea mingling with tears, my footprints somewhere in the sand may be erased by the same waves. Hopefully those footprints are remembered by some – after all, they recognize each other's footprints, so why not mine then? I will always recognize theirs, anytime I look within, for their footprints have somehow shaped the man I am today, a former volunteer in their hidden world. ■



OTRS POUR L'ASSISTANCE INFORMATIQUE À L'ONU GENÈVE



Raoul Sanchez est, depuis quelques mois, chargé du programme d'application qui gère les demandes d'assistance informatique au Help-Desk de l'ONU à Genève

SERGIO DA SILVA, ONU/STIC

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Les programmes Open Source sont gratuits car ils n'ont pas de propriétaire, donc, on ne paye pas de licence. La version utilisée par le STIC est très stable et spécifique au contexte de l'assistance informatique. Elle intègre aussi les recommandations ITIL, qui sont des normes de qualité préétablies au niveau international.

Est-ce que cette application peut aussi travailler avec d'autres systèmes, qui ne soient pas nécessairement Open source?

Bien entendu! A l'ONUG, elle est intégrée à Lotus Notes, au service d'annuaire Active Directory pour l'accès au réseau et aussi à plusieurs bases de données propriétaires ou Open source.

Et l'assistance pour les techniciens responsables de ce système? Est-ce qu'il existe un numéro où il est possible de téléphoner s'ils ont un problème avec OTRS?

Depuis quelque temps, quelques entreprises ont commencé à offrir un service de support payant. Il y a cependant une large communauté d'utilisateurs qui fréquente les forums sur Internet pour offrir des réponses à des problèmes. Il existe aussi des sites qui centralisent manuels et information diverse en relation avec cette application. C'est le principe de travail communautaire dans le domaine Open Source.

Est-ce que d'autres départements se sont intéressés à OTRS?

Nous avons déjà organisé quelques réunions d'information à la demande de quelques départements. Parmi eux, certains sont intéressés par ce système pour la gestion de leurs équipes de support. Nous nous ferons un plaisir de partager notre expérience et de répondre à vos questions.

Et en ce qui concerne la durée de vie d'OTRS?

Dans le contexte mondial, OTRS semble avoir de beaux jours devant elle. Actuellement, OTRS attire de plus en plus de professionnels et on parle de plusieurs milliers d'entreprises qui l'ont adoptée. On peut citer par exemple

la NASA, Nokia, Deutsche Lufthansa AG, Siemens, Sun et General Motors. OTRS est en développement continu et de nouvelles fonctions lui sont constamment ajoutées. ■

Raoul Sanchez:
ext:79 601 e-mail: hotlineICTS@unog.ch

ONU

PUBLICATIONS, VENTES



Sophie de Chambrier est la nouvelle responsable du bookshop de l'ONU depuis sa reprise par l'entreprise Eskami SA.

UN Special l'a rencontrée.

Sophie, dans quelles circonstances votre société s'est-elle retrouvée à la tête du bookshop?

Le contrat de la précédente entreprise étant terminé, un appel d'offres a été lancé. Les compétences et l'expertise de la Librairie Ellipse ont prévalu pour le choix du nouveau contractant, une nouvelle entité est née: Eskami SA entièrement dédiée à la

gestion du bookshop et faisant partie intégrante d'Ellipse. Fondée en 1984 comme librairie spécialisée en informatique, Ellipse n'a cessé d'évoluer:

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- en 1994, création d'un département consacré aux logiciels et aux cédéroms;
- en 1995, création d'un premier site web,

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Présentez-nous votre équipe:

Du changement dans la continuité, l'ancienne équipe a été gardée, nous conservons ainsi l'excellence et l'expérience indispensables pour atteindre nos objectifs. Elle se compose de deux vendeurs au bookshop et d'une hôtesse pour les visites guidées pendant la semaine et les weekends. L'hôtesse accueille les touristes, leur délivre les tickets puis les oriente jusqu'à la porte 39 où démarre la visite guidée. Quant à l'équipe du bookshop, elle anime et entretient le magasin au quotidien et répond à toutes demandes bibliographiques. Que proposent-ils, quel est leur rôle, conseil, orientation du client, etc.

Quel est le cahier des charges?

Deux tâches nous incombent:

- pour le bookshop (notre principale mission) la mise à disposition des publications de l'ONU, d'un choix exhaustif

d'ouvrages sur les sujets abordés par les Nations Unies et les diverses institutions s'y rattachant ainsi qu'une gamme variée de souvenirs estampillés ONU.

- pour l'accueil des visiteurs, l'orientation des touristes à leur arrivée et l'encaissement des tickets de visites guidées. Afin d'assurer efficacement cette tâche, nous entretenons des relations très étroites avec le service des visites. En leur communiquant en amont le nombre de touristes, ils organisent les groupes et assurent ainsi leur fluidité au sein du Palais.

Après quelques mois quelles idées avez vous amenées, quelles innovations, améliorations envisagez-vous?

Dans les mois qui viennent, nous élargirons le choix des sujets proposés, particulièrement la diplomatie, la négociation et la politique internationale. Nous proposons actuellement une gamme de plus en plus large d'ouvrages sur les Nations Unies... Et ils sont nombreux! Nous avons des livres très intéressants sur des sujets aussi variés que les droits de l'Homme, l'environnement, les Nations Unies en général, le développement et bien d'autres encore.

En ce qui concerne les souvenirs, nous avons aussi largement augmenté les articles disponibles au bookshop. Que ce soit des souvenirs estampillés ONU ou plus axés sur Genève ou la Suisse.

Nous sommes le plus souvent présents lors de conférences ou d'activités culturelles pour proposer un large éventail de publications sur le sujet traité. C'est dans cette optique que nous avons un stand, entre autres, le 28 avril lors de l'inauguration des nouvelles expositions du Musée de la Société des Nations. Nous avons exposé une vitrine spéciale pour le colloque public 2010 de la CNUCED qui a eu lieu les 10 et 11 mai. Nous avons proposé un livre sur les peintures de Olga Sinclair (en exposition à la passerelle) lors de l'inauguration du 17 mai. Nous serons, bien sûr, présents lors de la journée Mondiale de l'environnement.

Quel serait le slogan que vous imagineriez pour «attirer le client»?

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A VIRTUAL VISIT OF THE PALAIS DES NATIONS...



This article offers a “virtual visit” of the Palais des Nations, a shorter version of the tours organized by the Visitors’ Service, with a special focus on the building and its surroundings. It goes without saying that the information actually given during the tours also covers the history, structure and current activities of the United Nations Office at Geneva, and more.

NICOLE DAWE, CHIEF, VISITORS SERVICE
UNIT, UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION
SERVICE, GENEVA

The historical and artistic richness of the Palais des Nations, together with the immense variety of United Nations activities which take place, and are coordinated, in Geneva make this a unique place, one that we are very proud to promote through the guided tours. To find out more, why not take a tour?

The Palais des Nations was built between 1929 and 1936 to become the headquarters of the League of Nations. It is the collective

work of a team of five architects – Broggi (Italy), Fleggenheimer (Switzerland), Lefèvre and Nénot (France) and Vagó (Hungary) – and was constructed on land donated by the City of Geneva. The land had been bequeathed to the City of Geneva by the Revilliod de Rive family who originally owned it. The original buildings of the Palais house two large conference rooms, the Assembly Hall and the Council Chamber, as well as twenty-four Commission rooms and nine hundred offices.

The League of Nations needed, for its meetings, a palace befitting its ideals. In 1936, the Secretariat of the League of Nations moved from the Palais Wilson to the newly built

Palais des Nations. With the dissolution of the League and the creation of the United Nations, the League’s assets were passed on to the United Nations which officially took over the Palais des Nations on 1 August 1946. Between 1946 and 1966, the European Office of the United Nations was operational in the Palais des Nations, before becoming the United Nations Office at Geneva.

With the gradual increase in the number of Member States and rapid development of multilateral diplomacy, the space at the Palais des Nations proved to be insufficient. Between 1968 and 1973, a new wing was added, designed by a team of five architects led by Eugène Beaudoin (France), doubling the volume of the Palais des Nations. The “new” wing holds some 1,100 offices and ten conference rooms. Overall, the Palais des Nations is 600 metres long, and has thirty-four conference rooms and 2,800 offices.

The tour of the Palais des Nations starts at Door 39 and takes the visitor to one or several meeting rooms in the new building, including, whenever possible, the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room,



donated by Spain and decorated by famous Spanish artist Miquel Barcelo.

Visitors are given extensive information about the history, structure and workings of the United Nations at this point. The tour then continues onto the footbridge, from which the early history of the Palais des Nations is explained and where the cenotaph of Gustave Revilliod can be seen. From the footbridge, visitors can also admire the Library, one of the largest international libraries in the world, founded in 1919 by the



League of Nations, with over one million volumes specialized in the fields of international relations, law, politics and economics. They are told that the Library contains more than four million United Nations documents, and manages the archives of the League of Nations and of the United Nations Office at Geneva.

The tour proceeds into the Salle des Pas Perdus, which is the main lobby of the Assembly Hall. The floor and walls are made from marble donated by different countries:



Sweden, Italy, Finland and Belgium. On the two brass gates which delimit the Hall, there are combined French-English monograms of the League of Nations above the handles which remind the visitor of the long history of the building. The two wall paintings, from 1954, are the work of a French painter, Anne Carlu and represent war and peace.

From the Salle des Pas Perdus, the guides show to the visitors the Armillary Sphere and the Conquest of Space Monument. The Armillary Sphere was donated to the League

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of Nations in 1936 by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation of the United States, in memory of President Wilson's work in favour of the creation of the League of Nations. It was conceived by the American sculptor Paul Manship, then cast and plated in Italy by Bruno Bearzy.

The Conquest of Space Monument, gift of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1971, is dedicated to the success of Man in his conquest of space. The twenty-eight meter-high structure is covered with a thin layer of titanium, used in the construction of spacecrafts. It is a symbol of modern space technology. The monument was built by the architect Alexander Koltchin and the sculptor Yuri G. Neroda.

Beyond, visitors can see a Memorial unveiled on United Nations Day, 24 October, 2003 and dedicated to United Nations staff who have given their lives in the service of peace. The memorial is a collective tribute made possible through the contributions of the United Nations Secretary-General, United Nations programmes, funds and specialized agencies, as well as staff associations and individual staff members, in a spirit of solidarity and respect.

Visitors are then escorted into the Assembly Hall, the largest room of the Palais des Nations, and the Council Chamber, where many important historical negotiations have taken place.

It was in the Assembly Hall that the last Assembly of the League of Nations met, on 8 April 1946, when the assets of the League of Nations were passed on to the United Nations. When it was modernized in 1960, the four murals decorating the room were replaced by four tapestries by Ms. Charlotte Perriand (Le Corbusier school), mainly for acoustic reasons. The room, entirely refurbished, was inaugurated on 1 May 1996.

Many important conferences have taken place in the Assembly Hall, such as the Conference on the Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy of August 1955 which decided on the creation of the International Atomic Energy Agency, or, the first Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1958 for example.

The tour proceeds into the Council Chamber, which was inaugurated on 2 October 1936 for the 94th session of the Council of the League of Nations. It bears the name of Francisco de Vitoria, a Spanish jurist from the 16th century, one of the founding fathers of international law. De Vitoria was the first to formulate the notion of the "orbis" and to conceive the world as one political unity with the power to pass laws applicable to all nations and to all men. He reflected, as a precursor of the ideas defended by the League of Nations and the United Nations, that there would be no peace, no harmony between the peoples as long as violence is not eliminated from international relations.

The murals of the Council Chamber, painted on canvas by José María Sert, in gold and sepia, were donated by Spain to the League of Nations in 1936. Sert was one of the best-known European mural painters between the two World Wars. He decorated the walls of many of the most important buildings of his day, such as the Rockefeller Centre in New York for example. The paintings illustrate Technical Progress, Social Progress, the Progress of Science, Hope and an Allegory of War, making no distinction between the Conquerors and the Conquered. In the centre of the ceiling, five giants symbolizing the five continents of the world, come together to protect peace; "The Solidarity of the Peoples".

Several historically significant conferences were held in this room, such as the Conference on Indochina of 1954 or the Peace Conference on the Middle East of 1973, among others. The Council Chamber also hosted the negotiations to end the 1991 Gulf War, several special sessions of the Security Council and negotiations for a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. It continues to accommodate the meetings of the Conference on Disarmament.

As part of the tour, many gifts offered by Member Countries can also be admired, such as the Ceramic vase "The Blue Planet of Life" by Japanese artist Yasuhiko Shirakata, outside the Council Chamber, gift of the town of Tobe, Japan, in recognition of the tireless efforts of the United Nations in favour of



peace. Popular features are also the “Temple of Heaven” tapestry, gift of the People’s Republic of China, in the new building, or the abstract painting “Peace, dove of light” by Elena Tarasido, a gift of Argentina in 1986, which also embodies a message of peace.

About the Visitors’ Service...

The Visitors’ Service is located at Door 39 of the Palais des Nations. It employs thirty-five Tour Guides, and three staff members to manage the Service, and offers visits in fifteen languages all year-round. Our tours last about one hour and are designed to cover the history and current activities of the United Nations in Geneva, coupled with information about the Palais des Nations itself.

Visitors to the Palais des Nations include both booked groups and individuals from all over the world, who join tours on the day. They represent the widest array of people imaginable: tourists, students, young diplomats, school children, retirees, personnel from other international organizations, and many others. This variety is a challenge, because it requires great adaptability skills on the part of our Guides, but it is also very energizing and inspiring.

Tour Guides are highly qualified. They are carefully selected on the basis of written and oral examinations about the history and activities of the United Nations. They also need to be trilingual and go through a training process before starting to take visitors on tour.

About 100’000 persons visit the Palais des Nations every year. The figures have been growing slowly, but this growth has accelerated since the beginning of 2010. Currently, we offer one standard tour. Our aim, in the near future, is to be able to cater more specifically to the different types of audiences that we serve and target them more effectively. In this respect, we have initiated an analysis of our client-base in order to better understand what sub-categories it is made of. In parallel, we are studying the possibility of developing different types of visits to better meet the needs of our very diverse groups of visitors. In addition to our regular tours, therefore, we are planning thematic visits focusing on youth and on visitors with a stronger interest in history or art.

Other projects include a new design for our hall at Door 39. The aim is for visitors to be greeted by welcome messages on panels, which would also provide information on security procedures and direct them to the starting point of the tour. Other visual supports in the hall and on the tour could include further information about concrete United Nations action in the field.

Lastly, given the very high percentage of pupils and students we receive, we are developing a “youth corner” with printed information targeted at the 10 to 18 age group, together with an internet corner with games and websites introducing the United Nations to this specific group.



The Director-General with his team

Our hope, for this group and for all visitors, is not only to give as much valuable information as we can, but also to engage them as much as possible. The United Nations should not only be portrayed as our Organization but also as theirs. We hope to be able to help people think about what they can do for the United Nations once they leave the Palais. ■

TO MAKE YOU SMILE

Our visitors ask many pertinent questions every day, related to our work at the United Nations and to the buildings in which we work. Given the great diversity of our visitors, our Guides are at the receiving end of a wide array of questions and remarks.

On the lighter side of things, here are some examples of the more intriguing questions we have heard:

- After a visit: “So... did the Yalta conference take place in this building?”
- During a visit: “Are we going to see Blue Helmets in the park during our tour?”
- During a visit: “Is this where the King of Switzerland used to live?”
- During a visit: “Where is the peacocks’ house?”
- After a visit: “Thank you for the visit... so where did you buy your shoes?”

Version française: www.unspecial.org

PASIÓN POR EL TANGO

CAROLINA QUINTANA, UNCTAD

La Organización Cultural de las Naciones Unidas, UNESCO, declaró en Septiembre del 2009 el tango como patrimonio cultural intangible de la humanidad. Unos 400 expertos reunidos en Abu Dhabi, que estudian cientos de candidaturas, reconocieron que el baile seductor con letra melancólica debe ser salvaguardado. El tango «personifica y alienta tanto la diversidad cultural como el diálogo», informó la organización¹. El Tango se origina en las clases trabajadoras de Montevideo y Buenos Aires a principios del siglo XX. El Tango se gesta en ambas márgenes del Río de la Plata entre 1850 y 1890. A principios del siglo XIX con su aceptación popular a nivel mundial la danza evoluciona hasta su forma actual.

Este baile que se originó en el puerto de Buenos Aires y rápidamente se extendió a los barrios del sur, como San Telmo, Monserrat y Pompeya, tuvo su crecimiento paralelo con el de la sociedad argentina, formada por inmigrantes europeos, que aportaron muchos de sus elementos². Carlos Gardel, fue el músico que popularizó el tango como música durante las primeras décadas del siglo XX convirtiéndose en un icono y símbolo mundial de la cultura argentina.

En mi reciente viaje a Buenos Aires fue un honor y un gran placer conocer al Señor Fernando Soler quien preside y dirige uno de los espectáculos de Tango más reconocidos a nivel internacional. En una superficie de 4000 m², más de 40 artistas en escena, este espectáculo, montado en luces, sonido y efectos especiales de última generación, cuenta con toda la magia y el esplendor de los más prestigiosos del mundo.

Entre la innumerable nómina de personalidades del ambiente artístico, la política, el deporte y el arte se destacan algunas de las figuras más relevantes que visitaron Señor Tango: Bill Clinton, Naomi Campbell, Sting Inxs, Liza Minnelli, Ivanna Trump, Salma Hayek, Vittorio Gassman, Michael Schumacher, Luis Miguel.

A partir de la inauguración de «Señor Tango» en 1996, tanto la casa como Fernando Soler han recibido un sin fin de reconocimientos y galardones; entre ellos destacamos: El lugar fue declarado de interés parlamentario por la Honorable Cámara de Diputados de la Nación Argentina; de interés turístico por la Secretaría de Turismo de la Nación y de interés cultural por la Legislatura de la Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires.

Fernando Soler fue premiado como «Mejor cantante extranjero del año 1989», por lo que recibió de manos del Alcalde «El corazón de Oro de Róterdam»; fue elegido «Personaje del año» en los años 1996, 2001 y 2003 por la reconocida revista GENTE; y fue nombrado en el año 2001 por los Miembros de la Real Academia Argentina, presidida por Horacio Ferrer, «Miembro Honorario de la Segunda Generación del Tango».

En el año 2006, la Honorable Cámara de diputados de la Nación, declara de interés cultural la obra y trayectoria del artista y creador Fernando Soler y en el 2007 es nombrado «Personaje ilustre de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires». Señor Tango ha sido galardonado con el Bizz Awards 2005 por la organización World Confederation of Businesses, en la ciudad de Houston, como mejor Musical de Tango y Fernando Soler como su creador y director por su eficiente labor como empresario. En marzo del 2008, la Latin Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences premia a «Señor Tango», reconociéndolo como la sede de la entrega de los Grammys latinos y por ser icono de la música nacional.

La Casa

A principios de siglo, arribó a Buenos Aires una tradicional familia de inmigrantes italianos, con sus baúles llenos de recuerdos de su tierra natal, unas pocas pertenencias y muchas ilusiones. Se instalaron muy cerca del puerto, en Barracas, barrio tradicional, de gente de trabajo, industrias y fábricas. Allí construyeron un gran almacén «Almacenes Brenta y Roncoroni».



La arquitectura tradicional, contempla techos abovedados, columnas de hierro, pisos adoquinados en quebracho colorado y tres niveles. A su ingreso se percibe la elegancia y el buen gusto de su refinada decoración, recreando la esencia de aquellos lugares donde comenzó a brillar el tango en todo su esplendor, y así es como aquel almacén de ramos generales es hoy un magnífico teatro al que muchos han bautizado como «La Catedral del Tango». Respetando la visión de quienes lo crearon, inspirado por el lugar e interpretando talvez esos sueños, Fernando Soler instala en ese mismo lugar «Señor Tango». El espectáculo recorre desde el tango tradicional dirigido orquestalmente por el Maestro Ernesto Franco, quien fuera primer bandoneonista de Juan Darienzo (durante veintidós años), años de oro del Tango Argentino; hasta llegar a los más contemporáneos del maestro Astor Piazzolla de la mano de la orquesta «Juventango». El show cuenta con 9 parejas de baile, que recrean coreografías grupales e individuales luciendo destrezas e interpretando personalidades características del Tango.

Al final del espectáculo, se interpreta la canción «No llores por mi Argentina», en donde participan todos los artistas en escena, transmitiendo la emoción, la pasión latina y el orgullo de un continente y dejando un inolvidable recuerdo de la Argentina. ■

¹ BBC Mundo, El Tango Patrimonio de la Humanidad, http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/america_latina/2009/09/090930_1232_tango_patrimonio_gtg.shtml

² Origen y evolución del Tango, Argentina Explora.com

RECALLING BANDUNG

RISE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' COOPERATION BOLSTERS A NEW GEOPOLITICAL ORDER IN WORLD AFFAIRS

ADRIANO TIMOSSI, UNCTAD

The year 2010 promises to be a turning point in the history of international relations given the increasing role of developing countries in the world economic and political order. The intensity of these relations will no doubt cause historians to claim this new current decade as the "Decade of the South" in a way of stressing the importance of the achievements of the developing countries. The increasing rise of "emerging" medium-income developing nations, such as China, India, and Brazil, and blending of their "spirit of cooperation", are sufficient causes to assert the dismantling of the traditional world economic order.

Asia is taking the lead in this new Asian economic era that is well under way, claimed Professor Kishore Mahbubani, former Singapore ambassador to the UN, and Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore in his latest book *The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible Shift of Global Power to the East*. Mahbubani called for a more comprehensive approach from the West in order to accommodate the new contributors as a way of avoiding a potential confrontation as we move away from the traditional global power structure. Mahbubani's views on Asia's lead in transforming the new world power order have sparked both anger and love among diplomats in the rich nations.

For example, David Miliband, British Foreign Secretary, recently suggested at a Foreign and Commonwealth Office Leadership Conference, there is a need to reorient one's worldview in order to recognize that globalization is drawing the West and East closer together. He said that the integration of China and India into the world economy is further causing a shift in power from West to East. He asserted that the twenty-first

century might become the Asian century, thereby echoing Mahbubani's views.

Asia's current ascent does not mean a failure of the Western nations, but it certainly does mean that Western nations will have to allow developing countries a place at the table of global political and economic governance. This push recently included a stronger voice on financial issues at an historical gathering of heads of states and governments in 2009, resulting in the main economic group of wealthy nations, the G-8, being enlarged to a G-20 partnership. The G-20 represents finance ministers and central bank governors from twenty economies: nineteen countries plus the European Union (EU).

In addition, a number of multinational agencies have embarked on supporting South-South cooperation through "triangular cooperation" entities, for example. These entities reflect the support of developed nations aiming to enhance efforts of the South, such as the EU-Brazil-African Union partnership for agricultural development and health signed in 2009.

In addition, a number of multinational agencies are supporting South-South cooperation through "triangular cooperation" entities, for example. These reflect the support of developed nations aiming to enhance efforts of the South, such as the EU-Brazil-African Union partnership for agricultural development and health signed in 2009. The new world economic and geopolitical arrangement will evolve in line with the success or failure of these types of initiatives.

Clearly, the impact of decentralizing Western economic strongholds is directly tied to the growing importance of "developing" countries' penetration in the global economic system. Moreover, the strengthening

of cooperation among developing countries is leading to a revival of the golden era of the 1950s and 1960s when newly independent nations first gathered in a strong South voice at the Asia-Africa Conference held in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955. The "Bandung Conference" is considered to be the benchmark of the evolving South-South relationships. (See *The Birth of the Global South* insert.)

Historically, this Conference inspired many strategic alignments, including the G-77 for economic affairs, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) which became the political arm of the South in the UN system, and



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established other UN institutions and bodies. And despite the diversity of national and regional interests in the great mosaic of the “developing world” or the “South”, there has been a dramatic increase in binding agreements at all international, regional and interregional levels.

Several important examples are worth noting. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) attracted huge news media attention with the launch of the ASEAN-China free trade agreement in January 2010. This endeavour created the first consumer market bloc in the world, and the third richest in terms of trade value, resulting in this part of Asia becoming one of the most dynamic regional economic areas in the world.

Other remarkable alliances worth mentioning include the African Union (AU) which most recently generated the African Authority, as a vital first step in realizing the long-standing desire of forming a continent-wide government. Africa has held many noteworthy dialogue forums with the countries of China, India, Turkey and Korea.

South America is another key region in the new global order. The Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) or the “Parlamento del Mercosur” and the Andean Community inspired the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) treaty of May 2009.

Many other endeavours are taking place in the area of trade and investment: the model project of CAN TV of the Andean Community; the Agriculture Council of the South which

The Birth of the Global South

The Asia-Africa Conference of April 1955 in Bandung, Indonesia was organized by Egypt, Indonesia, Burma (Myanmar), Ceylon (Sri Lanka), India and Pakistan, and included participants from twenty-four other countries, mostly newly-independent Asian and African states. The “Bandung Conference” marked the first attempt of cooperation between developing countries “on the basis of mutual interest and respect for national sovereignty”. Restoring economic and cultural links among nations in the South previously severed by colonialism was the basis for strengthening relations between north and south regions.

A vital declaration from the landmark Bandung Conference was the “10 Principles of Bandung”, designed to govern relations among large and small nations. Subsequently, many Asian-African leaders adopted the so-called “Spirit of Bandung” at different levels, thereby forging a series of institutions, namely, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) of 1961; the Group of Seventy Seven (G-77) in the UN System in 1964, and in the same year, UNCTAD (UN Conference on Trade and Development) was established.

Another overarching influence of the Conference was the declaration of the “Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence” or *Panchsheel* between the People’s Republic of China and India of 1954. Within the context of decolonization, the *Panchsheel* was a series of agreements designed to ensure that newly independent nations would not have the same aggressive relationship they once had with colonizing countries.

is striving for common policies within agriculture sectors in the southern cone; South America-Arab Countries (ASPA) and its virtual library; the SAARC University in New Delhi, India; the Southern Africa Development Community’s Biofuels Task Force which is responsible for regional policy; the African Union peacekeeping force, and so on.

In the Gulf, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was the first to embrace a type of EU common market for the “developing world”. The GCC embraces the free movement of people across borders and has plans for a common currency.

Many important interregional alliances and projects have also emerged during the past decade. Examples include the Second Summit of Arab-South American Countries in 2005; the Asian-African Strategic Partnership; and the India, Brazil, South Africa (IBSA) Dialogue Forum, which in turn created an IBSA Fund in support of poverty reduction programmes in a number of the poorest countries, including Haiti, Guinea-Bissau and Palestine. Another remarkable initiative of interregional excellence is the dialogue created through the formation of the so-called BRIC countries (China, Russia, India and Brazil). ■

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AFTER ALL, IT'S YOUR MONEY

DEIDRA ROBERTS, WHO

Everybody wants more money. And certainly no one should willingly accept a situation of being short-changed. Yet in 2005, the majority of randomly selected UN professional staff at Geneva headquarters failed to complete and return the 2005 Round "base year" survey of their cost-of-living expenses. Consequently, the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) conducting the survey, faced with insufficient household spending data, was forced to extrapolate 2000 statistical data when calculating professional and higher level staff post-adjustment indexes for duty stations effective to the end of 2010.

"The 2000 benchmark data didn't even take into account the arrival of the Euro", affirmed Ebrahim Yansaneh, Chief, Cost of living division at the ICSC Secretariat.

Addressing a Town Hall meeting in April at the Palais des Nations, Yansaneh praised the easy to use "short, simple and highly accessible" 2010 Round expenditure survey. The three-part questionnaire is directed at all professional and higher level staff in P1-D1, L1-L6 categories in Geneva. All information is available in English, French and Spanish.

Called "place-to-place surveys, as adopted by the Commission this year at the 70th session of the Commission, the aim is to extrapolate data collected in order to establish post-adjustment calculations (PAC) to the end of 2015", explained Yansaneh. In June, the ICSC survey will arrive in the personal email boxes of all eligible staff.

Not eligible for the survey are professional staff on short-term assignment, D2 staff and above, staff living in a hotel, lodging house or are sharing rent with others, and professional staff whose salary is less than 40 percent of total family income.

During the Q&A segment of his briefing, Yansaneh asserted that Geneva pricing data will not be disclosed to any third party. "We're bound by the UN statutes and laws on confidentiality," he said. "Neither the ob-

servers for price data collection, or consultants selected to review the data processing and analysis, will have access to the total data". He went on to assure participants that all personal data will be destroyed immediately after final data is extracted, and reminded participants of the ICSC's "long history of data security".

"Your valuable time and effort will contribute to providing an accurate cost-of-living adjustment to the PAC for the next five years to 2015", he said, and emphasized: "There has never been an example in the past 20 years of reviews where a lower PAC rate occurred".

Local PA Survey Committee

The new 3-pronged questionnaire addresses: Housing Expenditures (in and outside of Geneva); Housing and Domestic Service Costs (rent, utility costs, maintenance, etc.); and a Price Survey on a pre-determined basket of 318 items at the duty station. Selected cities include Geneva, London, Madrid, Montreal, New York, Paris, Rome, Vienna and Washington, D.C.

The overall goal of the ICSC 2010 Round survey of spending patterns of staff in the selected UN HQ duty stations, is to blend valid, reliable and comparable price data for goods and services into a truly realistic post-adjustment calculation.

The Palais meeting was the first technical briefing for the newly formed Post-adjustment Survey Committee who are charged with facilitating completion of the survey questionnaires, among other duties. Main Geneva-based organizations have representation on the PA Survey Committee through two nominated representatives, generally one person from human resources and one from its staff association. Sophie Veaudour, of UNOG is Chair for the Geneva group.

The 2010 Round baseline survey methodology will encompass multiple activities:

- In June, pre-survey information will appear in each eligible person's professional email account, explaining the purpose of the survey, the expenditure areas to be covered, and the time frame.
- A unique "tracking tool" can be downloaded and used to collect monthly

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household expenditures.

- The official ICSC 2010 Round survey for Geneva will arrive in eligible staff mailboxes in October. Respondents will have a month to complete it online and then send it in before October 31st.

"I'm suggesting respondents use the special tracking tool handy, and for one or two months record their monthly "household" expenditures on food, beverages (non-alcoholic), transportation costs, domestic services, recreation, as listed", emphasized Kathrin Buchmann, WHO Staff Representative and one of two WHO appointees acting as focal points for the survey and providing WHO respondents with any additional advice or assistance. Josiane Sidibe Pimpie is the other WHO focal point.

"First, using the tracking tool for a couple of months will give an idea of average monthly expenses over the past year, a requirement of the survey. Second, with this data in hand, the entire ICSC survey can be more quickly completed online in 10 minutes or so in October," she explained.

Other than the tracking tool, the survey methodology includes a link to a designated ICSC web page for instance access to information, posing questions, or reading Q&A-style references.

Price and Weight

And while staff are tracking their personal expenditures, in September, ICSC Secretariat representatives will be visiting Geneva stores to record prices of items cited on a "typical basket" of 318 consumer goods and services, including everything from food to footwear, petro (gas) to yoga mats, car repair services to movie prices.

Of importance are not only the prices of items purchased, but establishing the expenditure patterns of staff as these determine the weights in the post adjustment explained Bruchmann. "This pattern can only be established through the real data of staff expenditure and so we encourage as many people to participate to ensure that this is the case." ■

STAFF REPRESENTATIVES' CORNER

RIDHA ZARGOUNI, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
UNOG STAFF COORDINATING COUNCIL

A new Council, a new work programme
"We believe in a Council with drive, purpose and energy, with all members working together, as one, in transparency. We believe in a Council that promotes respect and good governance, one that is accountable. Our way of working is based on trust, participation and negotiation."

This is the opening paragraph of the new work programme of the 28th UNOG Staff Coordinating Council elected at the end of March. The programme, which will have been broadcast to you by the time you read this article, is both far-reaching and ambitious. Central to its implementation will be hard work and team spirit among Council members. In addition, all staff are encouraged to participate. Get in touch if you want to help out.

This month, Staff Representatives' Corner examines two important issues that have come to prominence.



IAN RICHARDS, PRESIDENT, UNOG STAFF
COORDINATING COUNCIL

Temporary appointments

Starting July 2009, a new contractual regime came into force for short-term staff. Called Temporary Appointments, they reduce monthly leave to 1.5 days and require three-month break after one year of work. These new conditions are hugely prejudicial to staff and offer no relief to those who had been working at UNOG over a long period

and who had in effect been performing continuous functions. The impact is serious. Pension contributions will not be paid for three months in fifteen. Medical cover will cease and cartes de légitimation will be withdrawn. Staff will be legally required to leave Switzerland and those with children will have to take them out of school.

To understand how we got here, we need to go back a couple of years. In June 2008, staff representatives from around the world and management met in New York to agree on a new contractual regime for the UN. One of the items on the agenda was the question of short-term staff. The UNOG Staff Coordinating Council was invited to participate at this meeting, but refused. This was a shame as the case of short-term staff serving over long periods was unique to Geneva and only the Coordinating Council could have defended such staff. (In New York for example, short-term staff would be converted to fixed-term status from the seventh month.) The result of Geneva's absence was that proposals by management for the new temporary appointment regime were passed unopposed and were subsequently forwarded to the General Assembly where they were approved on 24 December 2008.

The current Council is fighting retroactively to revise the guidelines for temporary appointments. It has requested that this be considered at the forthcoming Staff-Management Coordination Committee (SMCC). It is also examining with UNOG management what possibilities exist within Geneva's delegated authority to accommodate staff members' needs. Discussions are also taking place with the health insurance and pension fund.

Safety at work

Now, without looking at the phone on your desk, can you quote out loud the UNOG emergency contact number? Every so often a colleague or visitor has an accident or suffers a medical emergency. Often precious moments are lost because those on the

scene do not always know how to contact security, what number to dial, which phone to use, nor the first aid actions to perform. While we are lucky to have a medical centre and a first rate security service, a culture of workplace safety is sorely lacking. Contrast this to Dupont, where the Geneva office of our pension fund and our computer servers are housed. On entering their building, all visitors are given a card with their badge entitled "your safety is our priority." It features the emergency contact number and all the safety rules and procedures.

This is part of a broader communication strategy to inculcate a real safety culture, which includes:

- A safety induction course for all new arrivals. It includes basic lessons in how fatalities and accidents can be avoided.
- Safety awareness months. Themes include cycling to work, driving, handling electrical appliances.
- Clear rules. Hold handrails when using stairs, no running.
- Fire drills twice a year with feedback given afterwards on whether the evacuation was done correctly.
- Regular compulsory safety meetings.
- Office-to-office checks to ensure their version of the blue sticker is on every phone.
- A "safety pause" after a serious incident where section managers give briefings to staff on what happened, what had gone wrong and what should be done to avoid such a situation in the future.
- First aid courses for staff.

The Council is now working with Management with the aim of developing a similar programme here. It has also given its input on this to the Joint Inspection Unit, which is conducting a global review of medical provision at the UN.

ONU

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Au Palais des Nations, le Musée de la Société des Nations (1919-1946), a réouvert ses portes en avril dernier, après une rénovation complète. Le musée est désormais accessible les jours ouvrables, de 9h à 17h, au 1^{er} étage du Bâtiment B, au niveau de la bibliothèque de l'ONUG, porte B.20.

Le Service des archives de l'ONUG organise sur demande des visites de groupes (contact: libraryarchives@unog.ch). ■

In addition it has voiced the need for defibrillators to be placed around the Palais des Nations. Currently only Palais Wilson has one.

By the way, if you still haven't looked at your phone, the number you need is 112. ■



M^{me} Corinne Momal-Vanian, cheffe du Service de l'information de l'ONUG, visite l'exposition en compagnie de M. Pierre Le Loarer, bibliothécaire en chef de l'ONUG.



Le musée offre désormais un coin multimédia, ainsi qu'un espace d'exposition temporaire.

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LA GREEN MAP DU QUARTIER DES NATIONS UNIES À GENÈVE

Questions d'UN Special
à Sandra Brazzini-Mourieret
et à Zoé Cimatti, coordinatrices
du projet Green Map du
quartier des Nations Unies

Comment avez vous été appelées à participer à cette aventure?

Sandra est la représentante de l'association internationale Green Map pour la Suisse Romande. Ainsi, elle a réalisé la première Green Map de Suisse au Grand-Saconnex fin 2007. Le système Green Map consiste à cartographier les initiatives liées au développement durable sur un territoire donné. Ce concept est organisé en réseau international grâce à un système d'icônes thématiques, qui constitue l'identité Green Map®. Cette iconographie permet au public de lire une Green Map partout dans le monde, transcendant ainsi les langues et les cultures. A ce jour, plus de cinq cents cartes Green Maps existent déjà dans cinquante-trois pays. Les Green Map ne se limitent pas uniquement aux thématiques environnementales, mais abordent également des problématiques économiques et sociales, la mobilité, les infrastructures culturelles, et enfin la pollution et les dangers, ceci dans le but de montrer concrètement et localement ce que couvre le développement durable.

La collaboration avec l'association Usine21 fut amorcée, par le biais de l'encadrement d'un étudiant en géomatique de l'université de Genève, sur la Green Map du Grand-Saconnex. C'est donc tout naturellement que Sandra a de nouveau fait appel à l'association pour ce projet. Usine21 est une association d'étudiants et de jeunes professionnels engagés pour un développement durable. Basée à Lausanne, elle propose des projets de développement durable aux étudiants universitaires. Ce projet particulier a fait l'objet d'un mémoire de certificat en

géomatique à l'Université de Genève. Zoé est arrivée en cours de route. Fraîchement débarquée de Paris après sa thèse, elle souhaitait s'impliquer concrètement dans un projet de développement durable. C'était mi 2008. Par la suite, Zoé a pris la présidence de l'association, et avec Sandra, la responsabilité du projet. Nous n'étions pas trop de deux pour mener à bien cette mission!

Pourquoi ce projet?

Avec l'ambition de couvrir la totalité de la ville de Genève, quel meilleur quartier pour commencer que celui emblématique et internationalement connu que celui des Nations Unies? Quel meilleur symbole que les Nations Unies pour promouvoir les valeurs du développement durable? C'est ainsi que nous nous sommes fixées pour objectif, de recueillir toutes les initiatives en lien avec les projets de développement durable mis en œuvre par les Nations Unies à Genève et ce afin de démontrer qu'il ne s'agit pas d'une donnée abstraite ou qu'une recommandation mais aussi d'une réalité qui a un impact sur la vie locale.

Quel est l'objectif de cette carte?

L'objectif de cette carte est de fournir un outil commun aux populations qui se côtoient sur ce territoire mais qui se fréquentent peu, à savoir les habitants du quartier et les collaborateurs des organisations internationales. Cet outil vise à les inciter à adopter et promouvoir une attitude durable tout en faisant vivre leur quartier. Plus précisément, ce projet a pour but de mieux faire connaître aux habitants le rôle et l'implication locale des organisations internationales, mettre en avant les actions de développement durable entreprises dans le quartier, encourager les différentes structures internationales à promouvoir à l'interne l'application des principes d'une gestion durable, et à montrer l'exemple à l'externe, renforçant ainsi leur image d'acteur responsable. Enfin, il s'agit d'inciter les collaborateurs à (re)découvrir et faire vivre le quartier dans lequel ils travaillent chaque jour.



Pouvez-vous expliquer le fonctionnement (encadrement, modalités...)?

La particularité du concept Green Map est de s'appuyer sur un processus participatif visant à impliquer un maximum d'acteurs locaux. Nous avons donc pris contact avec le cycle de Sécheron, qui a répondu favorablement à notre demande. C'est ainsi que nous avons réalisé des ateliers avec une classe dans le cadre de l'agenda 21 scolaire. Nous avons pu aborder les différentes thématiques du développement durable, puis sommes allés sur le terrain afin de recueillir les informations pertinentes à cartographier. Les élèves ont également réalisé des questionnaires adressés aux habitants et commerçants.

Parallèlement, nous avons contacté et rencontré de nombreuses organisations et structures internationales, des associations et des entreprises du quartier afin de noter leurs actions mises en œuvre localement. Usine21 et Green Map présentent ainsi sur leur carte, les actions de 12 organisations internationales: CICR, HCR, ISO, ITU, MSF, OTT, OMC, OMM, OMPI, OMS, ONUG, et Unicef. La collecte des informations a été accompagnée par le Geneva Environnement Network, la Mission permanente de la Suisse auprès des Nations Unies et le bureau du Délégué à la Genève internationale. Les données indiquées sur la carte ont été validées par les organisations elles-mêmes, et les autres informations générales ont été vérifiées sur le terrain. Ce qui nous a valu de nombreuses heures à vélo! Une phase consultative a été réalisée dans le cadre du Festival du Développement Durable 2009. Cela fut l'occasion d'exposer une première version de la carte au sein du



Musée des Suisses dans le monde, avec qui nous avons lié une collaboration étroite. Les habitants et collaborateurs des OI étaient invités à modifier et commenter les informations répertoriées afin qu'elles représentent au mieux la perception de ces acteurs sur leur quartier. Enfin, la Green Map sera présentée lors de la journée mondiale de l'environnement le 5 juin sur la place des Nations, avant sa sortie définitive fin juin.

Que vous a apporté cette expérience? En premier lieu, une belle amitié. Car depuis 2 ans, nous nous côtoyons quasi quotidiennement! Notre collaboration fonctionne très bien, et nous avons d'autres projets sur le feu. Au grand dam de nos conjoints... Puis, de belles rencontres avec de nombreux interlocuteurs heureux de partager leurs efforts et de communiquer les nombreuses initiatives mises en place. Des gens convaincus, qui essaient de convaincre à leur tour.

Enfin, la découverte du monde des organisations internationales et leur fonctionnement difficilement accessible aux non initiés. Car lorsque nous avons débuté ce travail, nous nous sommes heurtées à des fonctionnements, des structures, et des hiérarchies très différentes d'une organisation à l'autre. De même, la collaboration avec la Mission Suisse et le Délégué à la Genève internationale nous a permis d'entrevoir de nombreux aspects diplomatiques que nous n'avions pas perçus ni pris en compte au départ: une belle leçon de négociation, de rigueur et de diplomatie!

Avez-vous reçu de bons retours, notamment vis à vis des organisations internationales

La majeure partie de nos interlocuteurs ont accueilli le projet favorablement et ont été de bons relais d'information. Cela a été particulièrement vrai auprès de la FIPOI qui nous a de plus soutenues financièrement.

Il faut dire aussi que nos démarches de recensement des informations ont grandement été facilitées suite à la déclaration du secrétaire général Ban Ki-moon, et à l'injonction de

réaliser un inventaire des gaz à effet de serre dans chaque agence. C'est devenu désormais une problématique incontournable. Nous sommes donc tombées au bon moment. ■

Les sites web: www.usine21.org et www.greenmap.ch (ou www.greenmap.org pour l'association internationale) – les dates de sorties: le 5 juin pour la présentation, fin juin pour les cartes papier et site internet – les lieux de distribution: la FIPOI, kiosque de l'ONU, Genève Tourisme, Usine21 et Green Map Suisse Romande sur demande)

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Автор воспоминаний – Ольга Ильинична Зубова, старшая дочь Ильи Евграфовича Салтыкова. Она родилась в 1861 году, получила прекрасное домашнее образование: владела несколькими иностранными языками, глубоко разбиралась в русской и зарубежной литературе, была историк. Природа одарила ее отличным, сильным голосом, она училась пению и стремилась даже выступать. Но в те годы нечего было и думать о том, чтобы идти на сцену столбовой дворянке Салтыковой... После революции О.И. Зубова работала в библиотеке, давала уроки иностранных языков, делала многочисленные переводы. Ольга Ильинична обладала еще одним редким природным даром: она была человеком изумительно тонкого характера. С детства ее звали «луч солнца». Отзывчивость и доброту она сохранила до конца своих дней. Ее дом был гостеприимен и открыт для друзей. Его посещали Бальмонт, Гольденвейзер, Юрьев, Гедике, А. Толстой... Говорят, что Ольга Ильинична послужила прототипом образа царицы Прасковьи в романе «Петр I». Воспоминания написаны в 1934 году.

Дядя мой, Михаил Евграфович Салтыков-Щедрин, старший брат моего отца, была натура богато, всесторонне одаренная, но, несомненно, глубоко противоречивая. Критики и биографы его ошибаются, полагая, что Щедрин был пророком-фанатиком. Как и Гоголь, он часто сомневался и не ве-

рил в пользу того, что писал, задавая себе мучительный вопрос: «Да полно, то ли я делаю, что нужно? Нет ли больше вреда, чем пользы, в моем писательстве?» С.П. Боткин, с которым он был в самых дружеских отношениях и которого он высоко ценил как врача, постоянно упоминает о терзаниях Михаила Евграфовича по поводу его литературной деятельности.

И я как будто все еще вижу его хмурое, угрюмое лицо и такую добрую, приветливую улыбку; все еще слышу его ворчливый голос и звонкий раскатистый смех. Как уживались такие контрасты в одном человеке?

Михаил Евграфович был человек громадных способностей и чисто русского, скажу даже – мужского, склада ума; но он был вместе с тем великолепно образованным, «европеизированным», вполне светским человеком. Он прекрасно говорил по-французски и при желании мог своими манерами и тонким, изысканным обращением очаровать любую светскую даму.

Михаил Евграфович Салтыков и надворный советник Щедрин были два разных, совершенно противоположных человека, живших в вечном разладе между собой.

«...Будь Вы просто потомственный дворянин М.Е. Салтыков, ничего бы этого не было. Но Вы – Салтыков-Щедрин, писатель, которому суждено было провести глубокий след в нашей литературе, вот Вас и ненавидят, и любят – смотря кто» (из переписки с И.С. Тургеневым).

Властная женщина была бабушка моя, Ольга Михайловна Салтыкова, мать знаменитого сатирика. Муж ее, дед мой Евграф Васильевич, был лет на тридцать старше ее, но всегда с величайшей почтительностью и некоторой робостью относился к житейской мудрости своей энергичной супруги. Сам он был человек в высшей степени тихий и кроткий, что называется – не от мира сего. Он в сорок пять лет собирался в монастырь, но родители ни за что не хотели этого допустить и потребовали от него, чтобы он непременно женился для продолжения старинного рода. Молодые сразу поселились в родовом имении Салтыковых, сельце Спас-Угол, которое тогда было еще совсем незначительным помещением.

С моей матерью Аделаидой Павловной (в девичестве Витовтовой) Ольге Михайловне подолгу приходилось жить в деревне, в отцовском Ермолине, и умерла бабушка на ее руках.

Из сыновей бабушка боготворила Михаила за его ум и способности и гордилась им невероятно; затем, когда разошлась с ним из-за денежных расчетов и его литературной деятельности, в которой чувствовала многое для себя обидное, она всю свою страстную нежность перенесла на отца моего Илью Евграфовича.

У Ольги Михайловны было четыре дочери и пятеро сыновей.

Братья Салтыковы все были совершенно разные люди, кроме Михаила Евграфовича и моего отца, очень друг с другом сходных. Бывало, слушая моего отца,

я часто думала, что из него мог бы выйти писатель не хуже Михаила Евграфовича и в том же именно духе, но ему в этом отношении не повезло и он поневоле должен был пойти другим путем.

Под конец жизни Салтыковы-братья почти уже не виделись. Приезжал, однако, Салтыков-Щедрин в Ермолино еще раз после смерти его матери. Пробыл у нас три дня и уехал обратно в Петербург.

Поссорившись с моим отцом, Ольга Михайловна перебралась в село Егорье на Хотче (в один прекрасный день она покинула Спасское), где раньше на ее средства была построена в селе церковь. Теперь в склепе Егорьевской церкви лежат она, отец и сестра моя.

Жена Михаила Евграфовича, Елизавета Апполоновна (в девичестве Болотина), была очень милая женщина, но по духу совершенно не подходившая суровому писателю. Он не мог выносить ее вечных ребячеств, экспансивности... Она была много его моложе и действительно очень красива, отличалась необыкновенной живостью характера и большой жизнерадостностью (унаследованной в большой степени от матери-француженки), чего у Михаила Евграфовича, увы, совсем не было. Она обожала общество, наряды, развлечения. Он ворчал на траты, но в конце концов всегда сдавался и представлял ей вести тот образ жизни, который ей нравился. Иногда он бывал с ней резок и груб, но все это смягчалось его видимым раскаянием и умением с большой нежностью заглаживать свое дурное расположение духа. ■

Mikhail Yevgrafovich Saltykov-Shchedrin was born in 1826 in Spas-Ugol village, Tver guberniya — 10 May 1889 in Saint Petersburg. Better known by his publication name Shchedrin was a major Russian satirist of the 19th century. An eminent figure on the literary scene of 1850s–1880s, Saltykov-Shchedrin was a major commentator on the social and political conditions of Russia in newspapers and literary journals. At one time, after the death of the poet Nikolai Nekrasov, he acted as editor of the well-known Russian magazine, the *Otechestvenniye Zapiski*, until it was banned by the government in 1884.

Mikhaïl Ievgrafovitch Saltykov, plus connu sous son pseudonyme de Saltykov-Shchedrine est né le 27 janvier 1826 à Spas-Ougol, oblast de Tver, mort le 10 mai 1889 à Saint-Petersbourg, était un célèbre écrivain et satiriste russe.

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An Interview with Dr. Jasmine Champenois, Director of the Executive Education at the Institute

The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies kicks off innovative programme on multilateral affairs dedicated to professionals.

The Graduate Institute's Executive Education section will launch the first session of its new Executive Certificate in Multilateral Diplomacy in autumn 2010. What will be the content of this programme?

This programme will combine lectures by senior faculty on the latest topics, workshops on the most relevant professional practices and evenings with high-level guest speakers from the international community to give a strong base of knowledge and skills for anyone looking to further their career in multilateral diplomacy. The intensive one-week programme takes place in Geneva from 24 to 29 October and is open to twenty accomplished professionals.

Is this going to be rapidly applicable by hands-on practitioners?

The programme seeks to provide today's global leaders with a deeper perspective on current multilateral negotiations. Main objectives of the course include informing participants on the full landscape of diverse forms of global governance, helping them understand key issues and decrypting multi-level negotiation style through cultural factors. The programme will also offer participants the chance to learn effective management practices as well as to acquire cross-cultural communication and negotiation skills, and an ability to adapt quickly to changing environments. In addition, it is intended to provide participants with a keen understanding of key multilateral issues such as disarmament, human rights, environment, global health and international trade.

Who will be leading the training sessions?

Lecturers will include several senior members of the Institute's faculty including Professors Cédric Dupont and Urs Luterbacher, as well as experienced practitioners such as Nick Drager (former Director of the Department of Ethics, Equity, Trade and Human Rights, WHO), and Patrick Low (Director, Economic Research and Statistics Division, WTO). The programme will take place on the Institute's Barton campus on Lake Geneva.

What type of participants can benefit from this certificate?

Participants enrolled have an average of five to fifteen years' professional experience in global affairs, typically in international and non-governmental organisations as well as media. The programme is especially suited to the professional needs of diplomats, journalists, public affairs representatives, international civil servants, aspiring politicians and other related occupations.

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L'ÉGYPTOLOGIE À GENÈVE

PH. GERMOND, PRÉSIDENT DE LA SEG
(SOCIÉTÉ D'ÉGYPTOLOGIE)

M^{me} E. FLORET, RETRAITÉE DU HCR

Quatre ans après avoir déchiffré les hiéroglyphes, Jean-François Champollion séjourna brièvement à Genève (17-20 octobre 1826) où il dressa le Catalogue manuscrit des antiquités égyptiennes de Genève, décrivant une cinquantaine d'objets appartenant au Musée académique. Tel fut le point de départ d'une collection qui, grâce à des libéralités et des dons au cours du XIX^e siècle et au début du XX^e, s'enrichit encore de pièces majeures dans les années 1950 et 1980, pour devenir la collection la plus importante de Suisse.

Le Genevois Édouard Naville (1844-1926), égyptologue de renommée internationale, s'illustra par la publication d'ouvrages fon-

damentaux et par ses fouilles menées en Égypte sous l'égide de la célèbre association anglaise: l'Egypt Exploration Fund. Parfait connaisseur de la religion égyptienne, brillant philologue et archéologue, il est à l'origine du développement académique de l'égyptologie genevoise dont la continuité est aujourd'hui assurée par l'Unité d'égyptologie et copte du Département des sciences de l'antiquité de l'Université.

Benjamine des institutions, la Société d'Égyptologie, Genève, fondée en 1978, remplit une importante mission scientifique en publiant recherches et travaux de chercheurs étrangers et suisses, tout en proposant au grand public une connaissance générale de l'ancienne Égypte et des plus récentes découvertes. Soulignons que les conférences qu'elle propose, publiques et



gratuites, sont ouvertes à tous, permettant de fructueux échanges entre les étrangers résidant à Genève et le public genevois.

L'égyptologie genevoise s'articule ainsi autour de trois institutions aux vocations multiples, mais idéalement complémentaires: le Musée d'art et d'histoire, l'Université et la Société d'égyptologie, Genève. ■

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UMEF

IRRÉELLE RANDONNÉE DANS LE DÉSERT BLANC

Le numéro de juin 2009
d'*UN Special* nous dévoilait
le Désert blanc en Égypte,
sa géographie, son histoire
géologique, ses roches aux
couleurs incomparables,
attisant ma curiosité pour
une autre formule de vacances:
le trek dans le désert.

TEXTE & PHOTOS JOËLLE MENETREY, OMS
Nous arrivons au Caire alors que les ombres
s'allongent. Ville grouillante, bruyante, em-
brumée, saturée de véhicules. Les klaxons
s'en donnent à cœur joie, sans crainte des
policiers qui tentent vainement de faire un
semblant de circulation. Les voitures s'en-
trecroisent, semblent presque vouloir se
pousser les unes les autres. Va-et-vient in-
fernal, où les piétons sont loin d'être rois!
On peut remarquer bon nombre de modèles
rutilants côtoyant des guimbardes cabossées
de toutes parts. Dans cet enchevêtrement de
roues se faufilent clopin-cloplant des chevaux
attelés à des charrettes remplies de légumes

savamment arrangés, d'herbe ou de plantes,
de cages empilées où les poules caquettent
à qui mieux mieux – du moins le devine-t-on
car les cinq voies de circulation bondées oc-
casionnent un bruit assourdissant.

Au matin, visite incontournable des pyra-
mides de Guizèh. De mémoire de touristes
récidivistes, nous serons les premiers à les
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tion, cela a pour avantage de nous cacher les
habitations, envahissantes voisines de ces té-
moignages d'un mythique passé; la ville petit
à petit a grignoté le sable même jusqu'à ne
laisser que l'«espace vital» où le Sphinx doit

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Premier contact avec le désert: quarante-cinq minutes de marche alors que la nuit tombe. Notre lampe frontale sortie de la «trousse de scout» s'avère déjà utile. Nous atteignons enfin notre premier bivouac. Assez ardu pour des novices de monter une tente munis d'une lampe de poche puis ensabler son pourtour pour prévenir du vent, faisant abstraction de la crainte de tout petits mais belliqueux habitants des sables. Mais quelle récompense! Mon réveil impromptu, vers 3 heures du matin, me donne tout loisir d'admirer notre campement sous une kyrielle d'étoiles, dans un silence minéral. La lune ne se montre pas, mais elle donne une luminosité sans pareil, faisant naître un indicible sentiment de sérénité. L'envie me prend, vite réfrénée par la fraîcheur de l'air, de terminer ma nuit à la belle étoile!

Le jour pointe à peine. Il fait frais, presque froid. Aucun bruit ne vient troubler ce premier matin précurseur d'une expérience unique. Tout le monde dort encore, excepté les chameaux; l'un puise nonchalamment dans son sac de provision d'herbe alors que l'autre relève la tête et m'observe. Le ciel se teinte de rose, petit à petit les collines de calcaire s'animent sous cette lumière irréelle et mouvante. Le campement s'éveille, s'étire. Le cuisinier et le guide s'activent à préparer le petit-déjeuner tandis que nous effectuons une toilette sommaire avant de plier notre précaire habitat. Sur une table

basse entourée de matelas à même le sol s'étalent petits fromages, beurre de cacahouète, confitures de figues ou de fraises, oranges, tranches de biscuits roulés et cookies, lait et café en poudre, thé... sans oublier les typiques galettes, tièdes à souhait.

Enfin notre caravane se met en mouvement et l'excitation nous gagne. Nous allons découvrir ces panoramas grandioses que l'on dit uniques. «On» n'a pas menti: les premiers pas nous propulsent déjà bien loin de notre perception du désert. L'horizon est barré par une chaîne de petites montagnes. La vaste étendue que nous traversons est striée tantôt de plaques blanches, étincelantes, tantôt d'une mer de sable aux crêtes noires et tourmentées. Une pause-dattes, offertes par notre guide Mahmoud, est acceptée avec enthousiasme sur un promontoire de pierre sombre et scintillante où le sable blond a annexé chaque interstice. Nous découvrons alors le Wadi Hennis, une palmeraie aux arbres épars, desséchés. Quelques intrépides aux troncs déjà ensevelis ont résisté au vent, à la sécheresse, et leur vert se détache d'autant dans ce paysage doré.

L'oasis d'Ain Khadra plante le décor de notre premier déjeuner nomade. De grands tapis sont déjà installés par notre équipe de bivouac; fort heureusement, car cette ronde palmeraie verdoyante est très convoitée. La moindre parcelle est occupée par d'autres

groupes de touristes. L'endroit, avec sa légendaire source d'eau chaude jaillie du tréfonds des sables, procure un merveilleux moment de détente avant de reprendre la piste et de rendre une petite visite à un acacia vieux de plus de 600 ans.

Nous pénétrons dans le «Sahara el Gedida» où les crayeuses sculptures ont pris les aspects les plus insolites. L'imagination n'est pas en reste: on devine chien, iguane, tortue, requin ou silhouette agrémentant notre marche de discussions animées.

Nous atteignons le campement juste avant que le soleil ne se couche. Ses rayons jouent sur les roches en teintes rosées, violines, décor féérique et captivant. La nuit tombe vite. Agenouillés ou accroupis autour de la table basse, nous prenons l'apéritif composé de thé à la menthe ou de carcadet – boisson à base de fleur d'hibiscus – et de cacahouètes. Puis nous nous régalons du dîner, préparé par Mohamed qui va nous suivre – ou plutôt nous devancer – tout au long de nos pérégrinations. Il nous dit avoir appris la cuisine dans le désert, au fil des randonnées. Outre ses talents culinaires, il parle français, anglais, et répète avec une facilité déconcertante tous les mots que nous lui insufflons; chaque fois que nous devons lever le camp, il a pour habitude de dire «c'est parti!». Lui ayant précisé que l'expression populaire est «c'est parti mon kiki», il nous la «servira» à



chaque départ, avec des intonations accentuées sur «c'est» et «mon» qui mettront en joie toute la troupe.

Au loin Néfertiti suit notre progression, tandis qu'un couple de lions, figé, tient conciliabule. Chaque étape dévoile un nouveau décor, des sols toujours différents. Tantôt nos pieds foulent le sable qui enfonce, semble vouloir nous retenir un peu dans ces lieux féeriques; notre corps paraît lourd – difficile alors d'oublier ce petit sac à dos qui souvent nous donnera l'impression, surtout après trois heures de marche, de subir un entraînement forcé. Tantôt nous rencontrons un sol résistant, de la pierre ou du calcaire solidifié: quel plaisir alors d'avoir cette sensation de légèreté! Du rocher au plus petit caillou fossilisé, ils prennent vie devant nous, trésors aux formes étranges, aux couleurs changeantes sous l'assaut du soleil ou de la lune qui nous veillera désormais toutes les nuits, dardant ses pleins rayons sur notre campement et créant des silhouettes fantasmagoriques.

Un matin de grand vent, l'avancée est pénible, le souffle me manque, et la proposition d'une petite balade à dos de chameau est la bienvenue. Tandis que les marcheurs se dirigent vers un point de vue, notre minicaravane poursuit sa route. Nous nous trouvons sur un plateau de sable fin et moelleux, ceinturé de monts, où les pieds des dromadaires marquent de profondes empreintes. Impulsif et fugace sentiment d'être l'unique détentrice de ce coin de paradis.

Le retour à la vie moderne, son bruit, ses cris – si différents des chants des bédouins – ne nous enchante guère, pour l'instant. Une halte bienfaisante dans les bains d'eau chaude naturelle à Bawati, dans l'oasis de Baharya, nous en fournira la transition indispensable. Dans un grand bassin, à l'air libre, des hommes se savonnent, se frictionnent. Les uns sourient de notre intrusion, les autres sont gênés. Nous passons bien vite et nous attendrons qu'il soit libéré de ses occupants pour nous y installer. Dans le jardin attenant est aménagé un coin pique-

nique jonché de couvertures, au milieu des palmiers. Quel endroit enchanteur! Le jardinier nous propose des dattes fraîchement cueillies puis, avec un grand sourire, nous invite à tenter l'ascension de l'arbre nourricier, mais l'exercice de la dégustation des fruits mûrs à souhait nous motive beaucoup plus. Nous prolongerions bien volontiers cet instant entre deux univers.

Le khamsin peut souffler sur le désert, il peut modifier à loisir ces roches et ces espaces minéraux, mais il ne pourra effacer de nos mémoires cet intense sentiment de sérénité et de beauté inviolable, cette émotion dont notre esprit n'a pu encore relâcher l'étreinte. ■

SUISSE – VALAIS

CABANE BERTOL



elle était tentée par le Valais. Après examen de passage, les membres du comité des cabanes de la section neuchâteloise du Club Alpin Suisse la choisiront.

Inaugurée le 7 août 1898, la cabane Bertol subira différents travaux d'agrandissement durant quatre-vingts ans avant d'être complètement reconstruite en 1976. Depuis, elle ne cesse d'être transformée afin d'améliorer les conditions de travail du gardien et bien sûr le bien-être de ses pensionnaires. Sur quatre niveaux, cinq dortoirs bien équipés peuvent recevoir quatre-vingts personnes et une chaleureuse salle à manger panoramique permet, tout en profitant d'une vue exceptionnelle sur les glaciers, de déguster la bonne cuisine familiale proposée. Ici, pas de conserves. Soupes, viandes, gratins, légumes, tartes et gâteaux sont préparés dans les cuisines de la cabane. Toutes les matières

Depuis 1984, la Patrouille des Glaciers attire tous les chevronnés de ski alpinisme pour s'affronter dans cette mythique course, longue de 53 kilomètres, qui relie la station de ski de Zermatt à celle de Verbier.

TEXTE & PHOTOS CLAUDE MAILLARD

La Patrouille des Glaciers a des origines militaires. Durant la seconde guerre mondiale, l'armée suisse met en place une course réservée à ses soldats pour tester leurs capacités. La première édition a lieu en 1943 et dix-huit patrouilles de trois skieurs sont engagées. Durant quelques années l'épreuve n'est plus organisée et c'est le 10 avril 1949 qu'elle revoit le jour. Malheureusement, un terrible accident sur un glacier coûtera la vie à trois participants et la course fût interdite jusqu'en 1984, année de sa résurrection qui donnera également la possibilité aux civils d'y participer.

D'un dénivelé de 8084 mètres, la course se déroule tous les deux ans. La dernière édition qui a eu lieu fin avril 2010 a vu la

victoire de l'équipe composée de Florent Troillet, Martin Anthamatten et Yannick Ecoeur qui ont par là même établi un nouveau record de cinq heures et cinquante-deux minutes (le dernier record qui datait de 2006 a été amélioré de vingt-sept minutes!).

Haut lieu de la manifestation, le col Bertol culmine à 3279 mètres. Il est au 20^e kilomètre, juste avant de descendre sur le village d'Arolla situé 1300 mètres plus bas dans le val d'Hérens.

Dominant le col Bertol, la cabane Bertol trône sur un éperon rocheux à 3311 mètres d'altitude. Depuis l'an passé, Anne-Marie Dolivet s'en est vu confier la gestion. Gardienne de refuge depuis 1983 dans les Alpes françaises,

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premières proviennent du Valais... tout comme les vins (Dôle, Humagne, Gamay, Fendant...) fort appréciés par tous... mais à boire avec modération surtout si «d'escalade» à la cabane Bertol précède l'escalade d'un sommet environnant.

A l'est notre regard est attiré par la Dent Blanche (4357 m), le Cervin (4477 m) et la Dent D'Hérens (4171 m). Au sud, on aperçoit la Tête Blanche (3724 m), la chaîne des Bouquetins et l'arête de Bertol. Avec le petit Mont Collon et le Pigne d'Arolla à l'ouest et les Douves Blanches au nord, la vue depuis la terrasse de la cabane est superbe.

Via la cabane des Vignettes située au pied du Pigne d'Arolla, la cabane Bertol est accessible depuis Chamonix par un des itinéraires de la Haute Route Chamonix-Zermatt. En huit heures il est également possible de rejoindre la cabane suisse depuis le refuge de Prarayer construit dans le haut val de Bionaz (Italie). Deux heures de plus seront nécessaires en partant de Zermatt (1614 m), mais c'est depuis Arolla qui culmine à 1968 mètres que Paul, notre accompagnateur, nous fera découvrir les joies de la randonnée et... de l'escalade. Après avoir longé la Borgne qui prend sa source au pied



du glacier d'Arolla, l'ascension débute sur le versant opposé au glacier, avec une magnifique vue sur celui-ci. En fait, ce glacier situé près de la frontière avec l'Italie regroupe deux glaciers distincts, le glacier du Mont Collon (nommé aussi «Bas glacier d'Arolla») et le «Haut glacier d'Arolla». A eux deux, ils couvrent une surface de 7 km² et s'étendent sur une longueur de 6 km. Dans sa partie supérieure, le glacier mesure 1 km de large.

A mi-chemin, après avoir passé devant la Vierge bleue, le chalet des Plans de Bertol (2664 m) donne l'occasion de souffler un peu et de jeter un dernier regard sur le glacier.

Depuis là on peut apercevoir, tout là-haut, la cabane Bertol... et on doit se rendre à l'évidence que le plus dur reste à faire. Une heure trente sera nécessaire pour traverser

un névé très abrupt avant d'atteindre le but final. Crampons, piolet et corde seront utiles car une malencontreuse glissade pourrait nous faire sauter une barre rocheuse. Mais le thé de bienvenue offert à tout pensionnaire de la cabane Bertol n'est pas encore pour tout de suite! Une récente chute de rocher a eu la mauvaise idée de défoncer une partie de la passerelle qui permettait d'accéder au sommet... et c'est là que vont commencer les joies de l'escalade! Sujets au vertige s'abstenir...

Finalement, suivant les conseils de M. Paul, l'arrivée bien au chaud dans la cabane Bertol se fera (presque) sans encombre et une belle nuit près des étoiles, face au géant Cervin nous réconciliera avec la montagne. ■

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POURQUOI NE PAS LE FAIRE?

LES CINQUE TERRE – PATRIMOINE MONDIAL DE L'HUMANITÉ



1/3 – Le sentier Azzuro

C'est le sentier qui relie les villages de Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza et Monterosso. Ce sentier (n° 2) est le plus parcouru des Cinque Terre. Il suit, à travers les oliviers et les vignes, le bord de mer au plus près avec des vues inoubliables sur les villages et les criques. Il n'est pas difficile, mais long, avec plusieurs centaines d'escaliers à monter et à descendre. Sa longueur annoncée officielle est de 10 kilomètres et 550 mètres de dénivelé auxquels il faut ajouter les kilomètres à chaque village traversé car chacun mérite une visite. A mon GPS cela faisait un total de 14 kilomètres, 600 mètres de dénivelé en six heures, visites comprises. Retour en train ou en bateau.

Je vous propose deux randonnées à pied et une à VTT pour vous changer les idées, vous oxygéner et vous détresser.
N'oubliez pas: ne rien faire nuit à votre santé. Je vous souhaite des journées de marche et de détente agréables et ensoleillées.

TEXTE & PHOTOS ANDRÉ ROTACH

Le territoire des Cinque Terre, entre ciel et mer, comprend une bande de 15 kilomètres de longueur et de 3 kilomètres de largeur environ qui va de Punta Mesco à Punta Montenero. Les Cinque Terre sont cinq villages accrochés à la montagne. Ce territoire exceptionnel classé par l'UNESCO, patrimoine mondial de l'humanité en 1997 est aussi un parc national et une zone ma-

rine protégée. Cette dernière s'étend entre la Ligurie, la Corse et un bout de la Côte d'Azur. Les meilleurs mois pour visiter ce petit paradis sont avril et octobre. On peut visiter les cinq villages en train, en bus ou en bateau. L'abonnement de train et bus de un ou plusieurs jours reste le moyen de transport le plus pratique utilisable à volonté entre la Spezia et Levanto.

Pour plus de détails: *Cartoguide – édition française – Golfe du Tigullio et Cinque Terre.*
Indispensable: une carte des Cinque Terre

Ne pas oublier de vous équiper de bonnes chaussures de marche et de vêtements adaptés à l'altitude et à la saison.

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WHY NOT DO IT?

CINQUE TERRE – WORLD HERITAGE SITE



I am proposing a few small hikes of varying degrees of difficulty, to let you see new things, get some fresh air and relax a bit.

Don't forget: doing nothing is bad for your health. Here's hoping you have fun hiking in pleasant and sunny weather.

ANDRÉ ROTACH
(English translation by David Winch)

The area of Cinque Terre, Italy, between sky and sea, is a 15 kilometre long and 3 km wide strip from Punta Mesco to Punta Montenero. Cinque Terre is made up of five villages huddled along a mountainside. The area was named a UNESCO world heritage site in 1997. It is also a national park and a protected marine environment. The area stretches from Liguria to Corsica and the edge of the Côte

d'Azur. The best months to visit this little paradise are April and October. You can visit the five villages by train, bus or boat. Train or bus packages for one or several days remain the best option, and can be used throughout the region from Spezia to Levanto.

I am proposing two hikes on foot and one by mountain bike to get out, relax and lighten up a bit. Remember, doing nothing affects your health. Here's to sunny days walking and relaxing outdoors.



1/3 – Azzuro trail

This trail links the villages of Riomaggiore, Manarola, Corniglia, Vernazza and Monterosso. This path (No. 2) is the most frequented in Cinque Terre. It follows along, through olive groves and vineyards, the edge of the sea with unforgettable views of the villages and inlets. The route is not difficult but it is long, with several hundred stairways to go up and down. Officially, it is 10 kilometres with 550 metres change in altitude, but you have to add distance for the villages, each of which is worth visiting. By my GPS, it was 14 kilometres total, and 600 metres change in altitude over 6 hours, including visits. You can return by train or boat.

For more details: *Cartoguide – édition française – Golfe du Tigullio et Cinque Terre.*
Indispensable: a map of Cinque Terre

Don't forget to wear good hiking boots and weather-suitable clothing.

GOOD TREKKING! ■

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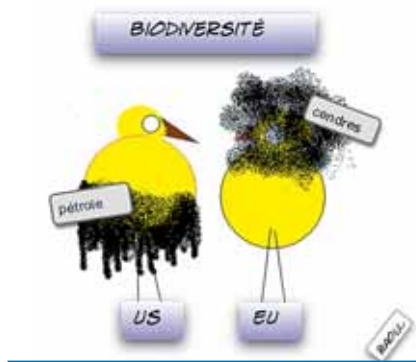
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Erratum

An article in the April issue on "The Internet" referred incorrectly to the internet originating at CERN. The first internet was invented at ARPA in the US in 1969 and the worldwide web was developed at CERN by Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau in 1990 and released free to everyone in 1993. The photo caption should read: Angela Brett with Robert Cailliau – co-inventor of the worldwide web, behind the first web server, black box and all. Apologies from the author: D. Roberts.



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