

UN Special

MAGAZINE DES FONCTIONNAIRES INTERNATIONAUX - THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS



UN Goodwill Ambassadors



From Refugee to
Goodwill Ambassador
Working for a world
without Leprosy
Interprète de conférence
The biggest plus
UN Special nominated for
an award



Think Healthcare Without BORDERS



For additional information,
please contact G.P.A.F.I.

Tel: +41 22 9172620 or 3946

E-Mail: gpafi@unog.ch



**UNIQA Partner
of G.P.A.F.I.**

International
Health Insurance
www.uniqa.ch

Think





GARRY ASLANYAN

Rédacteur en chef par intérim/interim Editor-in-chief

ÉDITORIAL

ENTRETIEN/INTERVIEW

The vision of the new WHO/UNAIDS/ICC/IARC Ombudsman	10
Una entrevista con Lenin Moreno	16

UN GOODWILL AMBASSADORS

From Refugee to Goodwill Ambassador	5
From Lebanon's civil war to the peace of the Amazon (Ambassador Ivonne-A-Baki)	6
Working for a World without Leprosy	8
Entrusted with a "License to save"	14
Public Faces of the United Nations	18

OMS&ONU/UNOG&WHO

UN Climate Change Conference	21
Portraits croisés	24
Innovation in the UN	26
ICDO opens landmark disaster safety hub	28
UN Special nominated for an award	42

SOCIÉTÉ/SOCIETY

What is your real origin	22
HUG-have the health of international Geneva at heart	32
The biggest plus	34
2015, Année internationale des Sols	46

NOUVELLE GÉNÉRATION/NEXT GENERATION

Nepal, once isn't enough	30
Breaking the rules	36
Malala, a child, a life changer	38
Diplomats Children and their experience	40

LOISIRS/LEISURE

Partager le plaisir de lire	39
Festival Chopin 2015	41
Chili (2 ^e partie)	44

Celebrities, awareness and call for action

No matter where one goes these days one sees a similar picture – people looking at their smartphones, tablets or laptops while having their coffee or tea (or whatever is the drink of choice). They follow celebrities on twitter, get their news from variety of sources, like or dislike Facebook posts, get into discussions with people they never met or will never meet. How do we work in this context? The power of their influence is still underestimated. When Angelina Jolie made the announcement about her double mastectomy that had a measurable, almost immediate, impact on the interest in and awareness of breast cancer. Millions learned more about Armenian Genocide just by following Kim Kardashian who has decided to put it in the spotlight. Celebrities have a choice, they could sell their perfumes or clothes, they could sell diets, or they could do social good, like for the UN. So we adapt. If celebrities could help us – UN and its agencies – in achieving our goals, why would we not capitalize on that? We have tried to give you a little sense of some of the UN Goodwill Ambassadors, how and why they got involved. In the core of each choice is a personal story and interest. The output is similar – spotlight on the issue and call for action. And as always, we have many other amazing articles for you to enjoy in this issue.

Des célébrités, une prise de conscience et un appel à l'action

Ces jours-ci, où que l'on aille on assiste à la même scène: des gens qui consultent leurs smartphones, leurs tablettes ou leurs ordinateurs portables en sirotant leur thé, leur café ou toute autre boisson. Ils suivent les actualités de célébrités sur twitter, «like», ou pas, des posts sur Facebook, entrent en discussion avec des gens qu'ils n'ont jamais rencontrés ou qu'ils ne rencontreront jamais. Comment cela affecte-t-il notre travail? Le pouvoir d'influence des célébrités reste sous-estimé. Lorsqu'Angelina Jolie a rendu publique sa double mastectomie, on a presque immédiatement pu mesurer l'impact de cette annonce sur le niveau d'intérêt et de prise de conscience concernant le cancer du sein. Une autre fois, ce sont des millions de personnes en ont appris plus sur le génocide arménien juste en suivant Kim Kardashian qui avait décidé d'attirer l'attention sur ce sujet. Les célébrités ont le choix: elles peuvent vendre des parfums, des habits, des régimes; elles peuvent aussi s'engager pour le bien de tous, en faveur des Nations Unies par exemple. Alors on s'adapte. Si des célébrités peuvent nous aider, nous aux Nations Unies et ses agences, à atteindre nos objectifs, pourquoi ne pas en tirer profit? Dans ce numéro, nous avons tenté de vous apporter quelques éléments sur comment et pourquoi des ambassadeurs de bonne volonté des Nations Unies se sont impliqués. Chacun de leurs choix sont motivés par une histoire et un intérêt personnels. Les résultats sont similaires: attirer la lumière sur un sujet et lancer un appel à l'action. Et comme toujours, nous vous proposons beaucoup d'autres histoires étonnantes pour votre plaisir.

Revue des fonctionnaires internationaux des Nations Unies à Genève et de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé

Magazine of the international civil servants of the United Nations at Geneva and of the World Health Organization



Cover, from left to right

Charlize Theron Focus area: Prevention of HIV.
UN Photo/Evan Schneider
Jane Goodall. Focus area: Conservation.
UN Photo/Jess Hoffman
Edward Norton. Focus area: Biodiversity.
UN Photo/Mark Garten
Michael Douglas Focus area: Disarmament
UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz
Stevie Wonder Focus area: Persons with Disabilities.
UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras
HRH Princess Haya. Focus area: Hunger and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
UN Photo/Mark Garten

Leonardo DiCaprio Focus area: Climate change.
UN Photo/Mark Garten
Lang Lang Focus area: Global education.
UN Photo/Amanda Voisard
Midori Focus area: Youth and Millennium Development Goals. UN Photo/Mark Garten
Paulo Coelho Focus area: Poverty and Intercultural dialogue. Photo by Nrkbeta. Wikimedia. Commons
Yo-Yo Ma Focus area: Youth.
UN Photo/Marco Castro
Daniel Barenboim Focus area: Peace and Tolerance.
UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras
Elie Wiesel. Focus area: Human Rights.
UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

DESTINATION VALLÉE DE CHAMONIX MONT-BLANC



MONT BLANC
Unlimited

VISITES & SKI SAFARI SUR 3 PAYS

VISITS & SKI SAFARI IN 3 COUNTRIES



CHAMONIX
RapidCard

**L'ABONNEMENT ANNUEL QUI VOUS GARANTIT
LE MEILLEUR PRIX SKI ET VISITE À LA JOURNÉE**

**THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION THAT GUARANTEES YOU
THE BEST DAILY RATE FOR SKIING / VISITS**

Achats & Informations sur / Online purchase & Information on :

www.compagniedumontblanc.com



GRANDS MONTETS - BRÉVENT - FLÉGÈRE - BALME - TOUR - VALLORCINE - LES HOUCHES - SAINT-GERVAIS
AIGUILLE DU MIDI - MONTENVERS - MER DE GLACE - TRAMWAY DU MONT-BLANC

From refugee to Goodwill Ambassador



© Alexander Petrenko

A Palestinian refugee camp is an unlikely start for an Arab idol, but such is the home of UN Goodwill Ambassador Mohammed Assaf who performed at a benefit concert at the Beau Rivage in Geneva in the early part of June. His career was launched in 2013 when Assaf, a talented and ambitious singer, was the winner of “Arab Idol”, the Arabic television show based on the popular British show Pop Idol.

VERONICA RIEMER, WHO

Shortly after his success, he was named a Goodwill Ambassador for peace by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which provides educational, health and financial support for more than 5 million Palestinian refugees in camps in the four host territories: Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza. Assaf’s story is one of a struggle against odds, survival and achievement, a story that has inspired young people in the Arab world, given them hope, courage, and egged them on to persevere.

Assaf, who was born to Palestinian parents in Libya and grew up in Gaza’s Khan Younis refugee camp, almost didn’t get to compete. Leaving Gaza to travel through Egypt to competition venue in Lebanon was very challenging upon arrival, a fellow Palestinian gave up his slot during the audition phase because he believed Assaf had a better chance of winning.

His performance was acclaimed by the jury and the public. His victory received world-wide coverage from the media and was welcomed with joy by Palestinians and the rest of the Arab world. Since his UN appointment in June 2013, by Commissioner-General Filippo Grandi, the 26-year-

old has used his voice and his talent to help UNRWA give other young people the same support it gave him. With the universal language of his music, he carries the message of UNRWA and young Palestine refugees to new audiences, including those in Geneva who were enchanted by his concert of Arabic and folkloric songs.

“Music does bring people together. It allows us to experience the same emotions” he said in an interview with the *UN Special*. “People everywhere are the same in heart and spirit. No matter what language we speak, what colour we are, the form of our politics or the expression of our love and our faith, music proves: We are the same.”

The concert held at the Beau Rivage Hotel on 3 June was enthusiastically supported by an international crowd including a large number of his young fans. The event was opened by UNRWA Commissioner General Pierre Krahenbuhl who invited the audience to support UNRWA in overcoming its financial deficit and to continue supporting its crucial health, education and micro finance projects serving the needs of 5.5 million Palestine refugees in the region.

Assaf spoke passionately about his personal experience as an UNRWA refugee, attending UNRWA schools where his mother and sister both have served as teachers. He expressed his great pleasure in serving an agency that helped him and his family survive the harsh living circumstances in Khan Yunis, in Gaza Strip and the honour bestowed upon him as a Goodwill Ambassador. “I am intensely proud of everything I have achieved because it gives hope to others” he said. “I feel that I broke the barriers – I took my courage and showed what could be done. I hope that I am able to lead the path for other Arab youngsters to follow, to bring peace and prosperity to this unstable and troubled region”.

All funds raised during the concert will be used for UNRWA’s operations in Gaza. ■

From Lebanon's civil war to the peace of the Amazon UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Ambassador Ivonne A-Baki

Some know her as a politician, while others know her as a peace negotiator and renowned artist. Ambassador Ivonne A-Baki wears several hats, each of them as interesting as the last, and her distinguished career spans decades, continents and issue areas. Amongst these diverse endeavours, one can distinguish a common thread: the pursuit of peace.

AIIMEE LACE, UNITAR

Born in Ecuador to Lebanese parents, Ambassador Baki's passion for peace can be traced to her childhood experiences in the Lebanese Civil War and greatly shaped her artistic career and her political ventures. She recalls the bullets and the unrest in Lebanon as the civil war progressed, and thought deeply at a young age about what it would mean to bring peace to her country. She turned to art, communicating social themes through paint. As an artist-in-residence at Harvard University, she promoted art as a means of building bridges between people and countries. Her interest in peace led her into the realm of politics, and she held several distinguished positions within the government of Ecuador, including positions such as Ecuador's Minister of Foreign Trade, Industry, Regional Integration, Fisheries, and Competitiveness, Ambassador of Ecuador to the United States, and candidate for the presidency of Ecuador. Additionally, she was appointed as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, and through this role continues to inspire the young and old alike by sharing her experiences and casting a vision for a more peaceful world.

The inaugural Reading Room Stories event at the UNOG Library on 19 June 2015 featured Ambassador Baki, and she inspired the audience with exactly what the event's name implies: her stories. She shared stories of Lebanon during the Civil War, when Ambassador Baki first turned to art as a way to convey her emotions and advocate for peace. The audience listened with rapt attention as she recounted stories of phone calls from governments asking for her help and that of her professor, Dr. Roger Fischer, in facilitating difficult negotiations. Stories of the peace negotiations between those Ecuador and Peru over Amazonian territory, Ambassador Baki noting that she was the only woman in the room during these discussions, inspired many questions from audience members and highlighted Ambassador Baki's pioneering experiences as a woman active in political negotiations.

Speaking from her political and peace negotiation career, Ambassador Baki shared several conclusions regarding what makes a negotiation successful when peace is on the line. She emphasized the importance of having the right people at the negotiation table, those who



Ambassador Baki addressing the audience at the inaugural Reading Room Stories event at the UNOG Library, 19 June 2015.

represent all parties involved and who hold the power to implement agreements. Additionally, she is an advocate for including women in the peace process because, as she mentioned at the Reading Room Stories event, women are often better equipped to see both sides of an issue. She also noted the importance of the physical set-up of the negotiation table. For example, in the case of the negotiations between Ecuador and Peru, she told of how the delegates were seated and how this was a critical component of the negotiation: the delegates were seated, Ecuadorian, Peruvian, Ecuadorian, Peruvian, and this set-up facilitated friendly interactions and contributed to a breakdown of prejudice and resentment. The

inclusion of parties and their physical positioning are important, but, as she pointed out, trust between the contending parties is the critical factor in a successful negotiation. This is precisely what she seeks to build as she works.

Ambassador Baki continues to actively promote peace through her work as the Chief Negotiator for the Yasuni-ITT initiative, which seeks to preserve Ecuador's Yasuni National Park against the threat of oil exploitation.

In a world that desperately needs peace, Ambassador Baki is an inspiration for the next generation of peace-makers – those who will step up in turn to craft a peace that endures. ■



SWEDISH LUXURY FOR DIPLOMATS

The all-new XC90 is the most luxurious Volvo ever made. It's bold, yet not brash. It's powerful and confident in an elegant and understated way. It's intuitive to interact with, because everything we do is designed around people. Explore the new Swedish icon.

If you are a diplomat, expat or have tax-free status at an international organisation, you are eligible to exclusive benefits when ordering your new Volvo.

TEST DRIVE THE **ALL-NEW VOLVO XC90**



Working for a world without leprosy

Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for leprosy elimination, takes with him three messages wherever he goes: leprosy is curable. Treatment is free. Social discrimination has no place.



Sasakawa at Nizamabad

**PEMMARAJU RANGANADHA RAO, LAURA GILLINI,
GLOBAL LEPROSY PROGRAMME WHO**

Serving as Goodwill Ambassador since 2001, he visits countries still afflicted by the disease. Over 200 000 people are affected with leprosy each year and if it goes untreated, can result in permanent disability.

In his advocacy role, 76-year-old Sasakawa meets with presidents and prime ministers, policy makers and program managers, grassroots health workers and people affected by leprosy. His goal is keep leprosy on the health agenda, disseminate correct information about the disease and mobilize support for people affected by leprosy, who are often among society's most marginalized members.

His messaging is clear and consistent – he abhors, in particular, use of the discriminatory term “leper” and its equivalent in other languages by the media – and he always makes a point of seeing for himself the circumstances in which people affected by leprosy live and listening to their stories.

Sasakawa, who is chairman of The Nippon Foundation, Japan's biggest grant making organization, resolved to tackle the disease after visiting a leprosarium in South Korea with his father in the 1960s. Decades before he was appointed Goodwill Ambassador, he had already ensured The Nippon Foundation support to the fight against leprosy through WHO.

Based on the effectiveness of a new treatment called multidrug therapy (MDT) introduced in the 1980s, the World Health Assembly in 1991 passed a resolution to eliminate leprosy as a public health problem globally by 2000. Extending his support for this effort, Sasakawa underwrote the free distribution of MDT for five years between 1995 and 1999.

The target was reached at global level in the year 2000 and at national level in the year 2005 with the exception of a few nations. However every year new cases of the disease continue to occur and people

affected by the disease still face discrimination. This restricts their opportunities – and even those of their children – for education, employment, marriage and full participation in society.

To symbolize the fight against the disease, the Goodwill Ambassador often uses the example of a motorbike: “The front wheel represents curing the disease; the rear wheel symbolizes eliminating discrimination. Unless both wheels turn at the same speed, we will not eliminate leprosy and its consequences.” This clear image has caught on among various stakeholders, including national governments. It has helped to focus attention on the fact that treating leprosy must go beyond a medical cure and also address restoration of human dignity and full social and economic empowerment.

As Goodwill Ambassador, Sasakawa has increasingly advocated for more efforts to be put towards addressing social aspects

LINDEGGER
O P T I Q U E
maîtres opticiens
COURS DE RIVE 15 - GENEVA - 022 735 29 11

*your best eyesight is through
our eyewear and care*

optic - optometry - eyewear - instruments - contact lenses

of the disease, the rear wheel of the motorcycle. In 2003, he approached the United Nations to draw its attention to leprosy as an issue of human rights. This led to a groundbreaking resolution adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly in 2010 on Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

In 2006, he launched an annual Global Appeal to end stigma and discrimination against people affected by leprosy, endorsed by world leaders and Nobel laureates. In the years since, he has mobilized faith leaders, educators, the medical profession, the legal profession, human rights organizations and others to support the appeal. Among is the Dalai Lama, who accompanied Sasakawa on a visit to a leprosy colony in India last year.

Underpinning his efforts is the Goodwill Ambassador's belief that empowering people affected by leprosy is ultimately the most effective way to end the discrimination they face. In India, which accounts for more than half of all new cases of the

disease, he supported the formation of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy, which serves as a platform for its members to engage with local and central government officials on issues ranging from housing to pensions.

Conscious also that the front ("medical") wheel of the motorcycle needs to keep turning if we are to cover the "last mile" of leprosy elimination, he called for countries that still report over 1,000 new cases of leprosy each year to reaffirm their commitment to leprosy control at an International Leprosy Summit he hosted with WHO in Thailand in 2013. The resulting "Bangkok Declaration" signed by the Secretaries of health of 17 countries around the world is designed to inject fresh momentum into leprosy control efforts as new case numbers have plateaued in recent years.

Sasakawa believes that one day leprosy will be a thing of the past. But in working to eliminate the disease and the social prejudice it attracts, he does not wish to eliminate memories of leprosy altogether. He believes there are important human

rights lessons learnt in the fight against this disease to be used by succeeding generations to improve public health actions along with human rights. The Global Leprosy Program of WHO is fortunate to have such an indefatigable and far-sighted Goodwill Ambassador. ■

The authors acknowledge the Nippon Foundation for the review and input to this article

Grange & Cie SA, one of the oldest real estate agencies of Geneva, expands its business to Nyon

François-Louis Grange, native from Nyon, founded the Grange & Carey real estate agency in Geneva in 1869. Since then, five generations have managed this family business, initiator in 1879, of the Société des Régisseurs de Genève, which has since then become USPI Geneva.

In 1937, Grange & Cie SA purchased the real estate agency Sautter in Nyon. It was specialized in managing large agricultural and equestrian lands and had developed a portfolio of properties and residential lots.

Grange & Cie SA leaves Nyon in 1954 in order to focus its real estate business in the heart of Geneva and develop its management, brokerage and housing development activities. Grange & Cie SA who's capital action is wholly owned by the family, counts today 80 employees. Led jointly by four partners, the company has managed to grow while maintaining a human scale, a family and dynamic spirit, cultivating values like customer respect, transparency, rigorous professionalism and strong expertise.

Proximity is also part of the company's fundamental values, and that is why, after opening an agency and recently an arcade in Carouge, the company chose to return to Nyon by opening an agency, rue

de la Gare 7, with the idea to expand its management and brokerage activities on vaud territory.

In a second phase, the property management department will be implemented in brand new offices, on a total surface of 350 m², in a building under construction located just at the entrance of Nyon.

The new brokerage activity in Nyon is directed by Fabien Risse who benefits from a large experience of the area for having worked in the region for many years. Thanks to many years of success, Grange & Cie SA benefits from a large network. The company is actually one of the founding partners of the Courtiers Partenaires network, in which one of the basic concepts is to establish close cooperation, in means of sales, between the members. Currently, the partnership is a real success and offers time saving, a larger choice of properties, and increased transparency to clients.

"LA VOIE ROMAINE" A MAJOR PROJECT IN NYON

Grange & Cie SA, associated to a group of investors, is the initiator of a major project in Nyon and has been entrusted the sale of condominium apartments as well as the management of numerous



Left: The Amphithéâtre – Administrative building in which will be located the future Nyon agency. Upper right: Les Colannes – Condominium facing the Parc du Reposoir. Bottom right: Fabien Risse – Head of Nyon brokerage department.



rental buildings. Part of the building has emerged and already 90 apartments were sold at an attractive price of approximately CHF 7'750.-/m². In total, over 550 condominium homes and rentals are expected in this new district offering an exceptional location. Surrounded by vineyards and fields, near the Parc du Reposoir, it sits just a few minutes from the motorway. The Voie Romaine will also comprise a primary school and a sports area. 20,000 m² of commercial surfaces will be assigned to administrative and commercial activ-

ities. At the end of the construction, some 2'000 people will live in this new district that will become a reference in the important development of the city and its surroundings.



Grange & Cie SA
7, rue de la Gare – 1260 Nyon
Tél. +41 22 365 92 00
Fax +41 22 365 92 01



© Gautam Basu/WHO

José Martínez-Aragón (right) and Catherine Michel-Baussay, of the WHO Office of the Ombudsman.

The vision of the new WHO/UNAIDS/ICC/IARC Ombudsman Promoting a ‘healthy’ workplace

José Martínez-Aragón joined as Ombudsman of the World Health Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations International Computing Centre (ICC) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), in January 2015. He speaks to UN Special about his vision and mandate of ensuring a better workplace for all staff.

GAUTAM BASU, WHO

A Spanish attorney specializing in alternative conflict resolution and mediation, José brings with him a wide repertoire of experience as mediator within the United Nations system and beyond. He moved to Geneva from Santiago, Chile, where he was Regional Ombudsman for the United Nations, responsible for all UN Secretariat staff in the Latin America and the Caribbean. Earlier he had been Principal Adviser to the European Ombudsman, an institution he joined soon after its creation in 1996.

Trust and shared values are key, says José

“As the WHO/UNAIDS/ICC/IARC Ombudsman, my mandate is to assist all staff in addressing work-related difficulties through informal channels including mediation,” José explains. But an Ombudsman’s role can begin even before there are visible signs of conflict, he adds. “Before taking up my current duties, I had the privilege of working as part of the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services (UNOMS) under the leadership of the UN Ombudsman, John Barkat, collaborating with extraordinarily talented colleagues such as the UN Regional Ombudsman based in Geneva, Louis Germain. One of the great lessons



GLION
INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

YOU GET AHEAD WHEN YOU START FROM TWO PLACES

For a truly international career, look no further than Glion. We are ranked in the top-three hospitality schools worldwide and, with our new London campus, we just got even better.

Our multicampus bachelor and postgraduate programs in event or hospitality management enable you to study both in Switzerland and London. It is a uniquely international degree which combines tradition and excellence with big-city opportunities.

www.glion.edu

Contact Rebecca Mars for more information about our campuses, programs and scholarships at swissrecruitment@glion.edu or +41 (0)21 989 2618.

Visit us on one of our next Open Days in Switzerland or London:
September 19th / October 24th / November 21st



© Gautam Basu/WHO

I learnt working for UNOMS is that, before a conflict arises, the Ombudsman can support preventive action by helping individuals, managers, teams and departments. Based on the information gathered as part of the work, the Ombudsman is in position to monitor trends, detect systemic issues and then advise the organization on remedial and preventive action.”

What then is José’s overarching objective as Ombudsman? “As a long-term goal, my objective is to develop and strengthen a workplace culture based on trust which upholds fundamental values such as respect, integrity, civility and non-discrimination.”

Pillars of a better working environment

To José, “respect, integrity, civility and non-discrimination” are the fundamental values for a healthy workplace that he envisages. José seeks to epitomize these values not only at work but also in personal disposition. Mild-mannered, suave and with a ready smile, José is quick to lend an attentive ear, is a patient listener, and brings an inextinguishable reassurance and affability to every conversation. José’s faith in his job comes from his belief in himself and “the goodness of others”, which inspires him to go about every task in earnest. “Soon after taking up my new duties in Geneva, I invited all staff members who would like to know my work better and learn what the Ombudsman can do for them to stop by my office,” he told *UN Special*. In line with this, he made town hall presentations on his role to all WHO,

UNAIDS and ICC staff. Those meetings were packed with attentive listeners.

His thinking goes beyond individual staff concerns to the impact he can have on the Organization’s culture and mindscape. “In fact, the leverage I can play to seek informal resolution comes exclusively from very simple aspects: the trust staff members give me and the confidence which Senior Management is willing to put in my office. But those simple aspects can make a big difference.”

Turning problems into opportunities

For José, the four underlining ethical principles that define the work of an Ombudsman are confidentiality, neutrality and impartiality, independence and informality. “The existence of different viewpoints in a workplace is normal, and can bring creativity and innovation. However, if those differences are not properly addressed, they can result in conflict, contributing to a negative working environment. The Ombudsman can provide assistance so that those problems can be rendered into opportunities leading to productive solutions, rather than stumbling blocks... The Office of the Ombudsman represents a commitment by WHO, UNAIDS, ICC and IARC to the well-being of their employees and to improvements in the policies, rules and practices that affect workplace environment.”

“By helping colleagues avoid or resolve conflict in the workplace, I shall help make it possible for them to have more space to focus on their substantive tasks and help people,” he says. And he is already buoyed by the response he has received in the past few months. “It is reassuring to meet colleagues all over the place who tell me that, having read my first message to all staff, they feel encouraged by my office and my willingness to meet every single one of them.”

What about the many challenges an Ombudsman faces at work? José agrees that the work of an Ombudsman can be both constructive and challenging because in the face of conflict it is not always possible to reach the ideal outcome. “But to be able to even realize the scope of the challenge constitutes a great step forward as we no longer feel lost, a common feature in such situations. I find most frustrating the sense of despair people sometimes feel which also makes them reluctant to

look for constructive ways out of a difficult situation.”

A fulfilling role to play

The Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services in WHO/UNAIDS/ICC/IARC is a small team comprising José and his assistant, Catherine Michel-Baussay. Catherine has been in the office since 2008, and diligently abides by the crucial covenants of confidentiality, impartiality and discretion in dealing with all requests from staff.

“It has been a privilege for me to work in the Office of the Ombudsman. It is rewarding to have a proactive and constructive approach, at both the individual and organizational levels, towards continuous improvement. I strongly believe that it is healthy for an organization to offer a safe space to all staff, to enable them to voice their work-related concerns without fear of retaliation. At the same time, it is healthy for an organization to have a voice from inside to know what works well and what could be improved. Contributing to mutual respect and a healthy working environment is fulfilling,” said Catherine.

Gamut of global experience

Graduating in law from the University of Barcelona, Spain, José Martínez-Aragón obtained dual Masters degrees from Yale and Pace universities, having also completed specialized courses at Harvard and Stanford. Accredited as a mediator in three countries (France, UK and USA), José is also an active member of several international associations of ombudsmen and mediators. These include the International Ombudsman Association (IOA), whose members elected him to its directorial board. The IOA has certified him as an “Organizational Ombudsman Practitioner”.

Balancing work and family

Work-life balance is of importance in the UN system. José feels it is important to keep the right balance between professional obligations and family life (“sometimes it is very difficult to make time for our personal well-being and that of our family”) and to separate the two. “I try to put into practice the classical Latin saying *Mens Sana in corpore sano* (sound mind in sound body),” he added with a smile. ■

For more information on WHO/UNAIDS/ICC/IARC Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services, click: <http://intranet.who.int/homes/omb/>

VISION LASER

VISION LASER, centre of excellence for eye surgery.

You probably already know of Vision Laser, a centre for refractive surgery which opened its doors over 12 years ago. It has recently been revamped to integrate Centre Vision, and now benefits from even newer technological advancements.

What is Vision Laser?

Vision Laser is the first centre for corrective laser eye surgery in Geneva. Myopia, hypermetropia, astigmatism and even presbyopia can be treated with this procedure.

The Vision Laser team is made up of surgeons who are specialized in laser surgery, an optometrist and an orthoptist.

How does it work?

Laser surgery was born in the 1980s. Technological advancements have made this type of surgery accessible to nearly all people with a sight defect. The surgery is quick, safe and painless, and allows you to resume your normal daily activities the very next day.

What are the criteria for operating?

At Vision Laser, we welcome you to come for a first consultation: this is a free appointment to undergo tests to determine whether you are eligible for the surgery.

Whether you are operable depends on your refractive error and your cornea. You will meet your surgeon during a second appointment at the centre, where he will explain the exact procedure of the operation.

Who can come to the centre for a consultation?

Everyone is welcome to come and find out if they are eligible. The operation is possible for young people (over the age of 21) as well as those with presbyopia. Everything depends on the structure of your eye.

Is there a waiting list for the first consultation?

The delay for obtaining an appointment of this type is short (less than a week) and allows you to check your eligibility and to receive accurate information about the intervention.

How much does the intervention cost?

The average cost of an intervention is between CHF 5000.- and CHF 5900.-, including the cost of the surgeon and post-operative follow-up. Vision Laser offers an attractive reduced rate of CHF 3900.- for patients under the age of 30.

Will my insurance reimburse me?

As a general rule, health insurances do not cover this type of surgery. However, it is worth asking your insurance about the possibility as some insurances do cover some or all of the cost of the intervention.

As you can see, Vision Laser has become a key reference point for refractive surgery. Our specialists are at your disposal. To make an appointment, nothing is easier: please contact our assistants on 022 860 80 60 or via our website: www.visionlaser.ch

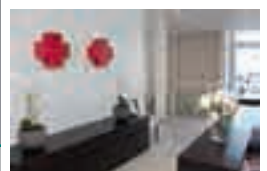


Ask for your insurance requirements

VISION

SURGERY OF MYOPIA
ASTIGMATISM
HYPERMÉTROPIA
PRESBYOPIA NEW TREATMENT

VISION LASER
Place de la Gare 1, 1225 Chêne-Bourg
Tél +41 (0)22 860 80 60, www.visionlaser.ch





©UN Photo by Evan Schneider

Secretary-General Names Daniel Craig as UN Global Advocate on Elimination of Landmines.

Entrusted with a “License to Save”

Places des Nations... The Broken Chair...

This monumental sculpture by the Swiss artist Daniel Berset, constructed by the carpenter Louis Genève, depicts the giant 12 meters high chair and symbolizes opposition to land mines and cluster bombs. Erected at the Place des Nations, opposite to the Palais des Nations, it acts as a reminder to the irreversible harm done to humans by land mines and cluster bombs.

OVERVIEW PREPARED BY EVELINA RIOUKHINA, UNOG

This is the place where *UN Special* plans to conduct an interview with Daniel Craig, who was recently designated as the first United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines and Explosive Hazards. This potential interview near the Broken Chair would certainly reinforce the message of the colossal harm to humanity if planted land mines and cluster bombs are left untouched, and the notion of using these as weapons of war is dismantled.

Bearing in mind the possibility of having such an exclusive interview shortly, we bring you a brief summary on the important nomination that took place last spring.

Daniel Craig is known to the general public as James Bond or Agent 007. The nomination as the *first United Nations Global Advocate for the Elimination of Mines* took place on the 10th anniversary of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. During the nom-



Suffice it to say, that Mr. Craig plans to immerse himself in his new field, developing as much understanding as possible of the work done to eliminate the threat of landmines and the explosive remnants of war. He plans to visit some areas where UNMAS is doing incredible work and to get the message out there. He also hopes to use his fame to advocate for and promote the cause of UNMAS and give it more exposure around the world. ■

ination procedure the Secretary-General in his remarks noted: "As 007, Mr. Craig had a 'license to kill', today we are giving him a 'licence to save'".

This said, it is important for us the general public to have an idea of what makes Daniel Craig tick as a person. Reportedly, he is driven by his commitment to support the UN's vision of a world free from the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war, and as actor, he is determined to use his fame as a star to draw attention to the noble cause of mine awareness and mine destruction. During the nomination, Daniel Craig shared his experience of filming in a heavily mined area of northern Cambodia some years ago, and how this re-living the horror of other people's lives motivated him to get involved with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS). Quoting him "I was nervous – I don't mind admitting that – but I just can't imagine what it was like for the parents of those children," he said. "I think that's what struck me most, the fear of unexploded ordnance that's just littered around after conflict. And what that does to a local population. It stops them being normal, having a normal life, getting on and rebuilding, and getting back their lives again."

During the ceremony, the Secretary-General paid tribute to Mr. Craig's work and that of the Mine Action Service, which has, since 1997, been working to clear mines, educate people on risks, assist victims, destroy stockpiles and advocate for the elimination of landmines and explosive hazards. To quote the Secretary-General,

"The United Nations is playing a vital role in freeing the world from the threat of mines and explosive remnants of war," said the Secretary-General. "I welcome the support of Mr. Craig to work on these issues. I count on his advocacy to make a difference."



**Facchinetti
Automobiles SA**

www.facchinetti.ch



**Sheer
Driving Pleasure**



DIPLOMATICCENTER

by Facchinetti automobiles

We offer you the appropriate and exclusive service, for the sheer pleasure of driving an exceptional car.

www.facchinetti.ch

Facchinetti automobiles

Facchinetti Automobiles (Genève-Meyrin) SA
Rue des Voituriers 2 | 1217 Meyrin
Tél. 022 98 98 100
www.facchinetti.ch



Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, Mr. Lenin Valtaire Moreno Garces, with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Una entrevista con Lenin Moreno

Cuéntenos un poco acerca de su papel como Enviado Especial del Secretario General de la ONU para temas de Discapacidad y Accesibilidad

La designación de un Enviado Especial es una muestra del compromiso del Secretario General Ban Ki-moon con la agenda de derechos humanos y de desarrollo de las personas con discapacidad. Es también un signo de que estamos avanzando rápidamente en la universalización de la Convención sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad. Hasta diciembre del año 2013, fecha de creación de la figura del Enviado Especial, no contábamos con una persona u oficina que tuviera el encargo particular de promover esa agenda desde el espacio de las Naciones Unidas.

Mi trabajo gira en torno a promover una mayor articulación entre los distintos actores que intervienen en la agenda internacional de las personas con discapacidad, a identificar y promover iniciativas para que la ciencia y la tecnología se pongan al servicio de las personas con discapacidad, a brindar seguimiento y recomendaciones a procesos intergubernamentales que atiendan las discapacidades y, en general, a llevar la voz de las personas con discapacidad a todos los espacios posibles. De alguna manera, me han convertido en un embajador de las personas con discapacidad y de su Convención.

El Enviado Especial actúa coordinadamente con colegas que tienen mandatos similares como es el caso de la Relatora Especial de los Derechos Humanos de las Personas con Discapacidad, Catalina Devandas, y de los miembros del Comité de Expertos sobre los Derechos Humanos de las Personas con Discapacidad, en especial su Presidenta, María Soledad Cisternas.

De su tiempo como vicepresidente del Ecuador, ¿qué experiencias puede compartir como buenas prácticas en el área de discapacidad y accesibilidad?

¿Su experiencia personal le ha motivado para convertirse en un líder para las minorías y personas con discapacidades?

Como Vicepresidente comprobé que la política debe ser vista como el arte de servir. Cuando ocupamos puestos de autoridad, debemos usar el poder que se nos otorga como una herramienta de servicio a los demás. Cuando analizamos junto al presidente Rafael Correa el historial de menosprecio, olvido, segregación y maltrato que habían sufrido las personas con discapacidad durante siglos, decidimos que la discapacidad debía ser considerada una prioridad nacional. El Presidente emitió un Decreto declarando la discapacidad en estado de emergencia. Esa medida permitió obviar toda la burocracia para diseñar y ejecutar rápidamente programas

y proyectos que abordaran los problemas y necesidades más apremiantes de las personas con discapacidad con un sentido de urgencia.

Esa es la mejor práctica que puedo compartir con autoridades de otros países: establecer la atención a las personas con discapacidad como prioridad nacional y como una política de Estado de carácter intersectorial y transversal.

No hay mejor práctica que la de juntar a la voluntad, una férrea decisión política para enfrentar y reducir rápidamente la exclusión, las inequidades y las violaciones más graves a los derechos humanos de nuestros hermanos con discapacidad.

He comprobado que es cierto aquello de que más vale dar que recibir. La solidaridad es el más bello sentimiento que tenemos las personas, pero no siempre lo despertamos y poco lo ejercemos. De hecho, la sonrisa del recién nacido es el primer gesto de amabilidad del ser humano.

Eso es lo que hicimos en Ecuador: encendimos la llama de la solidaridad y ésta inflamó inmediatamente todo el territorio.

La política de Estado destinada a la discapacidad se cristalizó en la práctica con lo que denominamos «Misión Solidaria Manuela Espejo» (en honor a una mujer ecuatoriana libertaria, escritora, patriota y enfermera). El solo hecho de utilizar la palabra «solidaria» otorgó un sentido de corresponsabilidad a todos los ecuatorianos, es decir, una participación activa de todas y de todos en lo que fue una política pública de largo aliento.

Esta Misión consistió en recorrer todos los rincones del país con brigadas multidisciplinarias que visitaron a todas las personas con discapacidad a lo largo del Ecuador. Llegamos a lo más recóndito de la selva, a lo más escarpado de los Andes y a lo más alejado de la Costa.

No habríamos logrado nada si no contábamos con la solidaridad de todos los habitantes. Participaron estudiantes voluntarios, médicos, académicos, comunicadores, autoridades, técnicos, militares, expertos, genetistas, laboratoristas... Por eso, el éxito de nuestros programas de discapacidad fue un triunfo de todos. Fue el triunfo de la solidaridad.

¿Cómo es la vida en Ginebra para una persona con discapacidad, comparado con la vida en un país en desarrollo?

Para una ciudad con tan larga y rica tradición histórica, es sumamente difícil adecuar la arquitectura patrimonial a las necesidades de accesibilidad. Por ello, muchas veces los ascensores que se han instalado tienen dimensiones estrechas.

Sin embargo, la gente es extremadamente amable en las calles y los servicios de transporte son absolutamente inclusivos.

No existe mayor diferencia con países en desarrollo, porque la toma de conciencia de la necesidad de inclusión y accesibilidad son bastantes recientes. Se sorprenderían al conocer iniciativas hermosísimas de países pequeños, o exclusiones inhumanas en países grandes y llamados «desarrollados».

Las ciudades del futuro deben ser ciudades plenamente accesibles y humanas. La Conferencia Habitat III, sobre vivienda y desarrollo urbano sostenible, será una buena oportunidad para que los gobiernos puedan trazar una hoja de ruta y compromisos claros en esta dirección.

Tiene algún mensaje en especial para los miles de funcionarios públicos y diplomáticos trabajando en las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra?

Ginebra es uno de los motores más importantes de la agenda multilateral; por eso, todos pueden hacer mucho para profundizar los cambios y avanzar en la inclusión plena de los casi mil millones de personas con discapacidad. Los Derechos Humanos como marco orientador general, el empleo digno, la salud, las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación, la formación y capacitación, la propiedad intelectual, las migraciones, el refugio, entre otros, son todos temas sensibles y directamente relacionados con la agenda internacional de derechos de las personas con discapacidad y sus particulares necesidades. Cada uno de los funcionarios y colegas que trabajan en estos ámbitos puede convertirse en un militante social, un promotor («advocate») de la agenda de derechos de las personas con discapacidad. La mejor guía para que se conviertan en «advocates» es la Convención de los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad. Ésta constituye un instrumento único para la restitución y promoción de esos derechos, además de

que marcó un hito en la evolución de los derechos humanos.

Una de las expertas del Comité, la Dra. Theresia Degener, señaló que la Convención es el primer y único tratado de derechos humanos que incluye una referencia explícita a la discriminación múltiple (lo que se conoce como interseccionalidad) abriendo las puertas a una nueva etapa de desarrollo de los derechos humanos.

Debo también reconocer los esfuerzos que se han hecho y se van a llevar a cabo en hacer que el Palacio de las Naciones sea un lugar accesible. Tengo entendido que el grupo de trabajo encargado de la remodelación de este monumento histórico y simbólico ha puesto especial énfasis en su accesibilidad.

¡Miren los alcances que puede tener la labor de la ONU para la humanidad! Pero esa labor sería imposible sin la concurrencia de todos quienes hacen este hermoso espacio de encuentro de culturas y saberes que es las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra. ■

**INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
IN GENEVA**

STUDY IN SWITZERLAND

**Bachelor and Master programs in:**

- Business Administration
- International Relations
- Media and Communication
- Computer Science (BSc)

NEW Bachelor in International Management

- A program with a global perspective
- Dual accreditation
- Multicultural student and faculty body
- Exchange and study abroad programs
- A not-for-profit foundation of higher education

www.iun.ch

ICC · Rte de Pré-Bois 20 · 1215 Geneva 15 · Switzerland
Tel.: +41(0)22 710 71 10/12 · Fax: +41(0)22 710 71 11
Email: info@iun.ch

**YOUR
DIPLOMATIC
MOVER**

**SANTA FE
RELOCATION SERVICES**

We make it easy



International Moves | Relocation | Local Moves | Storage

Contact Christophe Wilkins
T: +41 79 686 69 28
E: christophe.wilkins@santaferelo.com
www.santaferelo.com



Visiting Lac Vert camp.

Goodwill Ambassadors and messengers of Peace

Public faces of the United Nations

One of the challenges facing the United Nations is that not everyone is interested in diplomacy. As a matter of fact, most people would be hard pressed to name a single UN official – apart from the Secretary General of course.

MAHMOUD HAMMOUD, UNOG

The obvious effect of this has not escaped the attention of the organisation itself, which has long been aware of the need to remedy it. And one of the ways it does this is through the simple but ingenious concept of appointing *Goodwill Ambassadors*. These famous individuals, recognized and admired by hundreds of millions of people around the globe, help the UN to put its various messages across.

Last year, The Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue (GCHRADG) launched an initiative on its website (gchragd.org) called *UNFaces* and described as, “A global online platform for meaningful communication between the public and representatives of the United Nations that will empower individuals to understand, engage with, and – ultimately – affect the process of diplomacy and development.” The effort was also aimed at introducing the general public to UN executives,

mostly from human rights circles such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The move, which fills a known gap, was warmly welcomed by these and other UN institutions.

As early as the 1950s, the UN made a huge leap forward by calling for the voluntary involvement and support of prominent headline-grabbing names from all walks

of life, including, among others, the fields of art, music, film, sport and literature. Newsworthy figures, admired and loved around the globe, could often achieve what high ranking UN representatives simply could not. For example, when internationally famous movie stars highlight key issues of interest to the UN, their fans around the world immediately sit up and take an interest too. These personalities were dubbed Goodwill Ambassadors and were enlisted in various UN bodies. A deft move on the chess board of international cooperation!

In his time, actor and comedian Danny Kaye – a man of great vision, if ever there was one – pioneered the concept of the Goodwill Ambassador with his unstinting work for UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund). Similarly, Audrey Hepburn, the celebrated British film actress, fashion icon and humanitarian, also drew worldwide attention to the role of the Goodwill Ambassador thanks to her work for children's rights, survival, development and protection during her tenure with the same organisation.

By speaking about causes dear to their hearts, Goodwill Ambassadors attract attention to, and support for, the activities of the UN. They also highlight the message of peace and coexistence that accompanies everything they do. Year after year, individuals of international stature put their names, their talents, their energy, efforts and time at the service of the UN – providing unparalleled support for a wide range of humanitarian initiatives.

Most UN agencies have Goodwill Ambassadors, especially in the humanitarian field. The main requirement for the post is a genuine motivation to help the disadvantaged. Many Goodwill Ambassadors work with their agencies before taking up the formal appointment and often do far more than simply lending their names to the cause. Their famous faces immediately thrust otherwise hopeless causes and cases to the centre stage of world attention. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) describes its ambassadors as “the most recognizable public faces of the UN refugee agency.” As for their roles, it declares that the Ambassadors

“help bring UNHCR to every corner of the world through their celebrity, popularity, influence, dedication and hard work.”

UNHCR Goodwill Ambassadors include Yao Chen, the Chinese actress and micro-blogger with more than 80 million followers on Sina Weibo – a Chinese micro-blogging service akin to a hybrid of Facebook and Twitter. Chen's special fame on Weibo comes not only from the fact that she is an extremely popular actress in China, but also because she's a top micro-blogger with a huge following and a powerful influence. In her home country, Chen has eagerly taken part in various humanitarian activities. She speaks fervently on the rights of migrant children as well as on animal rights and environmental issues. Chen appeared on Time's 2014 *list of 100 global celebrities* and in the same year she was voted *the 83rd most powerful woman in the world by Forbes*.

Nicole Kidman of *Moulin Rouge* and *Dogville* fame has been lending her name and image to the UN as a Goodwill Ambassador since 1994, for UNICEF, and since

CONTRIBUEZ À LEUR PROTECTION, ASSISTEZ À LA CÉRÉMONIE

UNI DUFOUR – 6 OCTOBRE 2015 – 18h00

REMISE DES PRIX OUVERTE AU PUBLIC



ROBERT SANN AUNG
AHMED MANSOOR
ASMAOU DIALLO

PRIX MARTIN ENNAIS 2015

POUR LES
DÉFENSEUR-E-S
DES DROITS
HUMAINS

AVEC
FLAVIA PANSIERI
HAUT-COMMISSAIRE
ADJOINTE AUX DROITS
DE L'HOMME





Membres du jury

- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
- ISHR | INTERNATIONAL CHARTER SERVICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
- human rights first
- icj
- FRONTLINE DEFENDERS
- OMCT
- fidh
- EUROPEAN UNION
- Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung
- HUMAN RIGHTS



Angelina at the Nzolo displacement camp in 2013 with former Foreign Secretary William Hague. Jolie visited Nzolo in the Democratic Republic of Congo as the UNHCR Special Envoy.

2006 for UN Woman (formerly UNIFEM). Other personalities who have joined the club of Goodwill Ambassadors for UN Women include HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand, Emma Watson (Hermione Granger in the *Harry Potter* movies), Farhan Akhtar, the actor-filmmaker-singer and Sania Mirza, the tennis superstar. In 2012, American actress Angelina Jolie, who served as a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador for more than 10 years, was promoted to Special Envoy to High Commissioner Antonio Guterres.

Other UN Goodwill Ambassadors include the well-known French singer-songwriter Julien Clerc, the Greek musician and singer George Dalaras, the beautiful Turkish singer

Muazzez Ersoy and the famous Afghan-born American novelist, physician and author of *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini. The well-known Egyptian comedian Adel Imam, the Uruguayan actor Osvaldo Laport, the Kazakh composer-singer Aidos Sagat, and the Spanish TV presenter Jesús Vázquez are also Goodwill Ambassadors. Past UNHCR Goodwill Ambassadors include actors Richard Burton and James Mason, the legendary Sophia Loren, Princess Märtha Louise of Norway and musician Riccardo Muti. Acclaimed soprano Barbara Hendricks stands clearly out of the crowd by being the only Honorary Lifetime Goodwill Ambassador for the UNHCR.

As the most prominent UN body working directly on

defending the rights of children and helping them in times of emergency, UNICEF naturally receives substantial support from its fabulous list of Goodwill Ambassadors. These include Her Majesty Queen Rania of Jordan, Her Royal Highness Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, Katy Perry, Amitabh Bachchan, Serena Williams, David Beckham, Shakira, Orlando Bloom, Mia Farrow, Harry Belafonte, Jackie Chan, Myung-Whun Chung, Danni Glover, Whoopi Goldberg, Angélique Kidjo, Ricky Martin, and even the Berliner Philharmoniker!

It seems that there might have been some confusion around similarities and differences between Messengers of Peace, (MOPs), and Goodwill Ambassadors (GWAs)¹. While both groups are public faces of the United Nations, the Secretary-General appoints Messengers of Peace whereas Goodwill Ambassadors are designated by the heads of United Nations Funds, Programmes and specialized Agencies, e.g., UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNHCR. Goodwill Ambassadors are subsequently endorsed by the Secretary-General. In 2010, in response to a General Assembly request to mark the International Year of Biodiversity, for the first time the Secretary-General appointed a United Nations Goodwill

Ambassador, an exception to the rule.

As the UN Outreach website puts it “The Secretary-General designated Mr. DiCaprio as a Messenger of Peace with a special focus on climate change ahead of the 2014 Climate Summit, aimed at catalyzing and galvanizing climate action towards a global climate agreement in 2015.” The speech of Mr. DiCaprio at the Climate Summit in Sept 2014 has been viewed 2 million times on YouTube, and probably many millions of views more on other platforms by July 2015.

The MOP Programme include the exceptional GWA Leonardo DiCaprio and MOPs HRH Princess Haya, Daniel Barenboim, Paulo Coelho, Michael Douglas, Jane Goodall, Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, Midori, Edward Norton, Charlize Theron, Elie Wiesel and Stevie Wonder.

Calling on VIPs to represent the United Nations is an inspired idea. One could only hope that more newsmakers would join the movement to help make this world a better place for everyone. ■

¹ Special thanks to Mr. Jeffrey A. Brez, Chief, NGO Relations, Advocacy & Special Events at The Creative Community Outreach Initiative, Department of Public Information, Outreach Division, United Nations, New York for his valuable feedback on this clarification and the article as a whole.

Università
della
Svizzera
italiana

Leading executive education for
humanitarian professionals

Now accepting applications for 2016

**Master of Advanced Studies in
Humanitarian Operations & Supply Chain Management**
www.mashom.usi.ch / mashom@usi.ch



**Master of Advanced Studies in
Humanitarian Logistics & Management**
www.mashlm.usi.ch / mashlm@usi.ch

A green autumn in perspective in Geneva in the run up to the UN Climate Change Conference



© Green cross international



© Green cross international

All September – Green Cross photo exhibition on the Quai Wilson

SARAH JORDAN, SDLS, UNOG

This exhibition, entitled “The Future we Want”, organized by Green Cross International using space provided by the City of Geneva, presents a total of 100 large-format photos offering different visions of a sustainable future. Contributors include Green Cross International, other International Organizations, the State of Geneva and the private sector including the International Standards Organization (ISO) and Interpol. The idea behind this exhibition is that the environment touches every sector and that it’s time to move the environmental conversation on from a “what can I do?” or

“it’s too late to save the planet” perspective to tangible examples of what is actually being done the world over. In keeping with green practices, no paper catalogue will be published, but QR codes on the exhibits can be scanned to find out more about the initiatives presented. Take a look as you stroll, cycle or jog along the Quai Wilson.

6–7 October – The International Conference for a Green and Inclusive Economy

Under the high patronage and in the presence of Mikhail Gorbachev, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and founder of Green Cross International, opinion

leaders, world experts and International Organizations (including UNEP, WWF, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Vision and Initiatives of Change – Land, Lives, Peace as well as many others) will come together at CIGG in Geneva for a conference organized by Green Cross International and the State of Geneva. They will give their visions on how a green and inclusive economy improves food and energy security, creates jobs and reduces inequality. The message the Geneva international community will pass on to the Paris Climate Conference in December is that global climate action is an opportunity to reinvent the industrial era economic model with its linear take, make and dispose patterns of

consumption with a zero-waste circular economy that can lay the foundation for a prosperous and equitable future.

December

From November 30th to December 11th 2015, France will be hosting and presiding the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21/ CMP11), otherwise known as “Paris 2015”. COP21 will be a crucial conference, as it needs to achieve a new international agreement on the climate, applicable to all countries, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C. France will therefore be playing a leading international role to ensure points of view converge and to facilitate the search for consensus by the United Nations, as well as within the European Union, which has a major role in climate negotiations. ■

Further details on these events: <http://www.gcint.org/international-conference-for-a-green-and-inclusive-economy>

Further details on official COP21 website: <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/en>

We will provide more in-depth information on the Climate Change Conference in our November issue.



New GLC. Unique diplomatic conditions.

Star bonus **6%**

Diplomatic discount **15%**

Buy-back premium CHF **5'000.-***

MERCEDES-SWISS-INTEGRAL

Mercedes-Benz
Le meilleur, sinon rien.



MARBRENERIE CAROUGE

ATHÉNÉE MEYRIN

A&S CHEVALLEY NYON

More information: www.andre-chevalley.com/diplomat

*See applicable conditions at your Mercedes-Benz Chevalley retailers.

What is your real origin?

*If we know where we came from, we may better know where to go.
If we know who we came from, we may better understand who we are.*



© JewishVoiceToday

EVELINA RIOUKHINA, UNOG

Bennett Greenspan is an unusual guest of this *UN Special* issue, who graciously accepted to discuss one of the most fascinating topic – where we come from and what is our real origin. He is the President and CEO of one of the world biggest genealogical companies Family Tree DNA, and a pioneer in genetics genealogy, who is the first in the world to offer genealogical DNA testing to general public. After a brief explanatory introduction read the interview with Bennett Greenspan.

My article on this subject, published in 2010 (*UN Special* No. 692), caused big interest and you asked me write more on it. Situations during wars, especially 1st and 2nd World Wars, forced a big number of families to move, people were killed, children adopted, etc. Today it is 2nd, 3rd or even more generations later now have grown people in totally different continents with several nationalities, none of which belong to them originally. People want to know their real origin. Torn families,

happy events of findings – but sometimes doubts remain. Today's world is not that quiet. Events in Syria cause a high number of refugees, the same as events in Libya, in Iraq, or in former Yugoslavia. If events in Syria and Iraq are recent, events in Yugoslavia date back 20 years, i.e. a generation, those who were born then, now 20, want to know and their children will want to know even more. All events of wars lead to torn families, children who are lucky, can be adopted, they can grown up and then it might happen that the parents are alive, or other brothers or sisters whom they might not really have known, how to understand, how to prove? Even in the most peaceful times, if you take our Organization, which will celebrate 70 years soon, i.e. approximately three generations (one generation is considered 25 years), we are also from so many different backgrounds, often born in other countries than the country of our origin, and many never live in their country of origin, having nationality of de sole. All those born in USA, no matter if they live there or just were there on the date of birth, have rights to receive a passport at 18, becoming an American citizen. The origin of parents are totally different, and the child is American. This American child can meet another American child, who was also born under the same circumstances, and has never lived in the USA. Supposing, one mixed family, Armenian/Russian, has a child born in America, this child meets with the American child with parents from Poland/Argentina, i.e. two pure American parents, they deliver a child, in Canada for instance, who later

becomes a Canadian national with both American parents. This Canadian comes to Geneva and marries a naturalized Swiss citizen, coming from Bosnia/Hungary, the child will be Swiss or of dual citizenships. But what will be the real origin of this child: Armenia, Russia, Poland, Argentina, Bosnia, Hungary – and definitely not Canada, nor Switzerland, which will be perhaps marked in the documents? And its earlier generation came also from mixed marriages, what is the origin of this child?


I do not invent stories, this is exactly what we are, a major part of us who are now 3rd generation after the Second World War and actually, a reason for the creation of our Organization 70 years ago. Migration before and during the war, and a series of consequent moves, job-related or not, or more contemporary events including conflicts that create refugees, brought many people to other countries. This is our reality, and this is the reality of our children, born into such a multicultural and multinational environment, and also who want to understand their real roots, where they come from and what their real origin is. I promised in my last article to ask the President of the biggest DNA company in the United States, Bennett Greenspan, a world known figure in the area of genetics and DNA biology, who sees such situations every day, who helped to find relatives, especially in the families torn by war, who helps to establish relationships, who helps to trace the original and helps to finally establish the truth for children. And it is very important to know the truth, to understand where we come from. If we



3 SHIRTS for CHF 149.--
UN employees: ask for your **FREE embroidery!**

Camicissima
M I L A N O

METRO SHOPPING - GARE CORNAVIN - GENÈVE
Tel 022 731 35 11



3 TIES for CHF 79.90

know where we come from and we will know where to go.

Bennett Greenspan graciously accepted to answer some of my questions:

You have been dealing with DNA all your life, tell us why you think it is very important, and what can DNA tell us?

I've spent the last 15 years helping people reconnect with long lost or totally unknown family members via DNA. When a paper trail runs cold the DNA evidence can still help you get beyond a fire or flood or war that has destroyed conventional paper trail records. Rather than giving up, a new molecular biology tool exists.

In situations of wars and adoption, if a grown-up child turns to you, will you be able to tell the exact origin? To what degree and what certainty can you tell this?

If a person is lost due to war, or was abandoned as an infant they have the possibility, but not the likelihood of being able to find family using DNA. Their ability to do so is affected by the size of the database they are comparing to, so the location of the person and the amount of DNA testing that has taken place in their part of the world are very important to the overall success of the attempt.

Who are people who turn to DNA test? Are they only curious to find out about their ancestry, or is it used for more complex circumstances: to find out whom the person was, in the police, etc. Tell us about such cases.

Interested genealogists, adoptees and anyone interested in their deeper anthropological history. We have had no dealings with the police because we don't offer 'chain of custody' with our tests... so think of this as an enjoyable way to learn more about yourself through the history book written into your cells.

What is the most remarkable story in your life? Finding relatives? Finding family after war? Share with us the event that was most striking?

There are so many... we found a boy whose mother was a hidden baby during WWII. That was pretty surprising and educated us (early in the company's life) to the exciting and shocking revelations that DNA testing can reveal. We have put dozens of people back together with biological family, including descendants of Vietnamese

women and their US service men father from the Vietnam War.

Do you have any tips for our international readers, from so many mixed origins, working all over the globe, often moving from one duty station to another, peacekeeping missions, etc.

DNA is just another tool for the genealogist or the detective looking to short cut what otherwise might be a long journey. Whether you learn about lost family (or for adoptees)-actual family, or not you will still learn the part of the world that your ancestors originated from so without the genealogy side the anthropology side still exists as a real educational tool. If someone

wants to find family the chances will only get better as the databases of DNA grow.

Thank you for this interview to *UN Special!* ■



ALL ROOMS LAKE VIEW WITH FREE WIFI
UNDERGROUND PARKING

PANORAMIC RESTAURANTS & TERRACES
PADDLE BOARD & BIKES

12 MEETING ROOMS WITH NATURAL DAY LIGHT
NEXT TO THE MONTREUX MUSIC & CONVENTION CENTRE

EUROTEL MONTREUX | GRAND-RUE 81 | CH-1820 MONTREUX
WWW.EUROTEL-MONTREUX.CH | TÉL: +41 (0)21 966 22 22



© Judy Feder-Ostojic

Portraits croisés

Vous avez dit interprète de conférence?

*Il est présent sans vraiment l'être,
il occupe une place importante
dans toutes les réunions sans
vraiment l'occuper, sans lui les
voies de communication sur la scène
internationale seraient complètement
rompues...*

PRISCA CHAQUI, UNOG

Vous l'avez certainement deviné: il s'agit de l'interprète de conférence. Ce personnage caché dans une cabine vitrée et dont la voix berce le quotidien des délégués dans les organisations internationales n'est pas, contrairement à ce que l'on croit souvent, une simple machine que l'on fait fonctionner pour transmettre en anglais un discours initialement prononcé en chinois.

Afin de mieux comprendre la véritable identité de l'interprète et les méandres d'une profession qui est l'une des plus vieilles du monde, nous avons rencontré M. Zhengren Li, chef interprète à l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève (ONUG) et M. Toufic Abi-Chaker, chef interprète à l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (OMS).

Qui est l'interprète de conférence?

Z.L.: L'interprète de conférence est celui qui établit des ponts entre deux langues, facilitant ainsi la communication et la compréhension mutuelle entre

les délégués participant à une conférence.

T.A.-C.: L'interprète de conférence est une personne souple d'esprit, amoureuse des mots et de la langue. L'interprète a une facilité d'expression orale et une force d'analyse et de concentration hors du commun.

Pourquoi l'interprétation est-elle différente de la traduction?

Z.L.: L'interprète se doit de transmettre instantanément un message tout en étant fidèle à l'original. Il n'a pas le luxe d'embellir son langage. C'est un métier très personnel, puisque les délégués finissent par reconnaître la voix de chaque interprète. Quant au traducteur, il est en mesure de parfaire la beauté et l'élégance de la langue.

T.A.-C.: La traduction est un exercice littéraire. Le texte traduit est là pour rester. L'interprétation est un exercice de communication orale. C'est l'art de l'éphémère.

Quelles sont les principales différences entre un interprète



M. Zhengren Li, chef interprète à l'ONUG



M. Toufic Abi Chacker, chef interprète à l'OMS

permanent et un interprète indépendant?

Z.L.: L'interprète permanent est soumis au Règlement du personnel de l'organisation qui l'emploie. Il se doit d'être loyal envers cette organisation. Son travail le plonge dans une routine, puisque la panoplie de sujets qu'il couvre est limitée. L'interprète indépendant, quant à lui, travaille dans différentes organisations et sur le marché privé; il est soumis aux règles en vigueur qui y sont appliquées. Il est appelé à couvrir davantage de sujets puisqu'il change constamment d'employeurs.

T.A.-C.: L'interprète permanent est un spécialiste des rouages et de la terminologie de l'organisation où il est employé. L'interprète indépendant doit être en mesure de s'adapter au changement de sujets. Il est comparable à un entrepreneur, puisqu'il a le souci de la compétitivité et de l'acquisition de nouveaux marchés. Cela le pousse à développer de nouvelles compétences telles que l'ajout d'une langue, par exemple.

L'on dit que le métier d'interprète est un métier magnifique. Qu'en pensez-vous?

Z.L.: Comme l'interprète facilite les discussions, il est considéré comme étant le moteur des actions menées sur la scène internationale en matière de paix, de développement, de changement climatique, etc. Il exerce un métier glorieux.

T.A.-C.: Le métier d'interprète est magnifique car il est impossible mais on arrive à le faire. L'interprète écoute, comprend, s'entend parler sans être dérangé et transpose les idées d'une langue à une autre.

Quelles difficultés rencontre l'interprète dans son travail au quotidien?

Z.L.: Les difficultés découlent de la variété des sujets auxquels l'interprète est exposé. Il doit se préparer intensivement pour travailler le matin dans une réunion qui traite des armes à sous-munitions avant d'être affecté l'après-midi à une réunion sur le transport maritime.

T.A.-C.: Les difficultés sont dues au fait qu'il n'y a plus de vrais

orateurs puisque très souvent les délégués lisent un texte. Or, le métier d'interprète est un métier oral qui se marie mal avec des textes écrits.

Si vous pouviez rendre le travail de l'interprète plus facile, que feriez-vous?

Z.L.: J'inviterais les délégués à venir observer de près le travail de l'interprète. Il faut que les délégués soient conscients de la nature de la tâche qu'il incombe à l'interprète d'accomplir. Plus l'orateur parle vite, plus il se fait du tort.

T.A.-C.: J'inventerais un microphone qui bloque l'orateur lorsqu'il dépasse un certain débit de vitesse. Toute intervention lue doit être donnée à l'interprète, sinon elle ne sera pas interprétée.

Pourriez-vous partager avec nous un événement qui vous a marqué dans votre carrière d'interprète?

Z.L.: J'ai participé en tant qu'interprète à des négociations multilatérales historiques qui ont été menées en anglais et

en chinois. Les deux parties ignoraient tout de la langue de l'autre et pourtant, les négociations se sont déroulées de manière fluide sans que personne ne sente la présence des interprètes.

T.A.-C.: J'ai été marqué par une collègue qui a été en mesure d'interpréter, en consécutive, une intervention de 10 minutes sans prendre aucune note.

Qu'avez-vous à dire aux jeunes qui rêvent de devenir interprète?

Z.L.: Le métier d'interprète est un métier glorieux et gratifiant. Pour devenir interprète, il faut être prêt à fournir beaucoup d'efforts vu la diversité des sujets qu'un interprète est appelé à traiter. Une minute de gloire nécessite 10 heures de travail ardu.

T.A.-C.: J'encourage tout jeune désireux de devenir interprète à le faire. Il faut avant tout aimer les langues et être disposé à repousser les limites. C'est un métier qui a de l'avenir. ■

Innovation in the UN

From entrepreneurship to intrapreneurship

SUSANNAH ROBINSON, VIRGINIA

ARNOLD, SAMEER PUJARI, DR.

VINAYAK PRASAD, PREVENTION OF

NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES, WHO

Last month the *UN Special* reprinted an article by Ian Richards, the President of the Coordination Committee of International Staff Unions and Association, which voiced a number of concerns about the UN's effectiveness in its current format ("The UN At 70: Risk Averse, Unsafe and Too Old"). The main criticisms levied at the UN are common ones: the organization frequently comes under fire for being slow to adapt its ways of working to incorporate new approaches. Yet within the UN system, projects are in fact working to encourage innovation in international development tools, systems and partnerships. It is these internally driven innovations – a kind of UN "intrapreneurship" – which this article would like to highlight, contradicting the popular image of the UN as change-resistant.

Intrapreneurship in the UN

Within global health there are a number of examples where the UN has fostered innovation in its own organizations – GAVI and UNITAID being the most well-known – but these are now sufficiently large-scale as to represent established ways of working. There are however more nascent examples of innovation currently happening, driven by UN staff and promoting new approaches to international development by integrating them into existing systems. This allows the possibility of engaging with real-time, grass-roots innovation: a first for the UN, but an increasingly important facet of its operations, especially in the context of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals which will demand innovation at all levels.

Public health experiences with this new form of UN 'intrapreneurship' have so far emphasised a number of lessons for UN bodies such as the World Health Organization (WHO).

These centre around three main areas: approaches to innovation, skill sets, and risk.

New tools

New health technologies – particularly those where development is socially-driven – move at an exponential rate of change. These represent a paradigm shift in population healthcare, and WHO need to engage with ways of institutionalizing successful innovation in this space. A joint programme between WHO and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) on Health for noncommunicable diseases is already working to a new model for resolving this for scaling up health interventions using mobile technology, or mHealth. It works with global experts to select successful examples from clinical trials and small-scale projects, and helps develop the tools for use at a national level by integrating them directly into the core health care system. This model ensures the effectiveness of

**NEW DIPLOMATIC SALES
ON ALL MODELS**



MODEL CX-3

ATRA AUTOMOBILES GENÈVE SA
Chemin de l'Étang, 54 - 1219 Genève
022 979 20 00

GARAGE BERGER SA
Route de Champ-Colin 11 - 1260 Nyon
022 994 01 11

NOUVEAU SALON SA
Route de Ferney 185, 1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
022 798 71 32

CLASSICA MOTORS
Chemin de Grange-Collomb 4 - 1212 Grand-Lancy
022 304 12 20

RELAIS ONEX SÀRL
Route de Chancy 100Bis - 1213 Onex
022 792 66 20



new health tools whilst allowing innovation to reach beneficiary populations at a much faster rate than is currently allowed.

New ideas

Secondly, programmes are increasingly demonstrating the importance of applying a multidisciplinary approach to public health. Multidisciplinary means new ways of seeing the world, which can in turn mean new ways of identifying solutions. A 2014 article in *The Economist* revealed that just 3.1% of non-support staff at the WHO came from backgrounds in social sciences, law or finance ("Too Big to Ail", 13th December 2014), which it claimed undermined the organization's ability to create and deliver well-rounded health policy. In a world where systems are increasingly inter-sectoral, global health is becoming an

intrinsically collaborative field, and its international policy must work to reflect this. The involvement of a broader community, such as finance, trade, agriculture and security, is allowing health programmes to create new solutions by leveraging lessons from other policy areas. In the case of the WHO-ITU collaboration this has even seen technology platforms from other departments being adapted to deliver health care, which has made the implementation of programmes faster and more cost-effective.

New demands

Finally, attitudes to innovation and risk underscore Richards' point about the value of diversifying UN employment. Whilst reputational risk must continue to be closely monitored, initiatives working in the innovations field, which has a noticeably lower aver-

age age, are starting to show that it is possible to work safely whilst expanding new areas of knowledge. This is important because WHO needs to engage with the innovation community around the world. Without understanding the field, it will struggle to offer guidance to countries on how to approach ground-level health innovation, an increasingly relevant channel in population health care. The sheer volume of mobile apps available on the Apple and Android stores – 40,000 at the last count – reflects the growing popularity of these new technologies, especially for areas such as wellness and health promotion. Programmes such as the WHO-ITU mHealth initiative are a good segue for traditional organizations like WHO to engage with population demand and understand the direction this new market is moving in.

Innovation comes in all shapes and sizes. If we are expecting the UN to become Silicon Valley before acknowledging anything it does as innovative, we are misunderstanding the meaning of the word. For a lot of good reasons, the UN is never going to move into venture capital. But there is ample room for the organization to work as an incubator for new methods of working, run by its own employees who understand the existing system and can find ways of making these match. By fostering this spirit of intrapreneurship, the UN would be promoting an approach to innovation which, in its own way, is as creative and grass-roots as any start-up. ■

For further information on the work of the WHO-ITU Be He@lthy Be Mobile initiative, visit their website at: <http://mhealth4ncd.itu.int>

**DUTY FREE
STORE**
FOR DIPLOMATS

GET UP TO

20% 30% 40% 50%

DISCOUNT VERSUS
DOWNTOWN!

ADDRESS: Avenue de France 27
1202 Genève

TEL:

022 919 40 20



la comédie^{GE}

SAISON 2015/2016

COMEDIE.CH

© Régis Golay, federal-studio.com

ICDO opens landmark disaster safety hub

The International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) inaugurated the International Monitoring and Coordination Centre (IMCC) in Geneva at a well-attended ceremony in June.



H.E. Vladimir Puchkov, Minister of EMERCOM of Russia, and Dr. Vladimir Kuvshinov, ICDO Secretary-General, at the inauguration of the new International Monitoring and Coordination Centre in Geneva.

CHRISTOPHER STREBEL, GAUTAM BASU/WHO

Minister of EMERCOM (Ministry of Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters) of Russia, H.E. Vladimir Puchkov, representatives from Geneva and Lancy, and members of the Swiss Civil Defence attended. There were also representatives of national civil protection organizations, permanent missions and international organizations based in Geneva present.

The turnout was indicative of the increasingly important role of the ICDO in the wake of a litany of recurring natural disasters and accidents that have engulfed millions around the world in recent years. The

economic loss from disasters and accidents has increased to \$100 billion annually in the decade 2000–2010, about 1.5 times more than corresponding figures in the previous decade. Furthermore, natural and technological risks pose a serious impediment to sustained development.

What's new with IMCC?

ICDO helps Member States train civil defence personnel and prepare civil society to better respond to such disasters, and introduce modern information systems for disaster prevention. The IMCC in Geneva, where ICDO is headquartered, will be the next-generation technological hub predicting, controlling and ameliorating the debilitating impact of disasters worldwide. IMCC will help

Member States update their risk assessment and mapping capabilities.

Dr. Vladimir Kuvshinov, Secretary-General of ICDO, said: “The creation of the IMCC at ICDO headquarters is a landmark event. It is the first step to create, under the auspices of the ICDO, an international network of centres for disaster response to help better protect populations, property and the environment.”

IMCC was created with a seed grant from Russia. The centre will begin operations with seconded specialists from national emergency services from such countries as Kuwait, the People's Republic of China, Saudi Arabia and Kyrgyzstan.

The IMCC will collect all available disaster-risk schemes for inclusion in its database, where they will be analysed and disseminated to Member States. An information document will be prepared on global catastrophes and trends, and ways in which States react to natural or man-made disasters. This will help countries better assess risks and prepare for them.

Combating catastrophes better “IMCC will cooperate with ICDO Member-States, UN organizations and other international bodies to promote the use of modern technology in the effort to combat catastrophes,” reiterated H.E. Vladimir Puchkov,

the minister from the Russian Federation.

In due course IMCC will establish auxiliary centres in ICDO Member States that need them, equip these with modern technology and train their staff. The goal is to create an international network of centres to exchange information on disasters and support preparedness. Such centres are already run in ICDO Member States such as Algeria, Azerbaijan, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Serbia, South Africa and Switzerland. In addition, ICDO will liaise with regional organizations such as the European Union, Shanghai Cooperation Organization and African Union on latest technologies for disaster control. The fact that IMCC is located in Geneva will also help it network with UN agencies involved in humanitarian relief, such as OCHA, WHO, WMO and ICRC.

At the inauguration, a demonstration was made on how the Centre can help forecast natural and other disasters and measure their impact. Recently, the canton of Geneva experienced heavy rains that triggered floods along the banks of the Rhône-Arve. IMCC specialists worked out model solutions for future flooding of the Rhone and Arve and prepared a template of possible dangers for different water levels. Based on this, recommendations can be made on the correct time for civilian evacuation in such scenarios in future.

“The possibilities for IMCC are practically unlimited. In the future, it will be possible to forecast the evolution of individual disasters. It is now creating a comprehensive digital library with analytical information to improve quality of forecasts,” says Natalia Beglova, Public Information Expert with ICDO in Geneva.

The story of the ICDO

Civil defence refers to all collective and socially mobilized efforts to protect citizens and non-combatants during war and in peacetime. It covers the gamut of emergency operations, including prevention, preparation, response and emergency evacuation and recovery. The first civil defence actions were

initiated in Europe a century ago to protect civilians from aerial bombardment. It became a matter of state policy during the era of nuclear weapons. Since the end of the Cold War, the focus of civil defence has largely shifted from military and nuclear attack to natural and environmental emergencies and disasters.

– could seek refuge in these zones during war.

When the French Parliament recognized the Association in 1935, it had 5000 individual members. The International Association of Geneva Zones became the International Civil Defence Organisation, an international Member State-driven nongovernmental organization, by virtue of the convention signed in Monaco in 1966. According to its founding covenant, ICDO aims to ensure the development of organizations and means to protect civilian populations against the consequences of natural and man-made disasters in peacetime and the consequences of use of weapons in time of war. ■

The main objectives of the IMCC are:

Serving as a tool for exchange of information among national and international civil defence platforms and organizations. Supporting national civil protection structures in updating disaster prevention plans. Monitoring evaluating and forecasting the evolution of disasters.

Acting as an early warning system for national civil protection structures in countries at risk. Creating an international prevention and awareness plan to combat disasters. Setting up a specialized digital library on disaster prevention and management. Offering training programmes and distance-learning courses by specialised experts.

With 74 Member States today, ICDO has come a long way since its origins in a Franco-Swiss altruistic initiative 85 years ago. In 1931 in Paris, French Surgeon-General George Saint-Paul founded the “Association of Geneva Zones” (*Association des Lieux de Genève*). After the First World War (1914–1918), Saint-Paul proposed the idea of creating safety areas, or “neutralized zones”, in countries involved in hostilities. Civilians – in particular women, children, elderly and the infirm

More information: <http://www.icdo.org>

If you wish to know more about ICDO and its work, write to Natalia Beglova at nbeglova@icdo.org

ACADÉMIE ÉQUESTRE
DE VERSAILLES

DIRECTION BARTABAS



Arena - Genève
2 AU 7 OCTOBRE 2015

Un musée
Ville de Genève

PRÉLOCATIONS:
TICKETCORNER.CH - COOP CITY - LIVENUSIC.CH
RENSEIGNEMENTS:
0901 566 500 (0901 566 500, service à la clientèle)

RENCONTRES

AUTOUR DE L'EXPOSITION

PLANTES
&
SPIRITUALITÉS

Dimanche 20 septembre, de 14 h à 18 h

Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques, Allée des platanes

Un musée
Ville de Genève

www.cjb-ge.ch



© Märtha Munch

Nepal, once isn't enough

When I initially decided to travel to Asia and volunteer with children I wasn't sure of the country I wanted to visit. I decided to send out numerous emails to organisations and orphanages, I found online that were located in Central and South East Asia.

MÄRTHA MUNCH


The first reply I received came very quickly and it was from one of the founders of a small NGO in Nepal called Education & Health Nepal (EHN). After exchanging only a few emails I thought to myself, "Nepal...? Yes, Nepal!".

For as long as I can remember I've wanted to visit Nepal. I didn't know much of the country, all I had heard from friends that had been there was that the people in Nepal are the kindest and warmest people you could come across. This indicated for me that it would be a country with a rich and unique culture. What I truly wanted was not only to visit a country with beautiful views and landscapes, but also one where I could integrate into, and learn about, their

way of life and culture. In order for this to happen I felt it was important for me to volunteer with a small NGO that was local and would truly know Nepali life. I also felt that by volunteering with a small/local NGO I would get to witness first-hand the way an independent NGO is run and the direct effects it has on local communities.

I was extremely lucky, Phil; one of the founders of EHN, who is also in charge of the whole NGO's projects in Nepal, was the one who replied to me first. Phil not only knows Kathmandu and Nepal overall like, he was Nepali himself, he knows the people even better. He understands their culture and their daily lives. When you travel so far from home and you arrive to a completely different country than your own, there is nothing more reassuring than a friendly face who just knows what he's talking about when it comes to Nepali life, what to do and not to do.

EHN runs a range of projects focusing on the health and educational fields, from medical camps in villages to sending volunteers to a day care centre for disabled children in Kathmandu. For the first 2 months of my trip I volunteered in that day care centre, living there and taking care of the children in the day. I stayed in the day care centre, Maitri Griha, with 3 other Nepalis in Boudha, the Buddhist area of Kathmandu. Being the only foreigner in the area apart from around the temple, threw me into Nepali culture. When I first arrived in Nepal



À LOUER

APPARTEMENT

- **Route de Florissant - 6,5 pièces**
146 m², Loyer CHF 4'000.- + charges
- **Av. Bertrand - 7,5 pièces**
230 m², Loyer CHF 9'500.- + charges
- **Ch. des Hauts-Crêts - 6 pièces**
153 m², Loyer CHF 6'500.- + charges
- **Rue de Lyon - 7,5 pièces**
159 m², Loyer CHF 4'650.- + charges

Service de location - Tél. 022 817 08 17
info@regiefonciere.ch

uspi genève

**When you think
moving to & from
Switzerland...**

...think

MS Move Management

www.ms-move.com

T. +41 22 788 00 48



I thought that it would take me some time to get used to the culture and change of environment, but it really didn't. With Phil's quick summary of Nepal the night before and their warm welcoming back at the house it was hard not to feel at home. The first time I entered my room in the day care centre I heard a loud "Hello!" I looked out the window and all I saw was a face at the neighbour's window waving and smiling, welcoming me to the area. Seeing the neighbour Sanjay's smile instantly put me at ease.

When I started volunteering in the day care centre I knew that I wouldn't change the children's lives in only 2 months. I knew I might not be able to teach them to tie their shoelaces or to draw without crossing the lines in a colouring book, so I simply told myself that I would spend my time there helping the staff the best that I could and focus on

making the children smile and laugh. Though it is a hard situation for them to be in as well as for the hard working staff, I made them as happy as they made me.

To say that the Nepalis are hospitable is easily an understatement. Phil had told me on my first night in Nepal that Nepalis view guests as gods, not in a strange way, just that they will treat you like royalty and make sure you are well fed and comfortable. This does not only apply in their homes, but shops, restaurants and even on the streets. The children in the streets are not alone in screaming hello to you, waving and giving you a smile that covers their faces, adults are just as curious and welcoming. This was even more so shown to me when I left Kathmandu for my second project in a village an hour from Pokhara where I would be painting a school with

a team of 3 other volunteers. In the village I stayed with a Nepali family that lived off a small local shop, farming and the husband being away working in Dubai. The warmth and kindness I was shown from a family that lives on so little is a feeling that I don't ever want to let go.

Village life is hard. The women wake up at 5 a.m. to tend animals, the fields and take care of their family. They work from morning to night doing most of the heavy lifting and you never see a hint of complaint on their faces. Their warm welcome and their ability to be so happy on so little, as cliché as it sounds, changes your perspectives on life. It makes you realise how little you need, how much you have and want, and in my case, like I believe for many, leads you to question how you truly want to lead your life.

The children of the school I

painted in the village brought this out in me even further. They showed me their reality, their every day lives and I tried as best as I could to explain mine to them but sometimes it was too hard to explain, because we live two radically different lives. Seeing the children run around outside, getting excited over used plastic gloves we gave to them and their fascination with our paintings blew me away. They are connected to nature, to the people around them, to their animals and don't need much more. I became very close to these children and in a way discovered Nepal through them. Their joy and excitement over life put our humanity to shame looking at the world today. ■

In an upcoming issue of the UN Special I will share my experiences during and after the earthquake that happened the 25th of April 2015. Make sure you don't miss the next chapter.

RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS

GENEVA - VAUD

Vessy - charming villa with swimming pool and playground on a plot of 4'000 m² with a beautiful garden.
CHF 11'900.- / month





www.brolliet.ch

Audi

Vorsprung durch Technik





La nouvelle Audi A8.

Passez nous rendre visite pour en savoir plus.

Remise spéciale

diplomatique

AMAG Centre Audi Genève
Ch. J.-Ph. De-Sauvage 44-46, 1219 Châtelaine
Tél. 022 970 36 36, www.geneve.amag.ch



© Julien Gregoire/Phovos/HUG

En 2014, la thématique retenue était la santé globale dans le but d'améliorer l'accès aux soins pour tous et de développer des initiatives innovantes. Le GHF a réuni un millier de participants venus de 65 pays.

Les Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG) – Geneva University Hospitals Have the health of International Geneva at heart


It is not surprising that the biggest university hospital in Switzerland (10,500 employees) should also have numerous links with the international community, a significant proportion of the half million or so patients it serves.

SARAH JORDAN, SDLS, UNOG

A high profile individual, the United States Secretary of State, John Kerry, who received emergency treatment at the HUG after his recent cycling accident, underlined the fact that the HUG is open to everyone. As recently quoted in an article on the site www.geneve-int.ch, the Director of the HUG, Bertrand Levrat declared: "The HUG is not just a hospital for Genevans. It's a hospital for rich and poor alike, wherever they may come

from". Numerous internationals, irrespective of their notoriety, benefit on a daily basis from the high standard of service offered by this semi-state/semi-private funded hospital. The HUG is a hospital, but it is also a research centre, working in close collaboration with the Geneva University Medical School, international institutions such as the Campus Biotech or the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), as well as private clinics in the canton.

**CENTRE INTERNATIONAL RÉFORMÉ
JOHN KNOX**



The John Knox Center is located in Grand-Saconnex just behind the WHO and UNAIDS. The Center offers rooms, studios, apartments, meeting rooms and office space at competitive rates. Free parking, Friendly Staff, Quality cooking, adapted to everyone's need.

27 Chemin des Crêts de Pregny - 1218 Grand-Saconnex
Tel: +41 22 747 00 00 - Fax: +41 22 747 00 99
welcome@johnknox.ch - johnknox.ch

Le Vrai Meuble Anglais  **Le Vrai**

Exposition et atelier à Collex
Route des Fayards 55 - Collex
022 774 18 19
De mardi à vendredi
de 10 h à 19 h
Samedi de 9 h à 17 h



**MEUBLES
KRANCK**

Rue Rousseau 7 -
1201 Genève
022 731 07 52
Le Vrai Meuble Anglais  **Le Vrai**

Le plus grand choix de Genève
www.meubleskranck.ch

Le Vrai Meuble Anglais



Vaccin Ebola préparé par le centre de vaccinologie des HUG. Fin août 2014, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) a demandé aux HUG, dont le centre de vaccinologie a le statut de centre collaborateur de l'OMS, de tester un vaccin – le VSV-ZEBOV – et de préparer en accéléré un essai clinique de qualité irréprochable. Un vrai défi humain et scientifique qui a mobilisé les expertises de nombreux professionnels.

It is not surprising either that the HUG and the World Health Organization (WHO) are close partners. This was particularly apparent from media coverage of the recent Ebola epidemic. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has named Switzerland as the top-ranking country for its collaborative strategy with the WHO. This is showcased by six WHO collaborating centres, created at the initiative of the WHO, in which HUG professors and WHO experts work together in small teams on areas such as patient safety, cyber health or mental health. Another step taken jointly is the Clean Care is Safe Care campaign encouraging elementary hygiene such as washing one's hands in the battle against infections contracted in hospitals.

At the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), recent measures have been taken in collaboration with HUG to make the

financial aspects of healthcare easier for staff members. The main points to note are that no deposit is required from a UN staff member prior to hospitalisation in a twin-bedded room, that a reduction in tariffs has been applied and that 100% reimbursement by the UNOG mutual insurance is made directly. For single rooms, other conditions apply.

The HUG continues to work hand-in-hand with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). This collaboration started in 1999 in the context of urgent humanitarian interventions linked to health emergencies and/or conflicts. This was formalised in 2015 with a framework agreement focusing on three areas: the optimisation of HUG expertise in the areas of training and research, the reinforcement of humanitarian health actions through increased participation of HUG experts and finally, better fol-



Inauguration d'un centre d'intervention d'urgence des HUG au CERN (max7566) Les Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG) et le CERN ont ouvert le 4 mai dernier un centre d'intervention d'urgence établi sur la partie suisse de l'Organisation. Fruit d'une collaboration menée sous l'égide des autorités fédérales et genevoises, il a pour but d'améliorer la sécurité sur les sites du CERN, ainsi que dans la partie ouest du Canton.

low-up on the health care dispensed to ICRC staff members. The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) is another high-profile and strategic international player in Geneva. A new centre for emergency medical aid was recently set up on-site. It reinforces the already existent medical and fire services, with a doctor and an ambulance and driver, skilled in emergency procedures. They offer specialist emergency training to the CERN team and can also answer emergency calls on the right bank of the city.

There are as many missions as flags behind the Place des Nations in Geneva and the HUG is very proactive in finding solutions and coming to agreements with all of these international "outposts" for their staff or, in certain cases, their nationals present in the canton. A meeting is held every year at the Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI)

– the next one will be held in April 2016 – with the objective of informing foreign nationals of what the HUG can offer, notably waiving pre-hospitalisation deposits.

The HUG also goes beyond the international context of Geneva implied by its resident International Organizations by organizing and hosting the Global Health Forum every two years; the next will be held from 19-21 April 2016. This truly global seminar lasting two to three days brings together doctors and representatives of civil society in a common quest for sustainable and affordable medicine for all. This will certainly prove relevant to the soon-to-be-announced United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ■

More info: Geneva Health Forum
<http://ghf.globalhealthforum.net>
Rendez-vous du 19 au 21 avril 2016 pour la 6^e édition.

LANG LANG

Vendredi 6 novembre | Victoria Hall | 20h00

Bach | Tchaïkovski | Chopin

Location: Service culturel Migros - T: 058 568 29 00 | www.grandsinterpretes.ch

INSTITUT
FLORIMONT





Mrs. Esther Adler, Mayor of Geneva, with the Perception Change team (Esther & Jana) and our new memory card game, Connecto.

The biggest plus

There was a poster that was recently circulated, which read, "I don't know what the advantages of living in Switzerland are, but the flag is a big plus." This comment, said in jest, highlighted the physical appearance of Switzerland's square-shaped flag, something we have seen a lot of in the month of July.

CAROLINA RODRIGUEZ, KIRSTEN DEALL, UNOG

Every store, many houses and some mountains proudly displayed and flew the flag, leading up to Swiss National Day, a national holiday on 1 August.

The flag may be a literal 'big plus', but what are some of the more substantial 'pluses' worth talking about? What are we, as International Geneva most proud of? Is it Swiss fondue? Watches designed to precision? The panoramic views of the Alps? Or could it be that a small city is creating and implementing big ideas to reach a higher score in the areas of peace, rights and general well-being? For some, it could be all of the above and more. The

Appelez le **022 700 98 00** pour toute
réservation publicitaire dans **UN SPECIAL**

C.E.P. SA
42, quai Gustave-Ador
1207 Genève
Tél.: 022 700 98 00
Fax: 022 700 90 55
e-mail: cepbarbara@bluewin.ch



Régie publicitaire exclusive **UN SPECIAL**
Editeur & Régie Publicitaire de Revues
Institutionnelles et Corporate

Swiss National day, on Saturday, 1 August 2015, was the perfect excuse to revel in and show off each of these.

In celebration of this holiday, Geneva hosted a festive event in Parc la Grange. There was an endless selection of food stalls, lively bands, vibrant parades, creative puppet shows and donkey rides; something for every age group. Crowds of local residents and tourists visited the park, as well as Saint Bernard and Bernese Mountain Dogs.

Among the hustle and bustle, stood the International Geneva kitchen stand, exhibiting and selling the highly popular book, *Recipes for Peace, Rights & Well-Being*. Our stand attracted many new inquisitive and enquiring faces asking about the recipes we were promoting.

So what is this recipe book? It's the result of over 40 International Organizations collaborating on the Perception Change Project, to best represent themselves in a fun, inspiring and creative way. Each organization provided a recipe for peace, rights or well-being. Interspersed with

these, some of Geneva's top-rated chefs shared their secret mouth-watering menus. As a whole, this book works to boast the city of Geneva's best qualities.

The Perception Change Project released the book to the public in English, French, German and Italian at Salon du Livre, an internationally renowned book fair held in Geneva in April 2015. With high interest and demand, the book has been a successful sell and gift, showing the unique perks and privileges of International Geneva.

Visiting the kitchen stand had its advantage too, catering to all age groups. While adults were captured with the pages of the recipe book, children were entertained with a variety of games. Macaroon-making play dough competitions and a new memory card game was designed to not only be fun, but stimulating and educational as well. On more than one occasion parents got involved in the kids' game and discovered examples of the impact of our work by establishing links between the work of different organizations and everyday life. Kids walked away with a chef hat and possibly a prize won from the activity, while



Peace macarons and playing the memory card game, Connecto, on the International Geneva at the Perception Change kitchen stand at Parc la Grange, 1 August 2015.

adults left with either a book or, at the very least, an increased understanding of International Geneva.

Out of the many highlights from the day, we mostly loved the personal visit from Esther Adler, Mayor of Geneva. Her special attention and interest was well received by each of us.

The Swiss National Day 2015 might be remembered by some for the self-blended Gazpacho powered by bicycle pedaling, the music, or the fireworks but we hope that some will remember our stand and what they discovered in terms of the global impact made by International Geneva. As for us, the Perception Change team, we can now say, "We know the advantages of living in Switzerland. And the biggest plus is the expertise it takes to create the best mix of Peace, Rights and Well-Being." ■

CENTRE OPHTALMOLOGIQUE DE RIVE

15 rue Pierre Fatio 1204 GENEVE | 46 avenue Blanc 1202 GENEVE

Tél. 022.959.75.75
www.ophtarive.ch

URGENCES OPHTALMOLOGIQUES
022.959.75.65

Genève HOTEL SUISSE

In the heart of Geneva, opposite the Gare Cornavin railway station.

- Direct bus and tram departures to the international organisations from right outside the hotel
- Air-conditioned rooms
- Free WiFi

A happy face and a smile to make you feel welcome.

10, Place Cornavin · 1201 Geneva
www.hotel-suisse.ch
Phone: + 41 (0)22 732 66 30
Fax: + 41 (0)22 732 62 39
reservation@hotel-suisse.ch

Shine

HAIR AND CARE

Lundi au vendredi 8h à 19h
Samedi 8h à 17h

Rue Montbrillant 84 - Genève

022 734 84 14

www.shinecoiffure.ch

“It’s kind of exciting, isn’t it? Breaking the rules”

Emma Watson and I have grown up together. We became acquainted when she was 11 and I was an infant, and I have looked to her for guidance throughout my childhood ever since. If my day ended poorly then I would spend the evening watching films with her, and would always consult her before making a fashion decision.

MADELINE REID-17 YEAR OLD ASPIRING JOURNALIST

Emma Watson felt like more than just a role model to me, or a celebrity, but closer to a sister figure – someone I could not only admire but really trust. As I sit in my bedroom writing this surrounded by piles of paper from my latest exams I think back to the first time I watched a *Harry Potter* film and what that meant to me; the excitement and childish wonder that filled me was a feeling that no other film has yet matched. I had an immediate connection to Emma’s character Hermione with her “bossy” tendencies and studious side. It was easy to draw similarities between us. I had always enjoyed school but had been tempted to show this off for fear of teasing, but Emma’s character helped me be proud of myself as a learner. As her films progressed, I saw a shift in Hermione’s school

attitude as she directed her attention towards change for the greater good as opposed to sticking to school rules, and in her fifth year at school she set up a secret rebellion to overthrow an evil teacher, stating “It’s kind of exciting, isn’t it? Breaking the rules.” This gave me a completely new outlook on school and on life, and reminded me that the rules I make for myself are just as important as the ones that I was taught to follow.

After growing up with Hermione, I felt she encouraged my love of learning by helping me embrace my slightly bookish nature. I often wondered if Emma herself had rubbed off on Hermione, or if it was the other way around. It is clear from her speeches she has made as a UN Goodwill Ambassador that she is well read and confident in her

knowledge. Subsequently, her public appearances, respect for her fans and her quiet private life have created a vision of a grounded young woman who is the perfect role model for budding feminists.

When I first heard this news I was elated! My very own role model, fighting an issue even more important than *Lord Voldemort!* Having studied the UN at school I was already aware of how important this was. I immediately told my fellow Emma Fan Friends about the good news, and was surprised and only slightly disheartened by their reply. They didn’t seem to know much about the UN at all, so had little to base their opinions on, and the more I considered this the more I realised how little I also knew. What did being a Goodwill Ambassador actually involve? And what did this mean for Emma?

Being of a curious nature, I decided to research further. The UN Women strives to support inter-governmental bodies in creating policies and global standards, and also provides custom support to countries that request it to allow them to implement equal rights policies. I already had my own strong opinions on these issues which made me feel even more positive about Emma’s new position. However, it was not until September that year when she delivered her powerful, albeit shaky, first speech at the United Nations Headquarters that I was able to comprehend the full extent of her involvement with the UN and the change that she was championing.

She launched the *HeForShe* campaign which was the first of its kind for the UN. It strived to engage men in the fight for

IMPRESSIONNER

impressionner : v.t. produire une vive impression



victor chevalier
imprimerie genevoise sa

12, rue des Mouettes · CP 1352 · 1211 Genève 26 · Tél. 022 307 26 00 · Fax 022 307 26 01 · www.imprimerie-genevoise.ch



gender equality and women's rights. Her words were articulate and passionate, in one section saying;

"Apparently I am among the ranks of women whose expressions are seen as too strong, too aggressive, isolating, anti-men and, unattractive."

These words hit home hard. These were the feelings that I as a studious child had always felt, and that Emma's guidance had helped me overcome. However, these words showed that

many women struggle with inequalities and that their situations are much more severe than playground teasing. The speech was uploaded online along with the transcript, and it did not take long for the word to spread. Within days her speech went viral, gaining over one million YouTube hits and an abundance of media attention. The media on the whole praised the campaign for its modern and inclusive view on feminism, reminding all that gender equality benefits every-

one. My newsfeeds were abuzz with comments and opinions, and many of my friends sent me enthusiastic messages and clips of the speech. But, with the nature of the internet, a story can be viral one day and forgotten the next, however Emma's presence ensured that this didn't happen with *HeForShe*. Less than six months later, Emma appeared onto the timelines of many once more as she hosted a live question and answer session about *HeForShe* on International Women's Day. While only a lucky few were able to attend live, millions tuned in to watch the young actress eloquently raise the profile of gender equality to Women and Men across the world from all walks of life. Some critics had expressed that the campaign was too targeted towards women, so Watson spent a large portion of that broadcast addressing male and gender-neutral issues and this was highly complimented.

The campaign grew in success for a clear reason; Emma's use of online outlets. The *HeForShe* website works as a continuous flow of information as the pages are scrolled. The campaign, which invites men to pledge themselves as part of the movement is exclusively online and works through email signup, something the younger generations are more than familiar with. The task, which

takes only a few seconds to complete, allows a connection between the campaign and the campaigner through email. This simple yet effective process may be the reason that over 300,000 men already pledged themselves to the campaign. With social media being the primary source of news for 16-24 year olds, it is clear how the campaign has managed to successfully impact so many young people. Having Emma Watson at the forefront, one of the most successful child stars to date has allowed the UN Women to connect to a younger audience. The importance of this campaign engaging young people cannot be stressed enough. The more young men that stand up for these issues together with women, the more long term change will happen. It is stressed in her speech that there is not one country in the world that can truthfully state that they provide entirely equal opportunities, so educating these younger people now is the best way to secure change in the future.

Although I have never met Emma Watson and I'm sure I most likely never will, I have grown up and will continue to grow up with her as I watch her United Nations endeavours and I know that her participation in my childhood will inspire me to fight for change not only in my future, but right now. ■



Centre de Dermatologie Rive

2, cours de Rive - 1204 Genève - 5^e étage
Téléphone: 022 510 14 50

Consultations avec et sans rendez-vous

Lundi - Vendredi: 8h00 - 12h00 / 13h30 - 18h00
Samedi: 8h00 - 12h00

Dermatologie Médicale • Dermatologie Chirurgicale
Vidéomicroscopie • Lasers

www.dermato-rive.ch



D^r Joel Salzmann
MD FRCOphth

Friendly UK-trained Anglo-Swiss ophthalmologist. Specialty skills in cataract and retina (detachments, vein occlusions, macular degeneration etc) in addition to a large general eye practice. 'After 18 years of Hospital-based eye care in the UK and Switzerland I opened the office in 2010 and cater to the expatriate and local communities within a network of specialists. Surgical facilities are excellent.'

12 chemin Beau-Soleil - 1206 Geneva (5th floor) - t: +4122 343 1548 - e: drjsalzmann@gmail.com



© Torbjørn Kjosvold/FMS

Malala a child, a life changer

Malala Yousafzai, a goodwill ambassador, a role model, a hero.

HANNAH ROBINSON¹

Malala Yousafzai is young girl turned activist for female education and the right for all girls to go to school. As a child, Malala already understood the importance of an education for everyone before the word 'feminism' and 'equality' even made it into her vocabulary. Education. An imperative. A reality now for girls everywhere.

A true ambassador of goodwill, Malala has been through it all. At the mere age of 11, Malala gave her first speech entitled "How dare the Taliban take away my basic right to education?" which was only a first glimpse of the passion that Malala emits. At age 12 in 2009, Malala lived through 100 girls schools being taken away followed by the issuing of an edict that no girl would go to school after January, whilst Malala continued to prepare for her exams. At age 13, Malala was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize

and went on to later win the Nobel Peace Prize. As her cause and story grew, some saw this as grounds to hurt an innocent, young, 13 year old girl.

Shot, wounded, left for dead, then getting right back up again to speak at the UN, "our books and our pens are the most powerful weapons" the message that shot right back. I am thankful every day for the amazing act of bravery that is Malala's life; I sometimes take for granted my right to a free education but now everyday being sat in school I appreciate every moment because I know that some women are denied access to it. Malala, as a goodwill ambassador, has shown women and young girls everywhere that just because you are small, female, any race, doesn't mean that you can't stand up against big men with guns. Malala has shown us that disobeying an authority that may be oppressing and discriminating against a group is wise, brave

but most importantly, natural and second nature. I see Malala Yousafzai as a modern day superwoman, driving the hope for equality to form part of the foundation in children's education.

Malala has personally inspired me to spread the hope for equality throughout all aspects of my life, reminding people of the need for acts of bravery, just like Malala, to make a positive impact on the world. Education really is a vital factor in our lives and I believe that Malala is such an important figure that raises awareness about those not receiving one. Something so fundamental that lives are changed daily by one lesson—because what if the cure for cancer is trapped inside the mind of someone who is being denied an education?

Living now in Birmingham, United Kingdom, Malala Yousafzai is changing the world, with what all began as a passion for fairness and equality. It is thought that the message riding on the coat tails of this world changing young woman, is that we can do this

too, something I truly believe in. Prejudice and discrimination can still be found in places around the globe—how great would it be if just one person fought back on every one of these streets?

People love to tell us that the world will never be perfect as 'there will always be someone' but why not? Why can't we live in a world where treating people equally and fairly isn't even batted an eyelid at? Maybe we don't think we need to fight against a problem that is not prevalent in our everyday lives—why should we change the world? Someone else will do it—another Malala will come along... No. It should not have to take a young woman being shot for the world to sit up and help her shape our future—if you don't help change the world then who will? Hope, education and pure hearts are our most powerful weapons, something that the men who shot Malala will never have. ■

¹ A student with a strong passion for feminism, and in complete awe of Malala.

Partager le plaisir de lire

«J'aimerais lire davantage!».

Voilà une phrase que nous avons tous prononcée.

MARIE-JOSÉ ASTRE-DEMOULIN, SDLS, UNOG

Lorsque nous réfléchissons à ce qui nous empêche de lire, il est certain que le sacro-saint manque de temps arrive en tête. Toutefois, pour beaucoup d'entre nous, il est probable que nous ouvririons plus souvent un roman si nous savions que cette activité, par définition solitaire dans un premier temps, allait être suivie d'une possibilité de partager nos impressions avec d'autres lecteurs!

L'événement annuel «L'usage des mots» a précisément été créé afin de générer un véritable échange autour de la lecture; non seulement entre les auteurs et leur public mais également entre lecteurs.

«Lettres frontière», association pour la promotion de la littérature transfrontalière, créée par les villes d'Annemasse, Genève et Thonon, organise en effet chaque automne, depuis 1993, une journée de rencontre entre public, écrivains, artistes et professionnels du livre.

Il s'agit d'un événement gratuit et ouvert à tous qui aura lieu cette année le samedi 14 novembre 2015, de 9 heures à 20 heures, salle du Faubourg à Genève (près du Théâtre Saint-Gervais). De multiples tables rondes et événements y seront proposés et la journée se clôturera sur la remise de prix littéraires à deux lauréats choisis parmi dix auteurs en compétition, tous sont issus de Suisse romande et de Rhône-Alpes.

Ceux-ci ont d'ores et déjà été présélectionnés par un jury. Vous en trouverez la liste complète figure sur le site Internet¹. Les romans sont dès maintenant soumis à la lecture et au vote de lecteurs qui détermineront quels seront leurs favoris –un pour chaque côté de la frontière.

Chacun de nous peut devenir membre de l'un de ces groupes de lecteurs-votants. Il suffit de s'inscrire auprès d'une bibliothèque participante. Et il est aisé de vérifier s'il en existe une près de chez



Marie Chataignon, Vice-Présidente de «Lettres frontière»

vous: <http://www.lettresfrontiere.net/prix-lettres-frontiere/groupes-de-lecteurs/>. Les livres proposés pour la sélection s'y trouvent en prêt gratuit et, dans la plupart des cas, des rencontres sont organisées en sous-groupes, avant le vote final, afin de fournir aux lecteurs des opportunités de débattre de leurs impressions, au fil du temps.

Une parfaite occasion pour nous autres, Onusiens, de découvrir de belles histoires et de renforcer notre implication dans le tissu local romand, savoyard ou de l'Ain (rare département français qui ne dispose pas de la possibilité d'être adjectivé... ce qui démontre, s'il le fallait encore, que la langue française ne cessera jamais de nous charmer – ou de nous procurer de délicieux agacements)! ■

Site: <http://www.lettresfrontiere.net/prix-lettres-frontiere/presentation>

1: <http://www.lettresfrontiere.net/22e-preselection/>

Maison Internationale des Associations
Espaces Congrès & Conférences
Genève

Rue des Savoises 15
1205 Genève - Plainpalais
T: +41 22 329 20 22
F: +41 22 329 20 23
public@lafa.org
www.lafa.org

LES SAVOISES
CAFÉ-RESTO ÉQUITABLE

Rue des Savoises 9 bis
1205 Genève - Plainpalais
T: +41 22 321 96 37
F: +41 22 321 96 38
equitable2@bluewin.ch
www.resto-savoises.org

Le midi sur place ou à emporter du Lundi au vendredi

Le midi Plat fourchette verte ou carte d'été

Vova
SWISS DEALS

ONLY 99.- CHF
INSTEAD OF
149.- CHF

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
PROMO CODE:

www.vova.club

kiran
Real Indian Cuisine

Elaborate and Authentic Indian Cuisine
with a special focus on regional dishes

Address: 101, Rue du Rhône, 1201 Genève
Tel: 022 734 41 43 • contact@kiran.ch • www.kiran.ch

Diplomats Children and their experience

As far as I am concerned, moving/relocating is a commonplace occurrence.

ISIDORO CAMPIONI-NOACK

It's not to say that such actions pass unnoticed in my life, but are more a process, or moment, in life that has and will always happen. I haven't lived anywhere for more than three years, and have usually stayed in a place for about a year. When I tell people about how much I move, they envy me and think that I have one of the best possible lives for a person of my age. And mind you, they aren't wrong, living an international life, moving every second day, is incredibly thrilling. In addition to what one learns from all the different cultures, languages and people, allowing one to become truly a citizen of the world. But what does this actually entail for the son of an international civil servant?

Obviously many good things; It can be seen that compared to classmates who have had a much more stable life, my tolerance and acceptance of different points of views and people is much more enhanced. Although this might sound very obvious, it has taken me various years to notice, and it has helped me to make friends with literally everyone, across all spectrums. This contributes to the understanding of cultures and co-living with them, which is what many students aim to learn when embarking on an exchange year. Thus, allowing gaining a step forward compared to others.

Another obvious benefit that I drew from relocating so often was the learning of languages; this helped both with making friends as well as integrating in the local places (because as I found, people feel more at ease when talking in their own language). And one does not have to be a language-guru to pick up languages; from living in Vien-

na and Geneva, I have been able to gain a basic understanding of German and French. Although I cannot speak the languages I can understand surprising amounts and respond with one or two words that I picked up from living in those places.

It is apparent that there aren't only benefits involved with moving, it is after all one of the most stressing parts of life for many people. Many drawbacks can be found, especially in the education section, but not only. My grades do reflect my level of dedication, but moving schools so often for sure did not aid me. This can be seen with my violin playing; although I have played for ten years, my level is rudimentary compared to others with the same amount of experience. Apart from changing of teachers, there was also a constant alteration in teaching methods, making progress complicated. I believe that there comes an age at which point it is important to start slowing down and settling, more specifically around the age where grades become important and the company one keeps is more significant to him/her (high school).

Yet it is obvious that diplomats can't just choose to stop their job for their children, however I did find there were activities that I did that eased the stress and distraction that I first experienced when changing school and/or location. I believe that parents cannot underestimate the importance of friends, as they are responsible for making the 'bubble' that one lives in, making it either welcoming and warm or lonely and cold. Therefore, I found in my experience that having a good set of friends around me had a positive uncon-



Isidoro Campioni-Noack

scious effect over my grades. Attending an international school, instead of a local one, can help as the fellow classmates have similar experiences and are more open. I also found that by playing a sport and an instrument helped with socializing and creating a network of friends within the environment.

Many parents do not have a choice as to whether to move so often or not, hence the question is more how to deal with it, than, should we move so often? The best advice I can give from personal experience is to encourage social interactions, on all levels; sports, music, school and also work colleagues as these act as a distraction and as an incentive. ■

Restaurants



Festival Chopin 2015

Pour la dix-huitième année consécutive, le Festival Chopin à Genève, se tiendra du 4 au 11 octobre 2015 dans la Grande Salle du Conservatoire de Musique de Genève ainsi qu'à la Mairie de Collonge-Bellerive.

Cette année, le festival met à l'honneur le piano-solo: quatre grands

recitals de piano, quatre grands interprètes: Muza Rubackyté, Frank Levy, Janina Fiałkowska Et Marcin Wieczorek provenant de Lituanie, des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, du Canada et de Pologne. Quatre sensibilités. Muza Rubackyté, vous enverra dans un programme dédié à Chopin, son confrère Liszt et Louis Vierne.

Frank Lévy interprétera un programme composé

exclusivement de pièces de Chopin.

Janina Fiałkowska, interprète hors-pair du répertoire romantique, lui a valu surtout des éloges d'Artur Rubinstein pour ses interprétations des œuvres de Chopin. Elle nous enchantera dans un récital Beethoven,

Schumann et Chopin.

Dans le cycle « Jeunes Interprètes » à la Salle Willy Buard à la Mairie de Collonge-Bellerive, le public découvrira Marcin Wieczorek, pianiste et virtuose polonais, qui a débuté sa carrière par de nombreuses participations aux concours internationaux.

Du haut de ses dix-neuf ans, il présentera un magnifique



© Wikipedia/Louis-Auguste Bisson

programme ambitieux composé d'œuvres de Chopin et Szymanowski.

La traditionnelle Masterclass, ouverte au public, sera donnée du 5 au 7 octobre par la pianiste Muza Rubackyté et clôturée par le concert des lauréats le mercredi 7 octobre 2015 dans la Salle de la Bourse du Conservatoire de Musique de Genève.

Vous trouverez toutes les informations nécessaires du Festival Chopin 2015 sur notre site internet www.societe-chopin.ch

L'important n'est pas d'éblouir mais de vivre ensemble des moments d'émotions durant la semaine du 4 au 11 octobre 2015. ■

Sauan - the art of Japanese dining

Seasonal Kaiseki - sushi menus

Sushi & sashimi with first quality products

四季の寿司懐石

草庵

SAUAN

Quai Gustave Ador 1, 1207 Genève
022 736 68 02 www.sauan.ch
Located in front of the English Garden, Parking of Rive

Restaurant du Creux-de-Genthod

Un lieu hors du commun, climat hors du commun

Votre restaurant au bord du lac - Menus au choix à midi du lundi au vendredi - Cuisine du terroir

Ouvert 7/7 - Tél. + 41 (0)22 774 10 06 - www.creuxdegenthod.com

UN Special nominated for an award

In 1949, several staff members in Geneva decided to produce a staff bulletin. This was 65 years ago.

EVELINA RIOUKHINA, SARAH JORDAN,
UNOG

The first issue was hand-typed and consisted of 12 pages. When we look at our magazine today – 50 pages and 23 articles monthly – including an editorial, regular columns (Guest of the Month, News, Globe, Arts) and an array of topics (UN and Member States, Ethics, Geneva International, Human Rights, MDGs, Climate Change, Healthy Cities, Innovations, etc.), it is clear that *UN Special* can compete with any professional magazine, even though it is produced by staff members, none of whom are professional journalists.

We – several staff members, who do this on top of our formal duties – produce a 50-page magazine every month. The magazine that you receive every month is the result of our volunteerism – it is produced in our free time, evenings, weekends, leave or vacations. None of us are professional editors or writers: we are medical doctors, security officers, teachers, statisticians, secretaries, etc. We all came from different countries, cultures and backgrounds, but we are united by the same passion – our magazine – and we love what we do. All those who have been involved know that when you link your life with *UN Special* it becomes an integral part of our out-of-office lives

and turns into a commitment towards readers, colleagues and also towards the Organization because from the pages of the magazine we also promote the values of our Organization.

The survey conducted last year showed that our readers like our magazine and enjoy reading it. About 82% of respondents throughout UNOG gave us high appraisals and we are very grateful for this.

In July 2015, during its 65th year of existence and on the eve of the UN@70 celebrations, *UN Special* submitted an entry for an award based on the criterion of long-standing Staff Volunteerism. This criterion required us to show how we “demonstrate and promote organizational values through the commitment of personal time and/or expertise to a deserving cause outside (one’s) immediate work plan / job description”. And this is exactly what we have been trying to achieve. Editors-in-Chief (EiC), our captains, have led us by their example.

The last four EiCs have marked the magazine by their outstanding volunteerism, but all in different ways.

The history of Staff Volunteerism at *UN Special* was particu-

larly marked by Jean-Michel Jackobowicz, one of the most striking and shining figures of the magazine. It is he who made it look as it looks today; it is with him that we added colour to the magazine (it was black and white before); it is with him that we introduced the broad variety of subjects, making the magazine much more than a simple staff bulletin. Jean-Michel was also an ardent defender of staff interests. Just read the book of his editorials, which we published as a tribute to him. Christian David, who came after him led by his outstanding dedication and devotion. It was Christian David who opened the magazine to the outside world and who introduced the Geneva International section, thus starting to build a bridge between us and the City. Laurence Vercammen was EiC for one year only and had a difficult challenge – to ensure the continuity of the magazine when it went over to WHO after being more than two decades at UNOG. She decided to start from scratch and created a new team. She showed her will and determination, managing to run a high quality magazine, thus becoming “Woman of the Year” at WHO. The current Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Garry Aslanyan, for almost half a year already,



Cover of the first *UN Special* – October 1949

© UN Special

combines the best of the three above – his creativity, innovative ideas, hard work, dedication and openness have helped increase interest in the magazine at UNOG and, we are told, it is now read from the first to the last page.

When submitting our entry, it was not possible to include all those who over the years, in the previous or current Editorial Committee, as simple contributors or reliable *UN Special* partners have demonstrated examples of staff volunteerism: André Rotach, Sergio da Silva, Emmanuel Gantet, David Winch, Ian Richards, Sarah Jordan, Solange Behoteguy, Marie-José Astre, Véronique Magnin, Claude Maillard, Seble Demeke, Mariah Dweggah, Veronica Riemer, Elizabeth Wilson, Nicolas Rouzeau, Ryan Kennedy, François Subiger, Gautam Basu, Elizabeth James and many others, as well as all the members of the current Editorial Committee who are extremely active and who have marked the magazine over the last one and a half years, and of course, all those who have helped in the publishing process, proof-reading, taking photos, etc. Without all these colleagues our entry for the nomination would not be possible!



Cover of *UN Special* – April 2007



Cover of *UN Special* - October 2009 (with covers of the magazine from 1949 to 2009 marking its 60th anniversary)

Five years ago the magazine was highly appraised on the occasion of its 60th anniversary (EiC at that time, Christian David). This was when the Secretary-General visited Geneva and paid a visit to our *UN Special* exhibition. We received a special appraisal for our Memorial project, considered as being one of the major achievements of our magazine, as highlighted by the then UNOG Direc-

tor-General in his remarks on the occasion of the 60th jubilee of the *UN Special*. Today, our offering is much richer – it includes many projects, ideas and new topics. Among them: Green Day (initiative by Christian David); the follow-up to the Memorial Project including a proposal to designate a specific Day of Remembrance for Colleagues Fallen in the line of duty (Evelina Rioukhina/Ian

Richards); raising awareness of the state of the Celestial Sphere and the possible inclusion of this monument in the UNESCO World Heritage List (Christian David/Evelina Rioukhina), and our very recent appeal to restore the Temple of Peace and Friendship, erected by Count Jean-Jacques de Sellon, the founder of the European Peace Society, thus marking almost two centuries of peace actions

in Geneva (Evelina Rioukhina/Sarah Jordan/Ian Richards). All the above projects have been included in the nomination volunteerism list, and we do hope to win! ■

Education/Enseignement

Ecole Atlas

Lycée-collège privé - private middle and high school
Pour étudiants âgés de 8 à 20 ans - for students aged 8-20

Places réservées pour les enfants aux besoins spécifiques dans le cursus traditionnel
(hyperactivité, troubles du développement et/ou du comportement, autisme)

Places reserved for children with special education needs within the mainstream classes
(hyperactivity, developmental and/or behavioral disorders, autism)



© Claude Maillard

Des milliers de flamants roses ont envahi le salar de Tara

CHILI (2^e partie)

De lagunas en volcans

Après bientôt une semaine à parcourir les fantastiques contrées sauvages dans les environs de San Pedro de Atacama (voir UN Special du mois passé), suite de l'aventure en direction de la frontière bolivienne toute proche.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

A 4800 m, même en région désertique, la nuit a été fraîche et une fine pellicule de glace recouvre la laguna Quepiapo dominée par le célèbre Licancabur, le volcan au cône parfait de 5916 m qui fait rêver tous les vulcanologues et que nous avons prévu de gravir lorsque nous serons mieux acclimatés à l'altitude. Encore plus haut, le volcan Pili reflète son sommet déchiqueté (6046 m) dans la laguna Diamantes d'un bleu aussi pur que celui du ciel andin. Quelques lamas et vigognes complètent la scène: l'image est féérique! Au loin, vue de la caldera de la Pakana, une étendue émeraude surgit au milieu de ce paysage aride: c'est la laguna Aguas Calientes. Tous ces lacs d'altitude, plus ou moins profonds, ponctuent le désert de leurs eaux multicolores et font le bonheur des flamants roses qui viennent s'y délecter des minuscules crevettes qu'ils renferment.

A l'assaut du Lascar...

Planté en plein désert, un rocher haut de 27 m au profil d'indien semble garder

les lieux. Dès lors, la route fait place à une piste sablonneuse qui débouche sur un vaste plateau désertique bordé de falaises ciselées composées d'agglomérat de cendres volcaniques et sur lequel se sont répandues des coulées de basalte et d'obsidienne. A l'horizon se dresse à 5653 m d'altitude le volcan Zapaleri dont le sommet constitue le tripoint entre les frontières de l'Argentine, de la Bolivie et du Chili. Plus près, au fond d'une dépression, le salar de Tara s'offre à nous. Un panorama à couper le souffle. Avec tous ces flamants roses et ces dizaines d'espèces d'oiseaux à observer, c'est vraiment l'Altiplano dans toute sa splendeur! Mais ce n'est pas ce soir que nous allons faire la fiesta «Chez Carmen», petit resto très sympa à San Pedro. Pas de Casillero del Diablo non plus pour arroser cette merveilleuse journée... et comble de tout, il faut aller au lit de bonne heure! Car demain l'ascension du Lascar nous attend et ce n'est pas tous les jours que l'on grimpe à 5592 m sur l'un des volcans les plus actifs du Chili. Il a connu plus de 30 éruptions depuis les



Du haut de ses 27 mètres, le «rocher de l'indien» semble garder les lieux



El Tatio, la troisième plus grande zone géothermale au monde



La mignonne petite église de Machuca sur le chemin qui mène en Bolivie

années 1850; la plus violente projeta des cendres jusqu'à Buenos Aires et la dernière date de 2007. A ses pieds, tel un miroir, la laguna Lejia renvoie l'extraordinaire image d'un autre volcan, le Chiliques pendant que sur ses berges quelques nandous, espèce d'oiseaux voisins de l'autruche, déguerpissent à grandes enjambées. La pente du Lascar est abrupte et au travers d'éboulis de roches et de cendres, la progression est difficile. Des émanations de soufre, la raréfaction d'oxygène et certainement le manque de préparation nous handicapent énormément. Le souffle se fait de plus en plus court, mais après plusieurs heures nous atteignons le sommet, heureux mais complètement exténués. Depuis la crête, la vue sur le cratère éventré d'où s'échappent des fumerolles est impressionnante: nous sommes bien sur une gigantesque bombe à retardement...

... mais désillusion au Licancabur

Après nous être concertés avec notre guide de montagne Gino, la décision est prise de ne pas tenter le diable en voulant coûte que coûte se lancer dans l'escalade du Licancabur le surlendemain et peut-être de compromettre la suite de notre aventure. Plus sagement, nous nous plongerons dans le passé en partant à la découverte des pétroglyphes qui ornent les rochers du site de Yervas Buenas. Envoutés par les lieux, nous ne pourrions pas résister à bivouaquer sur place, loin de toute «pollution lumineuse», nous donnant l'occasion de formuler nos plus chers vœux à chaque passage d'une étoile filante, très nombreuses au-dessus du désert d'Atacama.

Genres de cactus candélabres atteignant 8 m de haut, les cactus cardones se plaisent à merveille sur les parois abruptes du Rio Salado et du Rio Grande. La piste qui surplombe ces profonds canyons conduit jusqu'au village de Rio Grande, où 80 personnes vivent d'un peu de cultures en

terrasse et d'élevage, complètement isolés de tout. Coiffé d'un toit de chaume surmonté d'une croix «dangereusement» inclinée, le clocher de la petite église construite en pierres blanches et entourée d'un mur en terre domine une poignée de maisonnettes plutôt modestes. Bien vite le chemin, traversé à plusieurs reprises par un torrent, devient impraticable et c'est à pied que nous accéderons à Penalir, village fantôme bâti à 3430 m d'altitude, dans un univers minéral où rien ne pousse et que ses habitants ont dû abandonner. Tout aussi peu fréquentée, la vallée Arc-en-Ciel, formée de concrétions rocheuses érodées par le vent, offre une incroyable palette de couleurs. Parmi les roches vertes, bleues, rouges, marron, violettes et orangées, on trouve principalement de la pyrite, de la calcite, ainsi que des oxydes de fer et de cuivre. Un vrai régal pour les yeux...

La tête dans les étoiles...

Ce n'est pas par hasard si l'Europe, l'Asie et l'Amérique du Nord, en collaboration avec le Chili, se sont groupées pour construire le télescope le plus puissant au monde près de San Pedro de Atacama. C'est sur le haut plateau de Chajnantor, dans un décor lunaire, à 5100 m d'altitude que se dresse ce formidable outil technologique nommé ALMA (Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array). Balayé par des vents violents et polaires, l'endroit a été choisi pour son air qui est très sec, certainement le plus sec de la planète. Dans ces conditions idéales, les 66 antennes géantes d'ALMA, pesant entre 100 et 120 tonnes chacune, ont pour mission de traquer en meute la naissance d'une étoile et d'une galaxie dans l'univers froid, telles qu'elles étaient il y a plus de 10 milliards d'années. Pour notre part, nous nous contenterons de la dizaine de télescopes qu'Alain Maury, ingénieur en astronomie et photographe, met à la disposition des touristes pour leur faire découvrir le ciel austral. Depuis toujours intéressé par

la vulgarisation de l'astronomie et après avoir travaillé au CNRS, il a fondé SPACE avec son épouse à San Pedro de Atacama.

... et dans les entrailles de la terre

Situé à 4321 m d'altitude et d'une surface de plus de 30 km², El Tatio est la troisième plus grande zone géothermale au monde après celle de Yellowstone aux Etats-Unis et celle de la Vallée des Geysers en Russie. L'eau provenant de la fonte des neiges et qui s'est infiltrée dans des failles à environ 800 mètres de profondeur, là où la température atteint les 250°C, est réchauffée puis se transforme en vapeur avant d'être expulsée vers la surface. Ainsi, plusieurs dizaines de fumerolles et de solfatares, des terrasses de geysérite, plus d'une centaine de sources chaudes (dont 80 geysers) et quelques volcans de boue parsèment le secteur. Et même si la hauteur des geysers n'est pas très importante, le spectacle est grandiose, surtout au lever du jour quand le contraste entre la température ambiante glaciale et celle de l'eau en ébullition est au maximum. C'est aussi à ce moment-là qu'apparaissent les viscaches, gros rongeurs proches du lapin mais avec une queue touffue ressemblant à celle de l'écureuil, peu effarouchées par notre présence. Mais nous n'aurons guère le loisir de les observer quand elles bondissent de rocher en rocher ou prennent la pause sous les premiers rayons bienfaiteurs du soleil. Car demain dimanche, la Bolivie vote pour élire son nouveau Président et les frontières seront fermées. Pour cela nous devons abrégier notre séjour au Chili pour pouvoir poursuivre notre aventure... à suivre dans le prochain numéro du *UN Special*. ■

NB: Quelques temps après nous avoir permis d'accéder au sommet du volcan Lascar qui culmine à près de 5600 m, notre guide Gino a été victime d'une chute qui lui a malheureusement été fatale. A 32 ans, ce gentil garçon dynamique, enthousiasme laisse une compagne et un enfant qu'il n'aura même pas eu la chance de connaître.

2015, Année internationale des sols



© Shutterstock

L'année 2015 est l'Année internationale des sols. Dans le cadre du Partenariat mondial sur les sols, l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) a été désignée pour mettre en œuvre cette année internationale en collaboration avec les gouvernements et le secrétariat de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification.

OLIVIER BORIE

Le choix de la FAO résulte de l'importance des sols dans l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire. Les sols, un mélange de croûte terrestre enrichi de matière organique résultant des processus vivants, forment le socle de la vie de la partie émergée de notre planète. Ils constituent un système vivant abritant une riche biodiversité. Leur qualité et leur bonne santé

sont essentiels pour la production d'aliments sains.

On évalue à 95% la part de nos aliments produits directement et indirectement sur les sols. Ceux-ci servent aussi à la production de fibres, de combustibles et fournissent des services écosystémiques indispensables tels que la filtration et la rétention des eaux

de pluie et de ruissellement, la décomposition de déchets, la libération d'éléments nutritifs, la dégradation de produits chimiques et la séquestration de CO₂.

Les sols jouent un rôle essentiel dans les grands cycles de la biosphère, mais leur importance est sous-estimée, quand elle n'est tout simplement pas ignorée. Valoriser ce qui se passe, souvent de façon invisible, est loin d'être aisé, sans même parler du mépris, parfois, envers la terre, perçue comme «sale» et associée à des tâches manuelles primaires.

Nos modes de production et de consommation combinés à une augmentation de la population mondiale exercent sur les sols une pression croissante entraînant des conséquences comme l'érosion, la salinisation, l'acidification, le tassement, la baisse voire la perte de biodiversité ou la pollution. L'urbanisation et la construction d'infrastructures imperméabilisent des surfaces toujours plus vastes.

Par ailleurs, des formes d'agriculture intensive combinées à des pratiques de surexploitation, de monoculture et à un usage massif d'engrais chimiques et de biocides appauvrissent les sols et finissent par compromettre leur capacité de production.

A cela s'ajoutent des phénomènes liés au changement climatique qui affectent également les sols, induisant, par exemple, une perte de capacité de stockage du CO₂, voire sa libération ce qui, forcément, n'arrange pas les choses...

Or, si la dégradation des sols peut être très rapide, leur

formation est lente. A l'échelle d'une vie humaine, on considère même qu'il s'agit d'une ressource non renouvelable, tant leur capacité à revenir à leur état initial après une perturbation prend du temps. A terme, la disponibilité en suffisance de sols pourrait être menacée avec les conséquences habituelles de la pauvreté, la faim, les migrations et les conflits.

Comment augmenter la production agricole alors que l'expansion de la superficie des sols cultivables est limitée? Des progrès techniques sont possibles et souhaitables, mais c'est plus du côté de nos comportements que se trouvent les solutions. Nos approches court-termistes de recherche de gains immédiats sont souvent à l'origine de bien des dégâts. On consomme puis on jette, par terre, évidemment, sans tenir compte de la dimension systémique des choses.

En matière de production agricole, l'agroécologie et l'agriculture biologique offrent des pistes qui privilégient des approches holistiques de gestion agricole durable où la perte de matière organique ne dépasse pas le seuil de formation et de renouvellement des sols.

Sur un plan individuel, nous pouvons aussi favoriser les circuits d'approvisionnement courts, l'alimentation locale et saisonnière, réduire le gaspillage alimentaire, etc.

Notre planète, que ce soit sur terre ou dans les océans, a encore largement de quoi nous nourrir. Cultivons-la, tel un immense jardin, pour continuer à goûter et jouir de sa diversité. ■

Message du rédacteur en chef

Vous aimeriez partager votre opinion sur le magazine et son contenu ?

N'hésitez plus et écrivez-nous !

Nous serions heureux de recevoir votre avis.

Les plus pertinents, les plus intéressants, les plus originaux seront publiés dans le magazine.

Si le succès est au rendez-vous, le magazine comportera à l'avenir une rubrique «nos lecteurs nous écrivent».

Et maintenant, à vos plumes!

Adressez vos commentaires à:

Garry Aslanyan, rédacteur en chef – *UN Special*
20, avenue Appia – 1211 Genève 27 – Suisse
Par courrier électronique: unspecial@who.int

Message from the editor-in-chief

Would you like to share your opinion about *UN Special* and its contents ?

Write to us!

We will be glad to hear from you.

The most interesting, relevant, or even ingenious responses will be published in the magazine.

We are also thinking of a regular feature with the messages from our readers.

Now, put pen to paper!

Send your thoughts to:

Garry Aslanyan, editor-in-chief – *UN Special*
20, avenue Appia – 1211 Genève 27 – Switzerland
By email: unspecial@who.int

Nos remerciements vont également aux personnes qui ont participé activement à l'élaboration de ce numéro:

We thank the persons, who actively contributed to the preparation of this issue:

**Sarah Bencherif,
Itzel Guerrero,
Edward McKenzie,
Améline Peterschmitt,
Nicolas Plouviez,
Laura Rojas**

UN Special

UN Special

Palais des Nations, bureau C507
1211 Genève 10 – T. 022 917 25 01
unspecial@unog.ch
unspecial@who.int
www.unspecial.org

In New York: office AB-0829

Garry Aslanyan

Rédacteur en chef p.i./Interim Editor-in-chief

Grace Rachael Acayo

Secrétaire/Secretary

Robert Jakob

Trésorier/Treasurer

Oleksandr Svirchevsky

Site internet/Website

Editeur / Publisher

APG | SGA Airport, Bercher S.A. Publicité Générale
route de Pré-Bois 20, C.P. 1895, CH-1215 Genève 15
T. 022 347 33 88 – F. 022 346 20 47
contact.airport@apgsa.ch

Publicité / Advertising

CEP S.A.
quai Gustave-Ador 42, 1207 Genève
T. 022 700 98 00 – F. 022 700 90 55
cepbarbara@bluewin.ch

**Revue des fonctionnaires internationaux des Nations Unies à Genève et de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé.
Magazine of the international civil servants of the United Nations at Geneva and of the World Health Organization**

Les opinions exprimées dans UNS sont celles des auteurs, et non forcément celles de l'ONU, de l'OMS ou de ses agences spécialisées. La parution de ce magazine dépend uniquement du support financier de la publicité prise en charge par une régie.

The opinions in UNS are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the United Nations, the WHO or its specialized agencies. The publication of this magazine relies solely on the financial support of its advertisers.

Impression / Printers

Victor Chevalier Imprimerie Genevoise S.A.
case postale 1352, 1211 Genève 26 – T. 022 307 26 00

Graphisme / Design

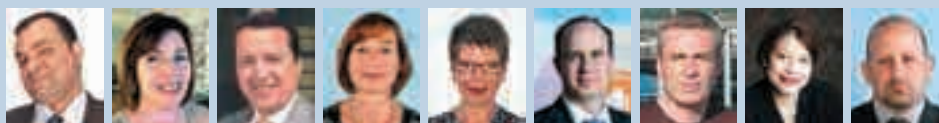
Atelier Schnegg+ – Michel Schnegg
rue du Simplon 5, CH-1207 Genève
T. 022 344 72 90 – F. 022 340 24 11
www.atelier-schnegg.ch

Composition du Comité de rédaction

Composition of the Editorial committee



Marina Appiah Garry Aslanyan Marie-José Astre-Démoulin Gautam Basu Omar Bawa Solange Behoteguy Olivier Borie Dorine Da Re - Van der Wal Natasha De Francisco



Mahmoud Hammoud Sarah Jordan Alexander Mejia Veronica Riemer Evelina Rioukhina Christopher Strebel Igor Toskin Gemma Vestal Ahmed Zoulten

Imprimé sur du papier certifié FSC. Tirage: 10 500 exemplaires

Somebody's Watching Me

Clinique
GENERALE - BEAULIEU
www.beaulieu.ch

Emil Frey SA Genève
Acacias

[www.emilfrey.ch/
bmw-mini](http://www.emilfrey.ch/bmw-mini)



Le plaisir
de conduire



DOUBLÉ DE BOLIDES. DOUBLE TURBO.

LA NOUVELLE BMW M3 BERLINE ET LA
NOUVELLE BMW M4 COUPÉ. ESSAYEZ-LA DÈS
MAINTENANT CHEZ VOTRE PARTENAIRE BMW M.

Emil Frey SA Genève Acacias

23 Route des Acacias

1211 Genève 26

Tél. 022 308 53 08

www.emilfrey.ch/bmw-mini