



ISSUE 1 / # 1—November 2006 UN Inter-Agency Newsletter

EDITORIAL

TEAM (Together Each Achieves More) can best describe the birth of the inter-agency Training and Fellowship Newsletter. It is a result of the dedication, commitment and perseverance of the Senior Fellowship Officers of the UN system agencies for a stronger system-wide coherence and effectiveness across the United Nations system, especially across development-related organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations in the field of training and fellowships. Maybe, this Newsletter is the first of its kind in the UN system, published jointly by the UN agencies, which heralds the dawn of a new culture of work after the motto: Coming together, sharing together, working together, and succeeding together.

The harmonization of the policies and procedures on training and fellowships during the 14th and 15th meetings of Senior Fellowship Officers in Vienna and Geneva in 2002 and 2004 respectively marked a turning point in inter-agency fellowship coordination. It paved the way for the issuance of a global newsletter where agencies could launch policy as well as service delivery coherence initiatives in line with the concept “one United Nations” of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination. Being global, this newsletter aims at serving all the UN agencies involved in Training and Fellowships in the areas of: capacity building; best practices; shared inter-agency workspace; exchange of views among Fel-

lowship Officers within the framework of the UN system agencies and National Placement and Supervising agencies. In addition, it will cover activities of different training and fellowships programmes of various agencies; brief reviews on current and relevant issues; exchange of experiences on fellowships etc. The voice of our fellows will also be heard on the pages of this Newsletter.

Ideally, the newsletter would not only serve as a tribune where we can air our views on fellowship-related issues but also as a tool which will enable each and every one of us to contribute towards closer inter-agency coherence both in policy matters and delivery services. The newsletter will serve as a forum for proactive and meaningful interaction.

We hope you find this Newsletter useful and look forward to your contributions, reactions and comments for the production of subsequent issues.

Finally we would like to acknowledge the wholehearted teamwork of everyone who, in one way or the other, has contributed to the success of the Newsletter. We wish TRAINING AND FELLOWSHIPS a long and fruitful life!

Furio De Tomassi
Chief , Personnel Service
Technical Cooperation Management Services
UNDESA



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UNITAR'S INTERNATIONAL LAW FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAMME

The 2006 UN/UNITAR Fellowship Programme in International Law started at The Hague, Netherlands on 10 July and will take place until 18 August 2006.

This year's course is attended by 18 fellow participants from the following countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia, Cameroon, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iraq,

Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uzbekistan.

Self-funded participants from ASEAN, Australia, Iran, Portugal, Qatar, Thailand, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates have also been granted access to the Programme.

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enable qualified professionals from developing countries and countries in socio-economic transition, in particular mid-level government officials and young teachers of international law, to acquire additional knowledge about international law and the legal work of the United Nations and its associated bodies.

The Fellowship Programme covers a period of six weeks and comprises courses on different law-related subjects such as:

Refugee Law, International Humanitarian Law, International Trade Law, Law of the Sea, Treaties Law, International Protection of Human Rights, International Environmental Law, International Criminal Law, Public International Law and International Law.

Courses at The Hague's Academy of International Law and study visits to the International Court of Justice, to the International Criminal Court and to the Permanent Court of Arbitra-

tion are also an important part of this six-week programme.

The working language of the 2006 Programme is English. The 2007 Programme will be conducted in French.

**Daniela Bottigelli
Programme Associate
Multilateral Diplomacy &
International Affairs
Management
UNITAR**

“Global need for increased human resources in health to fight chronic shortage of health workers worldwide”

PAHO COLLABORATES WITH FULBRIGHT ON NEW TRAINING

“Working Together for Health,” WHO’s 2006 World Health Report, speaks to the global need for increased human resources in health to fight the chronic shortage of health workers worldwide. One means to address this need is by investing in our youth, by training and inspiring graduate and undergraduate students to become future leaders in international public health. To respond to this challenge, the Pan American Health Organization, WHO’s Regional Office of the Americas, recently launched the *Fulbright-PAHO Traineeship in Public Health* an initiative which brought five Fulbright students in Public Health from Latin America and the Caribbean to PAHO headquarters in Washington, D.C. as trainees in summer 2006. The students gained skills and knowledge in public health through a practicum experience at the PAHO headquarters in Washington, D.C. and travels to PAHO Centers and/or country of-

fices in Latin America and the Caribbean. The first year’s cohort of Fulbright students came from Brazil, Ecuador, Haiti, and Nicaragua and worked in the technical areas of HIV/AIDS, Non-Communicable Diseases, Maternal and Child Health, and Sustainable Development and Environmental Health.

PAHO launched the initiative with a reception in Washington, D.C. which welcomed the Fulbright students and the partnering agencies—the Institute of International Education (IIE), administrators of the Fulbright program, and the U.S. Department of State (US DOS), the funding agency. During the reception, PAHO Deputy Director Dr. Joxel Garcia signed a Memo of Agreement to formalize this program with the Institute of International Education. This activity is part of a larger initiative managed by PAHO’s Human Resources for Health Unit to build a

strong trainee program at PAHO through collaborations with training institutions and other external organizations. The Training and Fellowships Program, formerly the “Fellowships” Unit, has expanded its mandate to encompass a variety of training modalities, including practicum experiences at PAHO, as a means to reach a larger audience at the university level, to develop young emerging health leaders in the Americas.

For more information on the Fulbright-PAHO Traineeship in Public Health, please contact Ms. Karen Gladbach, PAHO Manager of Training and Fellowships, at gladbach@paho.org or Ms. Farida Kerouani, Internship Coordinator kerouanf@paho.org.

**Karen Gladbach
PAHO Manager of Training &
Fellowships**



L-R: Tatiana Mackliff (IIE), Dr. Cindy Wolloch, (U.S. DOS), Dr. Charles Patrick Almazor (Fulbright student-Haiti), Mary Kirk (IIE), Claudia Pereira (Fulbright student-Brazil), Dr. Joxel Garcia (PAHO), Dr. Erika Arteaga (Fulbright student-Ecuador), Dr. Rachel Cassagnol (Fulbright student-Haiti), Dr. Abraham Salinas (Fulbright student-Nicaragua), Farida Kerouani (PAHO), Monti Castaneda (IIE), Karen Gladbach (PAHO), and Dr. Charles Godue (PAHO).

"The mission of CBIE is to promote international understanding and development through the free movement of people and active exchange of expertise, ideas, information and technology across national borders".

CBIE is an umbrella non-governmental organization incorporated in 1966 and comprised of 200 colleges, universities, schools, school boards, educational organizations and government representatives across Canada. A 21-member Board of Directors governs CBIE and a 30-member multilingual staff based in Ottawa manages its activities. The mission of CBIE is to promote international understanding and development through the free movement of people and active exchange of expertise, ideas, information and technologies across national borders. CBIE is both a leader in shaping Canada's international education agenda and a highly recognized provider of professional development programs for Canadians. Internationally, CBIE engages in cooperative development projects in capacity building, institutional strengthening and human resource development. CBIE is a leader in education exports, connecting Canadian expertise with the interests of international clients.

CBIE specializes in technical assistance programs, in program design, management and implementation. CBIE's expertise encompasses broadly areas of governance, institutional strengthening and capacity development, particularly in public sector and public administration reform and civil society development. CBIE has developed a reputation of effectiveness based on the strength and competency of its staff and the expertise it identifies and contracts in project implementation, and its ability to work with both governmental and non-governmental partners and stakeholders. In this field, CBIE provides project design, management and implementation coupled

with substantial content knowledge, extensive monitoring and evaluation practices and a specific view towards outcomes. Moreover, in order to maximize resources and ensure project success in all of its undertakings, CBIE utilizes a results-based management (RBM) approach to monitor project performance and outcomes. This approach is both responsive and flexible enough to operate in the fluid political, social and economic environments.

CBIE has over 25 years of experience in scholarship and fellowship management; it has arranged placements/visits for more than 3500 UN Fellows in its 19 years managing the United Nations Fellowships in Canada Project (UNFCP) for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and has negotiated and managed academic and work placements and study visits for thousands of other professionals from developing and transitional countries. CBIE has developed a reputation for hands-on effectiveness based on the experience of its staff including cross-cultural experience and skills, its rapport with Canadian and international clients, and its network of institutions and educators. The results of CBIE's research in areas of relevance to foreign learners, notably cross-cultural adaptation, health and safety, and the essentials of on-arrival and re-entry orientation programs, are directly integrated into the services for the UNFCP and other programs. CBIE focuses on the needs of the learner. A 1996-97 CIDA evaluation of CBIE described CBIE as responsive, caring and ethical in its approach to learners and international education broadly.

In addition to the UNFCP, CBIE currently manages other programs like the Commonwealth Awards for Canadians, the Official Development Assistance for Central Europe (ODACE), Kuwait Undergraduate Program, the Community Economic Development (CED)—Ukraine Project, the Public Advice for Reform (PAR) in Ukraine and the Public Policy Knowledge Network Project (PPKN).

CBIE is proud of both the achievements of the United Nations Fellowships in Canada Project (UNFCP) and the role we have played in its successful management. Over 300 Canadian institutions have provided excellent training opportunities for these UN Fellows. We are grateful to the UN agencies for sending these requests to CBIE as well as to all our CBIE members who provided training and who will continue to support, participate and assist in this program.

UNFCP continues to be directed and managed in a manner consistent with the policies and practices of the United Nations Agencies and CIDA, and continues to implement best practices in strengthening human and institutional capacities for sustainable development.

Maurice Lelievre
Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE)

THE IDEAL MENTOR IN MY MIND

“Overall, my WHO fellowship training under the mentorship of Dr. Dennis Kasper in the Harvard Medical School was extremely beneficial to me and laid a solid foundation for me to continue pursuing science and contributing to the society by uncovering scientific mysteries for the rest of my life”.

As young scientists, we all will have one or more mentors to guide us as we enter the mystic realm of science. An ideal mentor is a wise and trusted counselor or teacher to the tyros in the new domain. I have been lucky to meet just one like that during my three-year WHO fellowship training in the Harvard Medical School. Now I'd like to share my unforgettable experiences of working with Dr. Dennis Kasper, the director of the Channing Laboratory at Brigham and Women's Hospital & Harvard Medical School. Without any exaggerations, Dr. Dennis Kasper is the kind of mentor anyone would ever wish for. As a distinguished scientist, he is dedicated to science and sets up a good role model for me; as a trustworthy friend, he is always considerate and supportive of young scientists working with him.

“Actions speak louder than words,” as a man of many responsibilities, Dr. Dennis has always been dedicated to science. I always saw him work extra time during weekends and holidays willingly. His passion for

science deeply moved me and strengthened my determination of being a scientist like him. In addition, Dr. Dennis takes a special interest in helping young scientists including research fellows. No matter how busy he is, he has always been very helpful to so many international research fellows such as me in his lab, trying his best to solve problems and providing support for us. I still remember that he wrote five supporting letters successively to Guangzhou Consulate where I was applying for my U.S. visa to offer his strong support, so that I was able to start my WHO fellowship training on schedule. I also remember that in order to help me bring my unfinished project to a logical conclusion, he spent a lot of precious time to work on my visa extension once and again and generously provided me two more year's financial support following my initial one year WHO funding from my fellowship.

With the consistent support and wise mentoring from Dr. Dennis and a few other outstanding scientists in his lab such as Dr. Sarkis Mazma-

nian, I was able to receive an education and training in countless modern laboratory techniques and applications, including advanced molecular biology, cell biology, microbiology and Immunology, etc. during my stay at Harvard. I have been the second author on an important paper published in *Cell* (Mazmanian et al. 2005; 122: 107-118), and am currently working on a second manuscript where I will be the first author. I am extremely grateful to WHO for providing me such a valuable training opportunity.

Overall, my WHO fellowship training under the mentorship of Dr. Dennis Kasper in the Harvard Medical School was extremely beneficial to me and laid a solid foundation for me to continue pursuing science and contributing to the society by uncovering scientific mysteries for the rest of my life.

Chihua Liu
2003-2006
WHO Research Fellow
from China

NEWS FLASH

Who is Who as at Last Session of SFOs

Chairman—Abdul-Monem-Al-Mashat
Secretary—Furio DeTomassi
Rapporteur—Jeannette Dias

Departures from Programme

Dr. Abdul-Monem Al-Mashat
—World Bank
Mr. Gerard Lucien Bischoff
—IAEA
Dr. Mohammad Khalilullah—WHO/SEARO
Ms. Jeannette Dias
—UNDESA
Ms. Mary Jane Peters
—CEB

Dr. Jibek Karagulova
—WHO/EURO
Mr. Louis Dominique Ouedraogo
— (JIU)

Arrivals to Programme

Mr. Kamel Braham
—World Bank
Mr. Tsutomu Shibata
—World Bank

What's New

1. Security in the Field in all six UN languages & Global Security Clearance for Group Training (see <http://extranet.unsystems.org/>

undss/home.asp)

2. Van Breda rates remain unchanged
3. Fellowships website is updated
4. Fellowship Programme in International Law (2nd July – 10th August @ the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands). To apply and for more information contact isabel.hubert@unitar.org & visit http://www.unitar.org/diplomacy/fell_internationallaw_E2.htm



INSTRAW EXPERIENCE WITH INTER-AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

“For a small research and training institute such as INSTRAW, inter-agency partnerships this provide opportunities for optimizing available resources and pooling expertise to achieve the common goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women”.

The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) has entered into varying types of inter-agency partnerships. These have ranged from brief agreements in the broadest sense to agreements for specific collaboration in particular gender programmes and projects. Some agreements have been signed with other agencies of the United Nations system while others have been entered into with entities outside the UN system.

The collaboration agreements which INSTRAW has entered into with UNESCO, UNIFEM and UNITAR are essentially political statements of mutual support and the intended goal of achieving synergies. Although these agreements are rather general in context and contain promises of support mainly at the political level, they have led to opportunities for more specific collaboration. Both of these cases have led to INSTRAW's engagement in further collaborative action

through the implementation of joint workshops.

Agreements for specific collaborative actions in gender programmes and projects have been entered into with a number of UN agencies, among them DPKO, IFAD, IOM-Colombia, and UNDP/LAC-SURF. INSTRAW has also entered into such agreements with entities outside of the UN such as INMUJERES (Mexico), COM-MCA (Central America) and CANADEM (Canada). The terms of these agreements have ranged from a delineation of activities to be undertaken within specific projects to agreements for the sponsorship of interns.

As is well known today, financial resources for gender issues are scarce and not readily available as are financial resources for other issues such as the environment or children. For a small research and training institute such as INSTRAW, inter-agency partnerships thus provide opportunities for optimizing available resources and pooling expertise to achieve the common

goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Such partnerships also provide greater visibility for the Institute's work.

Jeannie Ash de Pou
UN-INSTRAW

CONTRIBUTORS

We would like to use this opportunity to specially thank the various contributors whose contributions have made this very first and pioneer issue a success. Many special thanks to:

Furio De Tomassi—Chief Personnel Service, UN/DESA

Tom Rudi—Coordinator of Newsletter & Fellowships Officer, Personnel Service, UN/DESA

Daniela Bottigelli—Programme Associate, Multilateral Diplomacy & Interna-

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UNITAR

Karen Gladbach—Manager of Training & Fellowships, PAHO

Maurice Lelievre—Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE)

Chihua Liu—2003-2006 WHO Research Fellow from China

Jeannie Ash de Pou—UN-INSTRAW

Benedikt Butaye—Accounts Manager Group Plans, Inter-

national Benefits, VanBreda International

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Chisato Aoki—Fellowship Programme, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

Chinedu Mkpuluma—Online Global Newsletter Designer, Technical Cooperation Management Service, UN/DESA

GROUP LIFE, DISABILITY & MEDICAL INSURANCE POLICY FOR FELLOWS

“VanBreda International is presently developing a dedicated website for fellows with information on:

- 1. the plan benefits;*
- 2. direct payment;*
- 3. contact details at VBI;*
- 4. VBI’s list of providers under agreement”*

Vanbreda International (VBI) are Employee Benefits Consultants and Administrators. VBI has been handling the Group Life, Disability and Medical Insurance Policy (the “Fellowship Insurance”) since 1982. Though this Policy was initially meant to offer a social protection for fellows, other categories such as National Professional Project Personnel and Service Contract holders (non-fellows) joined throughout the years. VBI has established separate insurance contracts with each organization (member of the United Nations family) for their fellows on the one hand and non-fellows on the other hand.

Whereas in the past, the insurers always pooled the medical claims experience of both groups (fellows and non-fellows) for the determination of the premiums for the subsequent years, this is no longer the case: in 2004 it was agreed that as from 1

January 2003, premiums and claims for the group of fellows are pooled and tracked separately, in other words the subsidy from the fellows to the non-fellows came to an end. This has resulted in differentiated medical insurance premiums which became effective since the last contract renewals in 2005: effective January 2006 the medical insurance premium rates for fellows have remained unchanged (compared to 2003 – 2005) and are guaranteed for 3 years (2006 – 2008).

VBI is presently developing a dedicated website for fellows with information on:

- The plan benefits;
- direct payment;
- contact details at VBI;
- VBI’s list of providers under agreement.

Moreover fellows will be able to download dedicated claim forms and cost estimate forms. More information will

be provided on the occasion of the upcoming Meeting of Senior Fellowship Officers in November 2006. The website will be made available in English, French and Spanish.

The negotiations for the 2007 premiums for Life and Disability insurance will be held between VBI and the insurers in September 2006.

Benedikt Butaye
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TRAINING & FELLOWSHIP CONTACT

Training & Fellowships is an output of Personnel Service, TCMS UN/DESA. Your comments & contributions for inclusion in subsequent issues should be sent to **Tom Rudi**

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The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations

**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION
(ITTO) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTES TO
PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE TROPICAL FOREST
MANAGEMENT WORLDWIDE**

“ITTO has funded 889 fellows from 42 countries for a total amount of US\$5,101,000 over the last 20 years, and continues to contribute to professional expertise in tropical forestry and the sustainable development of its member countries”

A survey of beneficiaries conducted by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) shows that the ITTO Fellowship Programme is making a significant contribution to professional development and the promotion of sustainable forest management in the tropics.

In general, questionnaire respondents evaluated the ITTO Fellowship Programme to be efficient, transparent and flexible. Most said that it plays a very important role in sustainable forest management and the sustainable development of the forestry sectors in their countries. The ITTO Fellowship Programme is the only international programme promoting studies particularly related to tropical forests. It supports a wide range of activities, including short training courses, seminars, conferences, study tours, the publication of technical documents, and post-graduate degrees. ITTO has funded 889 fellows from 42 countries for a total amount of US\$5,101,000 over the last 20 years, and continues to contribute to professional expertise in tropical forestry and the sustainable development of its member countries.

Ms Sandra Roríguez-Piñeros, a Colombian Ph.D. student at Oklahoma State University, completed her Master's Programme in Forest Economics in 2003 with the financial assistance of an

ITTO Fellowship. She says that the Fellowship was “the key that opened the door to my profession, which is dedicated to research and to teaching ways of achieving sustainable forest management in the tropics”. It also led to her continuing her studies through a Ph.D. on the relationship between democracy and sustainable forest management in Colombia. When she returns to Colombia she will be one of very few female Forest Engineers in the country who hold doctoral degrees. “By becoming an ITTO fellow, I made a commitment to my country and to the forest cause,” she says.

Mr. Yeboa Alexis Koffi, Côte d'Ivoirian Manager of Forward Planning Division of Société de Développement des Forêt (SEDEFOR), received advanced training in forestry and economics at ENGREF in France in 2005 through an ITTO Fellowship. He says that the Fellowship helped him acquire in-depth knowledge of the timber industries of Cameroon, and moreover “a better understanding of the stakes and implications of deforestation and the need for more forest plantations to offset the ecological imbalance that our way of life can cause to nature and forests”. Now he has been promoted to ENGREF-trained Water and Forest Engineer and, he says, is in a position to make informed decisions on forest management policy in his country.

**Chisato Aoki
Fellowship Programme
International Tropical
Timber Organization
(ITTO)**

34TH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOCUSING ENVIRONMENT, HUMAN SECURITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The International Training Course in Regional Development (ITC) – this year marked the thirty-fourth course – was held in Nagoya from 18 May to 28 June 2006 and was attended by eleven mid-level professionals from central and local governments in ten countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Japan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Thailand, and Viet Nam) with support from Aichi Prefectural Government and Nagoya Port Authority. With the completion of ITC 34, the total number of alumni rose to 883 from seventy-one countries. The goal of ITC 34 was to contribute to capacity-building for regional development, with a special focus on the ability to deal with environment, human security, and disaster management. The course has been continually updated and redesigned to reflect contemporary issues and problems as well as training needs from the developing countries' perspective. This year, under the theme of "Sustainable Regional Development," the course was structured around six modules: (a) Human Security; (b) Environmental Management; (c) Disaster Mitigation; (d) Regional Development in Japan; (e) Living Environment; and (f) Synthesis.

During the Introduction, participants were able to deepen their understanding of "Sustainable Development," in particular, in the context of the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other important UN agenda through lectures and discussion sessions with the UNCRD Director and Coordinators of UNCRD Africa and Latin America Offices. In addition, a special session on "Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation" was delivered by Dr. Adil Khan from UNDESA. Module 1 introduced the concept of "Human Security" and its application to regional development planning and implementation. Module 2 dealt with "Environmental Management" with a special focus on 3R (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle), sustainable production and consumption (SP&C) as well as environmentally sustainable transport (EST). Coordinated by the UNCRD Hyogo Office, Module 3 "Disaster Mitigation" organized a field trip to Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture to enable participants to learn from the experience and lesson of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, which hit Kobe City in 1995. Module 4 was a newly added module with the theme "Regional Development in Japan," which intro-

duced the history of regional development in Japan and the current challenges and efforts made at the each level – prefectures, cities, and towns. Module 5 also organized field visits Sumida City in Tokyo (Old Urban Area), Hachiman in Gujo City, Gifu Prefecture (Rural Area), and Kozoji New Town in Kasugai City, Aichi Prefecture (New Town Area), in order to analyse "Living Environment" from the perspectives of safety, health, convenience, amenity, and sustainability in comparison with the participants' home countries. Lastly, in Module 6, as a major output of the course, the participants formulated individual action plans which could be absorbed into their professional activities to be carried out in their home countries in order to solve current development issues and problems.

Such a process enabled them to assimilate and digest what they had learned from the training course through formulating individual action plans. In response to requests from participants, UNCRD is planning to dispatch a follow-up mission to selected participants' countries as well as providing e-based and e-mail consultations to technically support specific action plans.

Nana Urakami
Operations Officer
Training Office
UNCRD

"The goal of ITC 34 was to contribute to capacity-building for regional development, with a special focus on the ability to deal with environment, human security and disaster management"

EVENTS

Date	Place	Title	Organizer	Contact
November 6-8, 2006	UNESCO HQ, Paris, France	The 16th Meeting of Senior Fellowships Officers of the UN Systems & Host Country Agencies	UNDESA in cooperation with UNESCO	Tom Rudi rudi@un.org Nicole Vidal n.vidal@unesco.org
November 12-15, 2006	Quebec PQ, Canada	Annual Conference Convergent Views: Cooperating for Results in International Education	Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE)	www.cbie.ca

