

Summary

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UNAIDS / World AIDS Day

On 1 December 2015, a series of events on the occasion of World AIDS Day were organized in Moscow.

The Russian Ministry of Health initiated an HIV testing action, which was attended by Mrs. Veronika Skvortsova, Health Minister, Mr. Vladimir Pozner, seasoned TV host, and other important guests.

The Regional Office of UNAIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, together with the Regional UNESCO HIV and Health Education Programme, have launched a large-scale HIV testing campaign. The UNAIDS Goodwill Ambassador, Ms. Vera Brezhneva, is the campaign's focal point. The campaign is meant to attract attention of those people who may be infected with HIV, but are unaware of their status, assuming it does not concern them. A special platform ok.ru/test was created to answer any questions related to HIV/AIDS and testing. On 1 December 2015, half a million users of popular social media network Odnoklassniki joined a special online chat with the campaign experts, whereas 400,000 users participated in an online concert featuring famous pop artists, people living with HIV and experts.

UNIC / Smart devices help people with disabilities

On 24 November 2015, the Russian edition of G3ict report, «Internet of Things: New Promises for Persons with Disabilities,» was presented to UNIC Moscow's local partners and the media at a well-attended round table meeting at the World Bank office in Moscow. The report seeks to identify areas where the technology providers and advocates of the rights of people with disabilities can join efforts and bring to life new devices that will be cheap enough, easy to use and responsive to special needs. Despite significant progress achieved, the issue of teaching people how to use these devices still remains a challenge. It is also important that accessible communications technologies be refined, for they will help people with disabilities not only be heard, understood, but also interact with others and better integrate into society.

UNHCR / Outcomes of 2015: Strengthening the partners' capacities

The 22nd year of UNHCR activities in Russia has testified to the agency's potential in developing innovative net projects aimed at strengthening its partners' capacities. The agency's major strategic partners are the Federal Migration Service, Institute of Ombudsman, NGOs, legal educational establishments, rehabilitation centres, etc. The joint activities vary from the improvement of refugee legislation, the monitoring of implementation of the UN Refugee Convention, the delivery of lectures and the provision of training to practical humanitarian, social and legal help for the refugees and displaced population. All the above efforts will contribute to raising awareness of the Russian public about the ways of supporting and championing the rights of people under the UNHCR's jurisdiction.

WHO / Meeting of Collaborating Centres in Russia

WHO Collaborating Centres (WHO CC) in Russia met on 10 December 2015 to discuss future cooperation in the framework of WHO programmes at the national, regional and global levels. The idea to use national research centres for international benefits goes back to the times of the League of Nations and, currently, more than 700 WHO CCs are functioning in 80 countries, addressing public health issues of global concern, some of them unique. The meeting opened up a new phase of collaboration between the WHO and the CCs and highlighted the strengthened capacity of the Russian medical science.

UNDP / The coal is «greening»

The term «biodiversity,» as well as biomonitoring, environmental assessment of territories, re-cultivation with biological effect, etc., are totally new to the staff of coal companies across the Kuzbass district. These innovations are introduced in the context of the UNDP/GEF project «Biodiversity in the policies and programmes of Russia's energy sector,» aimed at developing new methods and technologies of preserving biodiversity of the regional coal industry in the Kemerovo region and the Republic of Khakassia. In 2000, both territories were incorporated into the Altay-Sayansk eco-region, one of the world's 200 regions boasting the highest level of biodiversity. Four basic principles have been put into practice: prevent, reduce, restore and compensate within two and a half years. The next step is the development of a geoportal, accessible for any user, intended for receiving on-line data on the levels of biodiversity in various regions.

ILO / Modern effective labour inspection is key for the CIS countries

Ever since its foundation 96 years ago, the ILO has been guided by the principle of social justice, striving to procure respect for international labour standards in all countries. Three-day international conference «Labour inspection in Eastern Europe and Central Asia» hosted by Sochi on 25–27 November 2015 became a platform for sharing experiences in labour regulation and protection issues. Russia's delegation came up with a web-based project titled «On-line labour inspection,» which is placed on Rostrud's website and offers free consultations on any labour issue. The ILO will continue supporting its partners in further enhancing labour policies, plans and strategies aimed at strengthening law enforcement measures and prevention activities.

UNEP / Syktyvkar conference

Progress in implementation of the outcome decisions of the global Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was in the focus of discussion at an international conference titled «Development Rio+20 in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism,» which was hosted by the city of Syktyvkar, Komi Republic, on 19 November 2015. It was supported by the Swedish Ministry of Environment and the Academy of Public Service of the Komi Republic and coordinated by the Working Group on Environment Protection of the Council of the Barents Euro-Arctic Region. Tourism, being one of the rapidly developing sectors of economy, can influence economies both positively and negatively. The conference participants got acquainted with the best practices of Norway and Sweden in sustainable tourism and the UNEP's «Report on Green Economy.» The conference identified priorities for further development of tourism in Russia as an element of sustainable development.

Guest of the issue / Igor Shcherbak, Acting Director of FAO Liaison Office in Russia, a. i.

Igor Shcherbak, a seasoned diplomat with a remarkable UN career, has been appointed Acting Director of FAO Liaison Office in Russia, a. i., since May 2015. Russia, being a global agricultural power and promising donor, has a vast and unique experience in food industry and agriculture management. FAO opens up its offices only in key countries and the agency's collaboration with Russia aims at implementing FAO's five strategic goals. Exchange of expertise with this country, technical assistance to developing countries, sustainable management of forests, water and fish resources and biodiversity are the priority issues on FAO's agenda.