

Summary

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UN/ The UN Secretary-General's message to Moscow State Institute for International Relations Model United Nations

In his address to the Rector, faculty and students of Moscow State Institute of International Relations MGIMO (U), UN Secretary-General congratulated them on the 70th anniversary of that centre of academic excellence and global engagement. As the world was moving closer to the key year of 2015 – the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals – the UN was counting on the energy and commitment of younger generation as the means of accomplishing the ambitious goals of advancing economic growth, social progress and environmental stewardship, he said. Ban Ki-moon encouraged the students to join forces with like-minded individuals and groups to generate change and promote mutual tolerance, understanding and respect.

ILO / 103rd Session of the International Labour Conference

The participants in the 103rd International Labour Conference, which met on 12 May in Geneva have adopted a new legally binding ILO Protocol on Forced Labour, which aims to advance prevention, protection and compensation measures, as well as to intensify efforts to eliminate contemporary forms of slavery. The delegates also discussed challenges in opening the road from informal to formal work and adopted amendments to the ILO's Maritime Labour Convention, 2006.

UNAIDS / The Courage to Reflect, Question and Commit – the 4th Conference on HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

On 12 – 13 May Moscow played host to the 4th Conference HIV/AIDS in Eastern Europe and Central Asia – the largest forum on this issue in the region. The conference was attended by over 1,200 delegates from 44 countries, including political and public leaders, experts and people living with HIV. In his opening address at the conference, the Executive Director of UNAIDS Michel Sidibe called for the consolidation of international and regional cooperation as a means of scaling up and making sustainable the best practices in this field. "We must show to the world that this region is serious about halting this epidemic," he said.

UNHCR / UNHCR and the Office of Ombudsman for Human Rights in the Russian Federation: history of collaboration

The mandate of Ombudsman for Human Rights in the Russian Federation obligates him to receive and consider complaints of violation of human rights and basic freedoms, including from refugees and asylum-seekers, which makes him a logical partner of UNHCR. Over ten years of cooperation between UNHCR and Human Rights Ombudsman, various forms of cooperation have been developed, from joint participation in seminars and round tables to working meetings called in order to discuss specific cases of alleged violations and legislative initiatives.

UNESCO / Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples of the Arctic and Extreme North – UNESCO IITE project "Adaptation to Climate Change"

Among other fields, UNESCO is active in protecting and promoting the indigenous peoples' system of knowledge, specifically those that over the centuries helped them to adapt to adverse climate changes. As part of the project, implemented by UNESCO's Institute of Information Technologies in Education, an open information and education resource has been developed, based on the knowledge of the indigenous peoples of Arctic and extreme North.

WHO / Russian doctors help their African and Asian colleagues fight malaria

According to WHO, vector-born diseases amount to 17% of the global burden of infectious diseases. On June 11, a closing ceremony took place at the 8th Advanced International Training Course on Malaria Surveillance, Monitoring and Evaluation for representatives of ministries of health of African and Asian countries. To date, 92 specialist from 36 African and Asian countries have graduated from that course. This enhances the capacities of African, Asian and CIS countries in combating malaria, promotes new advances the Russian science and supports the international information flow and exchange of experience in this field.

UNIC / Economic impact of drug abuse

An over-arching theme of the recent report of the International Narcotic Control Board is economic consequences of drug abuse – a very relevant issue at the times of financial austerity. The document presents fresh data on socio-economic costs of drug abuse in the field of public health, public safety, crime, labour productivity and management.

UNDP / A joint project offers training in eco-driving

On 15 April, which is observed as the Day for Ecological Knowledge, the Voluntary Association for the Assistance to the Army, Air Force and Navy (DOSAAF), UNDP, the Russian Ministry of Transport and the Global Ecological Fund signed a cooperation agreement, which aims at promoting safe, economical and ecological driving. As part of pilot projects, training sessions in ecological driving will be held this year in Kazan and Kaliningrad. This material details the main aspects of this joint project, explains the benefits of eco-driving and offers tips for those who wish to master it.

UNIC / World Day of Social Justice

During the period since 2007 when the UN General Assembly designated the World Day of Social Justice, this Day has become an important part of the UN calendar of special observances. In his remarks at a recent conference on this issue, Director of UN Information Centre in Moscow Alexandre Gorelik comments on UN approaches to such issues as income inequality and its impact on social progress, investments in human capital and creation of modern jobs, including the "green economy," and others.