

# U.S. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO Monthly Update

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## Comments from the Executive Director

The Executive Board meeting in Paris took up most of the attention of UNESCO in April. The Young Professional Program, originally proposed by the Director General to be in abeyance for the year of 2006, will operate with no interruption. Information on the application process is now posted on National Commission website.

The United States recently pledged one million dollars to the [UNESCO Donors Conference for the Protection and Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo](#). UNESCO and the Council of Europe have designated several religious, ethnic, and historical monuments in Kosovo for preservation and reconstruction projects. The United States hopes that its contribution to this international effort to repair damage caused by ethnic conflict and the passage of time will help the people of Kosovo overcome internal divisions and move toward greater integration into Europe with confidence and optimism.



## Education for All Week

First Lady Laura Bush, who serves as the Honorary Ambassador for the United Nations Decade of Literary, paid [tribute to the UNESCO Education For All \(EFA\) week](#), which was held from April 24-30. She was supported in her statement by both the U.S. Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings and the U.S. Department of State Secretary Condoleezza Rice.



## 171<sup>st</sup> UNESCO Executive Board

From April 12 through 28, UNESCO hosted the [171<sup>st</sup> meeting of its Executive Board](#) in Paris. Ambassador Louise Oliver, U.S. permanent representative to UNESCO, led the U.S. delegation. Her [intervention](#) on April 18 addressed several issues including: results-based management, budget reform, and science capacity building. She reiterated American's commitment to the mission of UNESCO and working towards common goals.

A major highlight of the Executive Board was the overwhelming support for a U.S. draft decision on capacity-building. The United States put forward a [draft decision](#) entitled "[Cross-Sectoral Activities in Technical Capacity Building](#)". Co-sponsored by 21 other Member States, this initiative encourages UNESCO's Science Sector to promote technical capacity-building, particularly in water resources, basic science, mathematics education, engineering and technology. To this end, a new unit has been established to coordinate the Sector's capacity-building efforts. As Ambassador Louise Oliver said in her opening intervention, "Capacity building is the way to achieve long-term results, particularly in areas such as science education, basic science and engineering that help support sustainable development."

The U.S. will continue to work with other Member States to support initiatives and reforms that produce long-term, tangible results that promote sustainable development.



conference hall in session. source: UNESCO

Director-General Koïchiro Matsuura's proposed [draft budget](#) (33 C/5) for 2006-2007 was a principal item of discussion at the Executive Board.

Ambassador Louise Oliver, in her intervention to the Executive Board, stated, "we are convinced that the \$610 million budget is adequate if the organization stays focused on its priorities and makes better use of its resources."

The Executive Board adopted a resolution requesting the Director-General to develop a budget proposal of \$610 million and a proposal for supplementary voluntary financing of up to \$25 million. The proposed program and budget will next be addressed at the [172<sup>nd</sup> Executive Board](#) meeting scheduled for September 13-29, 2005. Subsequently, the budget will come up for finalization and adoption at the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the General Conference October 3-21, 2005.



### Young Professionals Program

Acknowledging the need to invest in UNESCO's future, Director-General Matsuura has reinstated the [Young Professionals Program \(YPP\)](#) for 2006. He had originally proposed that the program not operate in 2006 because of budgetary constraints. This unique program is aimed at increasing UNESCO's geographic diversity and infusing the organization with young talent.

YPP recruits citizens who are less than 30 years of age from under and non-represented member states to work at the Secretariat in Paris. UNESCO works to enhance the professional development of these individuals and trains them to become subject area experts as well as managers for international organizations and programs. Along with on-the-job training YPP's also receive training in UNESCO's structure and programs and, if necessary, language and Information Technology (IT) training.

The program is popular and competitive. Only ten applicants will be chosen worldwide. Last year, the U.S. received 445 applications for the program, of which 12 were forwarded to UNESCO headquarters for consideration. From that group, one U.S citizen was selected.

With the recent re-establishment of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, the review process for U.S. applicants has been modified to include a review by commission members. Applications will be evaluated based on several factors including academic qualifications, professional experience, commitment to public service, and international experience.

The deadline to apply is June 24, 2005. Additional details and an application form are posted on the commission website:

<http://www.state.gov/p/io/unesco/programs/>.



### Job Vacancies

There are a variety of positions open in the UNESCO organization including: translators, general service, and professional posts. Professional posts (P) range from junior professionals P-1/P-2, to middle-ranking professionals P-3/P-4, to management professionals and directors P-5 and D-1/D-2.

Some positions listed on UNESCO's website <http://recrutweb.unesco.org/> include:

- Program specialist in social and human science (AS/RP/LEB/SHS/0017) - (P-4) (Beirut, Lebanon) (closing date: 21 Jun. '05)
- Program specialist (Water Sciences) Sustainable Water Resources Management Section, Division of Water Sciences, Natural Science Sector (SC-395) (P-3) (Paris, France) (closing date: 21 June '05)

