



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Curacao National Commission for UNESCO

An agency of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport

UNESCO Activities

May 2011
Volume 4, Issue 1

A new beginning

Preparations

The Secretariat for the Curaçao National Commission for UNESCO became functional as per October 10, 2011, thus replacing the former Secretariat for the Netherlands Antilles National Commission for UNESCO.

Preparations for Curacao to become an Associate Member started since last year (2010). The former NatCom reiterated to the Director of the Caribbean Cluster Office Mr. Kwame Bofo the intention of both Curaçao and St. Maarten to seek Associate Membership of UNESCO as separate autonomous islands. Associate Members are subject to the same rights and obligations as Members but without voting in the deliberations of the General Conference and they are not eligible for membership of the

Executive Board.

The difference in their status is taken into account in determining the amount of their contribution to the budget of the Organization.

The process thus to become an Associate Member has started. Last year the Prime Minister of Curaçao Mr.

Gerrit Schotte instructed the plenipotentiary Minister for Curacao in the Hague, Mr. Sheldry Osepa to inform the Netherlands by official letter that Curaçao is seeking Associate Membership to UNESCO. The process is ongoing.

It is so that territories or groups of territories which are not responsible for the conduct of their international relations may be admitted as Associate Members by the General Conference by a two-thirds majority of Members present and voting,

upon application made on behalf of such territory or group of territories by the Member or other authority having responsibility for their international relations. The voting will take place during the 36th General Conference to be held in Paris from October 24 – November 11, 2011.

What is UNESCO

UNESCO is a specialized Agency of the



United Nations for international co-operation in the fields of Education, Science, Culture and Communication and Information.

UNESCO is a catalyst for international intellectual cooperation, a worldwide intellectual

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- A new beginning
- Mother language Award 2011
- International Year for People of Afro Descent

A new beginning

UNESCO Mission Statement

The fundamental mission of UNESCO is to construct peace in the minds of men and in the hearts of the nations. It is as much an ethical as an intellectual mission. In UNESCO's constitution is written: *"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed..."*

It focuses on the contribution to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science, culture and communication for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion.

Chairpersons

The first Minister to become the Chairperson in charge with UNESCO for Curaçao as country was Minister

René V. Rosalia, who served from November 2010 to March 2011.



On April 1, 2011 he was replaced by Mr. Lionel Jansen

who became the new Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sport in charge with UNESCO.



The Minister functions as Chairperson for the National Commission

.Curaçao National Commission

The task lies ahead now, to establish a National Commission for Curaçao. It is required by UNESCO that Member States and Associate Members establish a National Commission in accordance with UNESCO's Constitution.

UNESCO is the only organization in the UN system that has National Commissions as its contact body. The main task of these commissions is to involve as many organizations as possible operative in their countries within UNESCO's fields of competence. Each National Commission for UNESCO is presided over thus by a chairperson. The Secretary – General functions as liaison between the UNESCO Headquarters and the National Commission and is in charge of the secretariat of the National Commission.

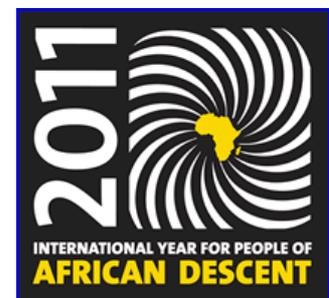
UNESCO advises that Governments should include in the National Commission, in addition to representatives of line ministries and other key governmental institutions, representatives of national NGOs, Representatives of youth and women organizations, UNESCO Chairs, Eminent scientists, writers, journalists and artists, representatives of the media and former members of the Organization Secretariat, representatives of national committees of major intergovernmental programmes, such as MOST, MAB, among other.

At present the Secretariat is the only section that is staffed with a Secretary General and an Administrative Clerk.

2011 International Year for people of African descent

The United Nations Proclaimed the year beginning on 1 January 2011 the International Year for People of African Descent, with a view to strengthening national actions and regional and international cooperation for the benefit of people of African descent in relation to their full enjoyment of economic, cultural, social, civil and political rights, their participation and integration in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society, and the promotion of a greater knowledge of and respect for their diverse heritage and culture. **(64th Session General Assembly UN)**

In this proclamation the UN encourages its Member States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system (eg UNESCO), within their respective mandates and existing resources, and civil society to make preparations for and identify possible initiatives that can contribute to the success of the Year.



The Curaçao NatCom in view of this year is organizing jointly with organizations such as the Public Library, Museo Tula, Kas di Kultura, NAAM, Pataforma Sklabitut I Herensia di Sklabitut, Plataforma Berdat Hlstoriko, Fundashon Sabaneta Historia I

Cont. from page 2

i Katibu, Grupo Trinchera and Asosiasion Promoshon Konsenshi Istoriko various activities. Among other a seminar, exposition and a conference.

During a press conference in January last a proclamation about the year on activities that will be held was officially signed and the Diaspora Group was also introduced to the press.



The press received a copy of the proclamation for publication.

International Mother Language Award

International Mother Language Award

The first international Mother Language Award for 2011 was held on February 21 of this year.

This was the first Award presented by the Curacao National Commission in its new capacity. In the past this award was presented when the Netherlands Antilles still existed.

A total of 9 nominations were received.

Purpose

The purpose is to reward the services of institutions, organisations or individuals displaying outstanding merit and achieving par-

ticularly effective results in contributing to the further development of the Papiamentu language. Awarding these prizes also has the object of securing, and maintaining public sympathy and support for efforts in the field of this language.

Award

The award was divided in a category for professionals and for volunteers. The amount of each prize is Naf. Naf. 2500,00 per category.

The prize is awarded each year on the International Day of Mother Language on February 21st.



The winners Kathleen Giterson/professional and Ange Jessurun/Volunteer



The Nominees for the Mother Language Award 2011

Caribbean Regional Workshop on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Indicators

STI

The Grenada National Commission for UNESCO along with UNESCO Institute for Statistics organized a 3 day regional workshop from February 1-3 last on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Indicators. Curaçao was represented by Ms. Margo Groenewoud, **Manager Library and Research Services** at the University of the Netherlands Antilles. Ms Grownewoud also held a presentation during the workshop.

Science, technology and innovation (STI) is an important driver of economic growth and poverty reduction. Solid STI policies are necessary to harness the benefits of STI. According to UNESCO, these policies need to be evidence-based in order to have the maximum effect possible. STI indicators therefore are crucial to design, implement, monitor and evaluate STI policies. Unfortunately in many countries, policymakers are not aware or convinced of the importance of STI.

Recommendations

Among the Recommendations that came forth out of the workshop is to educate policymakers about the importance and utility of STI and STI data, train staff at the data collection agency and document carefully all the data collection work carried out, contact the UIS for any technical questions they may face, establish a sustainable STI statistics group in the country, including all stakeholders to ensure national coordination and to convene a national workshop for all data providers and other relevant focal points in the country to pass on the knowledge gained at the workshop.



Workshop participants Grenada

STI Statistics Group

On May 12th a workshop was held at the University of the Netherlands Antilles at which stakeholders from the Ministries of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Economic Development, Central Bureau for Statistics, Social Knowledge Centre Curaçao, UNA and the UNESCO Secretariat.

The abovementioned stakeholders will form part of the STI Statistics Group. The next meeting will be held on July 7, 2011 at the University.



Workshop and sharing of information on STI

Launching of the UNESCO Chair

UNESCO Chair

During the first international conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) the University of Curaçao and the UNESCO Secretariat officially launched the UNESCO-Chair on SIDS which was received by the University from UNESCO.

On this occasion the director of the UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office Dr. Kwame Boafo came over especially to represent UNESCO at the launching of the Chair at the University.



Launching of the Chair by Dr. Miguel Goede, Dr. Rene Rosalia and Dr. Kwame Boafo



University Students participating

Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) Training Workshop

We can look back at a very successful workshop with the various stakeholders

ICAM Training Workshop

The IOC of UNESCO Sub commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions – IOCARIBE, and the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean Sciences Sector, jointly with the Barbados Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) organized an Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) Training Workshop of three days for the English Speaking Caribbean States. The Workshop will take place in the Accra Beach Hotel of Bridgetown, Barbados, March 16-18 March 2011.



Curaçao participated with a representative from the Meteorological Service Curaçao Mr. Fred Capello, Chief Forecasting Section and a representative from the Foundation CARMABI, Mr. Mark Vermeij science director at the foundation. Mr. Vermeij also held a presentation.

Objective

The main objective of the workshop was to assist the Caribbean nations dependent-
Participants from the Caribbean region

Cartagena conference

Cartagena Conference

EQUITY, JUSTICE, DEVELOPMENT: PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT IN LATIN AMERICA IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE was the title of a conference held in Cartagena , Colombia from March 21– 23, 2011.

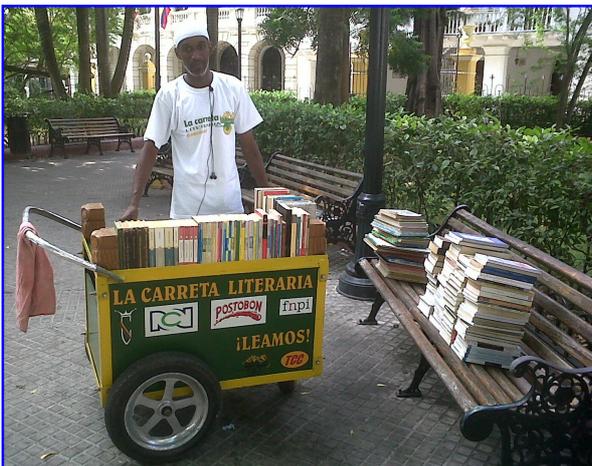
The conference was a collaboration of a few organizations such as Sephis, the IGDS, UWI & the University of Cartagena. It was held in recognition of the Bicentennial of Independence in Cartagena and the United Nations International Year for People of African Descent .

Objective

The main goal of the conference was to shed light on the development of people of African descent whose presence in the Latin Americas and Caribbean is mostly due to forced immigration of their ancestors during the period of colonization.

Through the presentations of different investigations, it was made visible that people of African descent are still marginalized in Latin America and Caribbean. There were solutions offered and debated. There were differences with Curaçao were in some areas more progress was made for the community of African descent in Curaçao. But the similarities were more than often. The discussions offered hope though. Hope in working together to become better communities. Accepting all ethnicities and creating wholesome nations.

Ms. Lianne Leonora employed at the Public Library of Curaçao participated on behalf of the Curaçao NatCom. An information session was held for the NAAM (National Archaeological Anthropological Memory Management) and next month an information session is planned for other UNESCO stakeholders.



The commitment of an Afro descendent from Chocó to promote reading and education.

The stereotyped version of the "Palenqueras de Colombia"



UNESCO Caribbean sub-regional meeting on the periodic Reporting Exercise of the Caribbean Region

Periodic Reporting WH

From April 6—8 of 2011 Curaçao was invited to participate as observer in the UNESCO Caribbean sub-regional meeting on the Periodic Reporting Exercise of the Caribbean Region in Barbados.

As is widely known, Willemstad is on the UNESCO World Heritage List and falls under the region of Europe and North America. The head of the Monuments Bureau ROP, at the Ministry of Urban Planning ms Gerda Gehlen participated thus as an observer.

Periodic Reporting on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention is the process whereby States Parties (in our case the Netherlands) of the Convention report to the UNESCO General Conference through the World Heritage Committee, on the status of implementation of the Convention in their respective territories.

The main objectives of this Periodic Reporting Exercise are to train site managers and focal points regarding the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire, train the site managers and focal points regarding guidelines for advances in the Retrospective Inventory process and to discuss progress made in the establishment of the 2004-2012 Action Plan for the region.



UNESCO CARIBBEAN MEETING ON THE PROTECTION OF THE UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE

Underwater Cultural Heritage

The Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean, the Havana Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Jamaican National Commission for UNESCO organized a UNESCO Sub-Regional Caribbean Meeting on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage which was held in Port Royal from 10-11 May 2011, Jamaica. Participants from twelve (12) Caribbean countries gathered to discuss to exchange and share information, to analyze the present situation and identify the challenges faced by the countries in the region for the protection of the UCH (Underwater Cultural Heritage) and strive to together find improvements in the protection and preservation of this important legacy to humanity as was brought forward by Tatiana Villegas Programme Specialist from the Regional Office for Culture in Latin America and the Caribbean Havana, Cuba.

At the end of the two-day meeting the participants recommended among other that States should strongly consider the designation of the competent authority for the management and protection of the underwater cultural heritage. Also to create awareness among young people through school programs using existing mechanisms such as the UNESCO Associate School Schemes and to Encourage the creation of a Regional Training Center for the Caribbean to build capacity of qualified personnel such as archeologists, conservators.

meeting on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Caribbean

Intangible Cultural Heritage

The UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office together with the Secretariat for UNESCO relations in Curaçao jointly organized a follow-up national meeting on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in the Caribbean. The meeting took place on May 5-6, 2011 at the University of Curaçao and was facilitated by Ms. Himalchuli Guring the UNESCO Culture programme specialist from the Kingston Cluster Office, and Ms. Liliane de Geus from Bonaire. Funding was received from the Cluster Office to organize this meeting. A selected group of stakeholders in the field of culture in Curaçao and from the University of Aruba participated at this meeting.

Objective:

1. Introduce the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
2. Discuss about the status of the Intangible Heritage (ICH) in the Caribbean, Curaçao in particular
3. Promote the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Caribbean at the national, regional and international level: and as outcome of the meeting produce a Poster/folder/brochure for schools on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Curaçao.

Outcome

ICHs were identified in the following areas of:

oral traditions:

performing arts

social practices and rituals

nature, knowledge and practices

craftsmanship

It is the intention develop pedagogic material featuring the intangible cultural heritage of Curaçao for students and the general public. The pedagogic material will be published in the form of a folded map, poster or a booklet. This material will be distributed to schools, libraries, government and non-government institutions on the islands as well as all the National Commissions for UNESCO covered by the Kingston Cluster Office.

Another important outcome of the meeting was that a steering committee was formed consisting of the participants from NAAM, Public Library, Museo Tula, The Curaçao Museum, Grupo Trinchera, Dinah Veeris, Sector for Culture and Sport, the last tin man on the island and an oral storyteller. An awareness group and a group that will work on the development of the pedagogic material. The latter has already met and the Awareness group will also be meeting soon this month.



All participants received a certificate of participation



The participants and the Minister

Man and the biosphere programme (mab)

International Advisory Committee

From May 15—18 The International Advisory Committee for the UNESCO programme Man and the Biosphere (MAB-programme) visited Curaçao with the intention to inform stakeholders and Minister Jansen about the MAB-programme. The English and Dutch speaking Caribbean at present are the only regions without a Biosphere Reserve and as a step towards correcting this the former Director General mr. Koichiro Matsuura appointed the Secretary General of the Jamaica NatCom for UNESCO as a member in the International Advisory Committee on Biosphere Reserve. June Marie Mow the UNESCO consultant was also part of the delegation that visited the island. Meetings were held with CARMABI, STIMACUR, Friends of the Earth, Sector for Education and Science, Museo Tula and the University.

As a follow-up to this visit, a meeting will be held with the following stakeholders CARMABI, STIMACUR, The University, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Friends of the Earth, Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Urban Planning with the intention to establish a National MAB Committee for Curaçao. The task of this Committee will be to study the possibility of identifying a possible Biosphere Reserve on the island. This meeting will take place on June 1, 2011.



Secretary General Everton Hannam, June Marie Mow and Minister Lionel Jansen



Meeting with CARMABI Director mr. Paul Stokkermans



Hema Gurung and Minister Jansen



The participants

Upcoming unesco events

Building Caribbean Knowledge Societies

The Government of Grenada and UNESCO will be organizing a regional Conference "Building Caribbean Knowledge Societies", which will take place at the Rex Grenadian Hotel, Point Salines, St. George's, Grenada, from 15th to 17th June 2011. This will be a first of its sort for the Caribbean.

Objective

The Conference seeks to bring together high level government policy makers with experts, as well as prominent civil society representatives, international organizations, and academia, financing institutions and potential donors, to identify concerns at the national and regional levels relating to the development of Caribbean Knowledge Societies through the use of information and communication technologies (ICT); prepare a framework for action based on the five priorities of the Information for All Programme (IFAP); give priority to national and regional information policies, identify best practices and discuss regional projects and mechanisms for information exchange and co-operation.

IFAP, which was created by UNESCO in 2000, provides a framework for international co-operation and partnerships in "building an information society for all". It is a cornerstone for UNESCO and the multilateral system in addressing the issues of the 21st century arising from the emerging information and communication technologies.

IFAP focuses on ensuring that all people have access to information that they can use to enhance their lives. The five established priorities are (i) Information for Development (ii) Information Literacy; (iii) Information Preservation; (iv) Information Ethics and (v) Information Accessibility which encompasses the many issues surrounding availability, accessibility and affordability of information, as well as the special needs of people with disabilities.

The Conference will also focus on the six Action Lines of the World Summit of the Information Society on which UNESCO has been the lead facilitator i.e., Access to information and knowledge, e-Science, e-Learning, Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content, Media, and Ethical dimension of the Information Society.

At the end, the Conference expects to achieve the following concrete results:

1. Political Declaration on Building Caribbean Knowledge Societies
2. Draft of a Regional Action Plan for the Caribbean
3. Constitution of the IFAP Regional and National Committees for the Caribbean
4. Constitution of a pragmatic framework on project selection, financing and implementation.

The minister in charge with UNESCO Minister Lionel Jansen and the Secretary General of the NatCom Ms. Marva Browne will participate on behalf of Curaçao at this regional Conference.

Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development Regional Workshop

On June 20 to 22, 2011 the UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean and the Section for Education for Sustainable Development in the Education Sector, Paris, together with the British Virgin Islands National Commission for UNESCO, will be organizing a regional workshop on Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean in Tortola.

This workshop is part of UNESCO's priority action to strengthen climate change education adaptation and prevention in the Caribbean.

The objectives of this workshop are to:

Enable UNESCO to better understand, and take account of the Caribbean regional constituency in determining the most appropriate follow-up to its decision and resolutions regarding climate change education for sustainable development;

Identify specific challenges in the Caribbean in which UNESCO can deploy its unique expertise and competence in effectively addressing the design and implementation of climate change education;

Support and expand the work of the existing network in the Caribbean and incorporate or strengthen climate change in their activities and

Generate recommendations for enhancing quality climate change education for sustainable development in the Caribbean.

The following teachers of geography at two High schools, Mrs. Carline Sjak Shie-Jessurun and Mr. Wouter van Wieringen will participate at this workshop, thus representing Curaçao. On their return from the workshop they will hold presentations on this subject for the stakeholders in education.

International days as observed by UNESCO

May

3 May—World Press Freedom Day

21 May— [World Day for Cultural Development](#)

August

23 August— [International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave trade and its Abolition](#)

September

8 September— [International Literacy Day](#)

21 September— [International Day of Peace](#)

October

5 October— [World Teachers' Day](#)

27 October— [World Day of Audiovisual Heritage](#)

November

10 November— [World Science Day of Peace and Development](#)

3rd Thursday of November— [World Philosophy Day](#)

16 November— [International Day of Tolerance](#)

20 November— [Universal Children's Day](#)

December

1 December— [World Aids Day](#)

[2011 International for People of African Descent](#)

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fotos by: Ken Wong and Marva Browne

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VACANCIES AT UNESCO

General Services

No vacancies at this time

Cultural Sector

- ASSISTANT PROGRAMME SPECIALIST Paris, France
Deadline: 11 July 2011

Education Sector

- PROGRAMME SPECIALIST (EDUCATION), Harare, Zimbabwe
Deadline: 29 June 2011

Natural Science Sector

- Deputy Secretary, IHP; Senior Programme Specialist in Hydrological Sciences, Paris, France
Deadline: 26 June 2011
- PROGRAMME SPECIALIST, Paris, France
Deadline: 25 July 2011

Sector for Administration

- Reviser (French), Paris, France
Deadline: 18 July 2011
- Reviser (Russian), Paris, France
Deadline: 18 July 2011
- Translator/minute-writer
Deadline: 12 July 2011

UNESCO Institutes and Centers

- Deputy Director UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), Paris, France
Deadline: 14 June 2011
- Head of Section, Education Outcomes, Montreal Canada
Deadline: 14 June 2011
- Head of Section, Science and Technology, Culture and Communication, Montreal, Canada
Deadline: 14 June 2011

Sector for External Relations and information

- Chief of Protocol, Paris, France
Deadline 4 July 2011
- Chief of Section, Paris, France
Deadline 20 July 2011
- Principle Web Administrator Paris, France
Deadline 20 July 2011

Submit applications at:

www.unesco.org/employment

Send full CV in English or French, preferably on the Official UNESCO curriculum vitae form showing nationality, date of birth, and gender

Meetings, Seminars, Conferences and workshops

MAB Meeting

National MAB Committee meeting.
Place: Curacao
Date: 1 June, 2011

ICH Meeting

Publication team
Place: Curacao
Date: 6 June, 2011

Regional Conference

"Building Caribbean Knowledge Societies"
Place: Grenada
Date: 15 to 17 June 2011

Regional Workshop

Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development
Place: BVI
Date: 20 to 22 June 2011

Training Seminar

For Caribbean National Commissions
Place: Guyana
Date: 5-7 July 2011

Update asP School

Kolegio Don Sarto an ASP school of UNESCO adopted the Fort at Kenepa. The students have learnt how to investigate and study about archeology in a simple way. Steps are being undertaken for Ala Blanka School to become an ASP school of UNESCO.