

U N IN RUSSIA

No.2 (69)

March-April
2010



Translating economic growth into sustainable human development with human rights

Published by
the United Nations Office
in the Russian Federation



During his visit to Moscow, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev / 3-5

Opinions /6

"I was shocked when I learned that every day, 40,000 children died all over the world, though more than half of such deaths could have been prevented", Sir Roger Moore, a famous Hollywood actor, confessed when he came to Moscow in the capacity of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador

Highlights /7

UNFPA Representative in Russia Karl Kulesa considers the problems of HIV spreading and lower longevity of life, especially among men, very important for the country. He expressed this opinion while presenting a new report *Social and Demographic Development of Russia*

Events /17

According to the UNESCO *Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger*, some 200 languages (out of estimated 6000) have become extinct in the last three generations, 578 languages are considered as critically endangered (22 in the Russian Federation), 526 as severely endangered, 646 as definitely endangered and 601 as vulnerable

B HOMEPE

UN / Events

Statement of the Spokesperson of UN Secretary-General on the 24th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster **2**

Activities of Secretary-General

in the Russian Federation, 17-19 March **3**

World Needs Russian Federation's Sustained,

Creative Engagement across United Nations Agenda,

Secretary-General Says in Address to Moscow Institute **4**

UNICEF / Opinions

Roger Moore: 40 Thousand Children Die Every Day **6**

UNFPA / Highlights

Russia's Social and Demographic Development **7**

UNHCR / People

Magee Helps Refugees **9**

UNAIDS / Regions

History of HIV/AIDS in Posters **11**

UNIC / Regions

Arctic Is Our Home **12**

UNDP / Publications

Russian Energy Sector –

Driving or Hindering Human Development? **13**

Chernobyl: Information Is Key to Development **15**

OHCHR / Society

Business and Human Rights **16**

UNESCO / Events

International Mother Language Day in Moscow **17**

Information Technologies in Education **18**



Statement of the Spokesperson of UN Secretary-General on the 24th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster

Today we mark the 24th anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and honour the sacrifices made by those who died, and those who survived.

We remember the hundreds of emergency workers who responded to the accident; the more than 330,000 people who were uprooted from their homes; the thousands of children who later contracted thyroid cancer.

We commemorate the heroic efforts of those who took on the task of clearing up after the disaster; and the bravery of millions of people in the surrounding area, who have lived with a legacy of fear for their health and livelihoods for more than two decades.

The UN's strategy to address the lingering consequences of Chernobyl is aimed at fostering the region's long-term development and providing people with the information they need to lead safe and healthy lives. The Secretary-General reaffirms the commitment of the United Nations to the Decade of Recovery and Sustainable Development for Chernobyl-affected regions proclaimed by the General Assembly, which began in 2006, and to the UN Chernobyl Action Plan.

The Secretary-General also welcomes the initiative of Ukraine, co-sponsored by Belarus and the Russian Federation, to convene an international conference on the 25th anniversary of the accident in April 2011, to mark progress towards the goal of a return to normal life.

One of the most important global lessons of the Chernobyl disaster is the importance of strengthening the safety and security of nuclear material and facilities. The Secretary-General welcomes the renewed commitment of world leaders to this issue, seen at the Nuclear Security Summit meeting in Washington DC last week.

Communities affected by Chernobyl are demonstrating resilience in coping with the consequences of the disaster, but they continue to need our support.

The UN stands ready to do everything in its power to further the region's revival. The Secretary-General calls on the international community to support the full recovery of all those affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

26 April 2010

UN in Russia
Published once in two months
Circulation: 2,000 copies

www.unrussia.ru
www.undp.ru

Founder:
United Nations Office
in the Russian Federation

Editor-in-Chief: Victoria Zotikova
Editor: Vladimir Sadakov

Address:
125009, Moscow,
Leontyevsky Lane., 9
Tel. 787-21-00
Fax: 787-21-01
E-mail: vladimir.sadakov@undp.ru



Activities of Secretary-General in the Russian Federation



© Photo by Mark J. Garten

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrived in Moscow in the evening of 17 March after an overnight flight from New York and a brief stopover in Frankfurt.

On arrival in Moscow, the Secretary-General attended a dinner hosted by Frode Muring, the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Zurab Tsereteli, a noted sculptor and artist, at the artist's gallery in central Moscow.

On 18 March, the Secretary-General started the day with two wide-ranging interviews – one with Alexei Venediktov, Editor-in-Chief of Ekho Moskvy radio station, and one with anchorwoman Irina Rossius of Russia 24, a television news channel. In those interviews, the Secretary-General outlined the bilateral aspects of his visit to Moscow and the Quartet meeting on the Middle East.

The Secretary-General then held talks at the Russian Federation's Foreign Ministry mansion with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and other Russian officials. At a press conference afterwards, the Secretary-General commended Minister Lavrov for convening the Quartet meeting and said he was encouraged by the status of Russian Federation-United States talks on nuclear arms control.

The Secretary-General also signed a joint declaration with the Secretary-General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). That declaration is aimed at pragmatic and targeted cooperation between the organizations, the United Nations Secretary-General said.

Next, the Secretary-General headed to the Kremlin for a working luncheon with President Dmitry Medvedev. They discussed the Middle East, arms control, Haiti, Iran and other topics, including cooperation between the Russian Federation and the United Nations. After the luncheon, the Secretary-General made a brief stop for a walk across Red Square, accompanied by officials including Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The Secretary-General then went to MGIMO University, the Russian Foreign Ministry's Moscow State Institute of



© Photo by Mark J. Garten

International Relations, where he received an enthusiastic welcome from students. He had a brief meeting with the rector of MGIMO, Anatoly Torkunov, who also chairs the United Nations Association of the Russian Federation. The Secretary-General then delivered a lecture to the students after receiving an honorary

doctorate. In his address, which was televised, the Secretary-General urged students to aim high and to strive to be global citizens. He answered several questions from the university's multinational student body.

After a meeting with the United Nations country team, the Secretary-General attended a dinner with the other principal members of the Quartet and had a bilateral meeting with Tony Blair, the Quartet Representative.

On 19 March, the Secretary-General took part in the Quartet meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Catharine Ashton, a Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of the European Union, and Quartet Representative Blair. After the meeting, the Secretary-General read a statement on behalf of the Quartet. He noted that Israel had approved a package of United Nations humanitarian projects to be carried out in Gaza.

The Secretary-General then held a round-table luncheon with a group of senior editors and journalists from Russian media. He also held a town hall meeting with United Nations staff before heading to the airport to fly to the Middle East via Vienna.



© Photo by Mark J. Garten

World Needs Russian Federation's Sustained, Creative Engagement across United Nations Agenda, Secretary-General Says in Address to Moscow Institute

Following is UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's address at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations on 18 March.

What a pleasure it is to be here with you today, here at this most prestigious institute for international affairs. Your prestige extends far and wide to every corner of the globe.

Your roster of alumni includes so many world figures, down the decades presidents, ministers, diplomats, writers. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, I understand, studied here. So did your esteemed Ambassador to the United Nations, Vitaly Churkin. Irina Bokova is the first woman to serve as Director-General of UNESCO [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization].

You honour me greatly by bestowing upon me this honorary doctorate. And by doing so, of course, you honour the United Nations – the United Nations and its indispensable role in today's world. A world that is changing dramatically. A world where, demonstrably, no nation can go it alone. A world that, more and more, recognizes that nations must work together to overcome common problems and challenges.

This United Nations was born of a common aspiration to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to affirm fundamental human rights, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. This is the pledge of the United Nations Charter. These are the goals that endure today.

As a founding member of the United Nations, in the aftermath of war, you today are the keepers of that flame. As a world Power and permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, we need you to fulfil that promise. We need your engagement, across the United Nations agenda. We need Russia's leadership in our modern world.

You know the challenges as well as I. Terrorism and nuclear proliferation,

climate change and growing poverty, weakened global trade and economic systems in urgent need of overhaul. No single nation can deal with such problems alone. As I have said, they require that all nations work together – nations united in common cause.

Earlier this year, I spelled out my agenda for 2010 to the United Nations General Assembly – seven areas where I



see strategic opportunities for genuine progress, not in some distant future, but here and now, this year: mounting a final push for the Millennium Development Goals, with a special emphasis on empowering women and girls; moving ahead on climate change; moving towards a nuclear-weapon-free world; dealing with deadly conflicts; upholding human rights and the rule of law; and strengthening the UN itself.

All of these are critical objectives. Advancing on any of them requires Russia's leadership. Today, let me speak to three of these issues: the Millennium Development Goals and climate change; nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; global peace and security.

First, the Millennium Goals – our blueprint for reducing global poverty. Over the past few decades, global economic growth has changed our world. It has changed geopolitical balances of power, raised hundreds of millions of people and whole regions out of poverty.

Yet too many people have been left behind. And now, as growth falters in many countries, those numbers are destined to grow, unless we act together.

That is why the United Nations war against poverty is so important. That is why, in September, I will convene an MDG Summit in New York.

We have only five years to achieve the Millennium Goals, and Russia's role is vital. The economic crisis cannot be an excuse for sliding back. We welcome Russia's growing engagement in aid and development, both through the G-8 and G-20, as well as through the United Nations. I particularly appreciate Russia's recent contribution to the Central Emergency Response Fund and its commitment to step up official development assistance (ODA).

I thank you for your support for a comprehensive and inclusive climate change agreement, since climate change threatens progress on all the Millennium Goals. In 2004, Russia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol brought that instrument into force. Russia recognized climate change for what it is – an existential global threat. As we advance toward the coming climate change negotiations in Cancun, we once again count on Russia's leadership – leadership on one of the great and pressing causes of our time.

Second, the nuclear threat. Like all of you today, I am concerned that thousands of nuclear weapons remain on firing alert. More States are seeking to acquire such weapons, and now terrorist groups as well. That is why, in late 2008, I issued a five-point plan for reinvigorating the disarmament and non-proliferation movement. Pursuant to this call, I was encouraged to see the first Security Council Summit convened last September, and another summit will follow this coming April in Washington, D.C.

Here, too, the world looks to Russia for leadership. I welcome Russia's support for the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons, affirmed by President [Dmitry] Medvedev and Foreign Minister Lavrov. Russia and the United States are close to an historic agreement to reduce their nuclear arsenals by signing a follow-up agreement to the START [Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms]. It is important that these negotiations reach a successful conclusion, hopefully before the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May.

Foreign Minister Lavrov's public comments this week are most encouraging. The NPT Review Conference is a major opportunity. We must sustain the current positive momentum for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We must also get the multilateral disarmament machinery working efficiently again. Russia's support for negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on a verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile materials is commendable. I also value Russian efforts on an international Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space.

Let us also cooperate to confront the threat of nuclear terrorism. I applaud Russia's contributions to reducing this risk. Russia's efforts to combat the broader issues of terrorism, illicit drug trafficking and organized crime are also welcomed. And of course, Russia is an important partner in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Like many other nations, Russia has been a victim of on-going terrorism. Two years ago, at a symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism at the United Nations, I met a mother and child who survived the infamous attack in Beslan. Since then, I have mourned United Nations colleagues who have lost their lives in similar attacks in Algiers, in Pakistan, in Afghanistan. These brave men and women lost their lives working to make the world a better place.

This brings me to my third point: global peace and security. Terrorism thrives where governance is weak, human rights are trampled and conflict prevails. The United Nations depends on Russia in all our efforts to prevent and

resolve deadly conflicts around the world. As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the Russian Federation has unique responsibilities.

One of the main reasons I am here in Moscow is for the Quartet meeting. This meeting comes at a critical moment. Peace talks in the Middle East have not moved forward, and there have been worrying developments, including new settlement announcements that have undermined confidence. We need to see an end to provocations from any quarter. Meaningful dialogue must begin on all the core issues of this conflict, including Jerusalem. The two-State solution is the only route to peace and security for both peoples. Achieving it is urgent.

I am very worried about the situation in Gaza. Hamas must show more responsibility towards the people. They should choose the path of non-violence, unity and Palestinian and international legitimacy. We must continue sending them that message.

But the Israeli policy of border closure destroys hope – hope of a better life for all people, hope for recovery from the destruction and pain of war. As policy it is counterproductive. It undercuts moderates and empowers extremists. It destroys legitimate commerce and encourages smuggling. When I visit Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, immediately after the Quartet meeting, I will go to Gaza so I can assess the situation for myself, first-hand.

Other peace and security issues demand our joint and determined attention. I discussed some of these today with President Medvedev and Foreign Minister Lavrov. Russia is an indispensable member of the Six-Party Talks on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Its close relationship with both Koreas and other regional neighbours has unrivalled potential for promoting joint economic projects and cooperation in the region. We count on Russia's creative diplomacy on this matter.

Russia's diplomacy is also crucial for our efforts to peacefully resolve the Iranian nuclear issue. International efforts to supply nuclear fuel to the Teheran Research Reactor offer a signifi-

cant opportunity to build trust between Iran and the international community. In this regard, I highly commend Russia's active engagement in this endeavour.

In closing, let me say clearly: the world needs Russia's sustained and creative engagement across the United Nations agenda. Together, we can, and must, build a stronger UN for a better world. On this, I know we have Russia's support.

At the opening of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, President Medvedev spoke of the unique international legitimacy of the United Nations. I quote: "We all must preserve and strengthen this shared wealth of the peoples of the world."

Russia is a principal shareholder in this shared wealth. Today, I appeal to you the leaders of tomorrow to preserve and enhance this precious legacy. I hope you will become involved in our "Academic Impact" initiative which is working with institutions like yours to advance the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

We need people like you, and particularly the young people among you, full of energy, idealism and ideas about how to build a better world – people with vision. I appeal to you to think of what the United Nations means, and how you can help us today to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Now more than ever, our common security, our prosperity and our growth means working in common cause.

All nations have interests. But today we live in a world where those interests are best advanced when cooperation prevails over conflict – a world where multilateralism trumps unilateralism and diplomatic engagement is the most powerful force for change.

As Russia well knows, that world is the United Nations.

UN
Tel.: (7 495) 787-21-00
Fax: (7 495) 787-21-01
E-mail: office@undp.ru
www.unrussia.ru

Roger Moore: 40 Thousand Children Die Every Day

On 18 March 2010, Sir Roger Moore, a famous Hollywood actor, came to Moscow in his capacity of UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. A Moscow school that provides inclusive education was one of UNICEF project sites that the famous actor and his spouse visited while staying in Moscow.

Sir Roger Moore is a world famous movie star, a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (KBE), a TV and drama actor, perhaps best known for portraying James Bond, British secret agent 007. With his appointment as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador on 9 August 1991, Sir Roger Moore embarked upon the fulfilment of still another important mission – protection of child's rights. For almost 20 years now, Sir Roger Moore has been working hard to draw public attention to the situation of children around the world and the challenges children face today. Besides, for many years now, Sir Roger Moore has been assisting in UNICEF fundraising activities to benefit UNICEF programmes.

This school has about 500 students, of which 27 are disabled. The school children looked forward to meeting the distinguished guests and prepared several surprises. "I've learned a lot of useful things," Sir Roger Moore said sharing his impressions about the visit. "For example, I've learned to draw matreshkas and make clay birds. We also attended an English language class, where I had an opportunity to work on my English pronun-



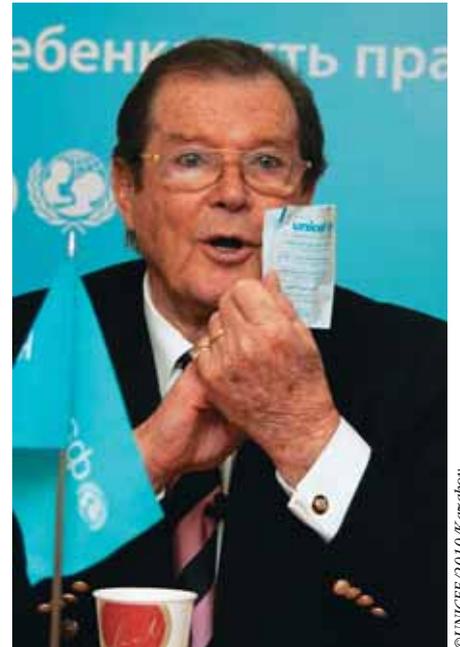
At the Russian art and craft lesson in Moscow inclusive school No 1447

ciation," the UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador went on joking. "I am so very pleased with my visit to this school, and I am happy that now Russia has inclusive schools where children with a range of disabilities are educated alongside with regular students. As a matter of fact, in many countries, children with disabilities remain isolated from their communities."

Sir Roger Moore also attended the opening ceremony of the HappyLyon family entertainment centre, which will provide, within the framework of partnership with UNICEF, regular free-of-charge services to disabled children and children brought up at children's homes as well as will donate part of its proceeds to UNICEF programmes in the Russian Federation. On 17 March, at the final concert of the International Cello Festival held at the Grand Hall of the Conservatoire, Sir Roger Moore recited the author's text in the 'Carnival of Animals' by Saint Saens. Part of the proceeds from the festival ticket sales is to be donated to UNICEF programmes in Russia.

The UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador visited the UNICEF Office in Moscow, where he met with young journalists and was bombarded with all sorts of questions. First, they wanted to know why Roger Moore decided to become a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. The famous actor said that he followed the example of world famous Audrey Hepburn, who used to devote all her free time to the cause of improving life for children in need and actively supported UNICEF.

"Statistics is boring when it refers exclusively to figures," Sir Roger Moore said. "But I was shocked when I learned that every day, 40,000 children died all over the world, though more



Sir Roger Moore demonstrating a packet with oral rehydration salt that may save one kid's life

than half of such deaths could have been prevented. I made some calculations and figured that one child died every few seconds. Actually, several children have died while I am saying these words."

This is not Roger Moore's first visit to Russia under the auspices of UNICEF. In 2006, he came to St. Petersburg to take part in Junior 8 Summit arranged with the participation of UNICEF. For the first time ever, young people were given an opportunity to discuss with the world leaders the issues on the agenda of the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg.

Yana Negreeva

UNICEF

Tel.: (7 495) 933-88-18

Fax: (7 495) 933-88-19

www.unicef.ru

Russia's Social and Demographic Development

United Nations Population Fund

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) published a special report, *Social and Demographic Development in Russia*, marking the 15th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994. The report was presented on March 31 at a press conference, where leading demographic experts, government officials, and media discussed the current situation and prospects for population development in the country.

The Cairo Conference, conducted on the initiative of the United Nations, brought together representatives of 179 countries, including Russia. It produced a Programme of Action, which fundamentally altered the face of population and development policies and programmes across the world. Fifteen core Principles of the ICPD Programme of Action helped define the Millennium Development Goals set by the world community in 2000. UNFPA became the principal UN agency charged with the task to support the implementation of Cairo Summit's decisions. For the 15th ICPD anniversary, on UNFPA initiative, a team of independent experts prepared the special report, which provided a comprehensive review

of social and demographic developments in Russia throughout post-perestroika period.

We have just five years to go before the deadline of 2015 to achieve the ICPD goals. How has the level of prosperity and quality of life changed over the last decade? Will we manage to achieve the major indicators, such as universal access to reproductive health; reduction of maternal mortality by 75 per cent, and reduction of HIV/AIDS incidence. Clearly, every member state, which participated in the Cairo Conference, has its own specific social and demographic features. The Cairo Conference explicitly recognized this and the

need for each country to find its own most suitable solutions.

Over 15 years since ICPD, Russia has, without doubt, gone through a deep transformation in all spheres of public life. Today, it can already evaluate the progress made in attaining the goals outlined in ICPD and examine problems and new challenges, which inevitably arise in the process of social evolution.

The country report for Russia describes the achieved results and successes and offers recommendations for tackling persisting demographic problems. From UNFPA perspective, the interrelation between the dynamics of demographic development and the protection of reproductive health is particularly important. Migration was also highlighted as an issue, which will become even more topical for Russia.



At the press conference, Mr. Karl Kulesa, UNFPA Representative in the Russian Federation, spoke about the progress made towards the Cairo

goals. In his opinion, globally, there has been a noticeable progress in most areas related to population. However, high maternal mortality rates and the spread of HIV/AIDS remain major problems. Speaking about Russia, he pointed out that the spread of HIV/AIDS along with the low life expectancy in particular among men, as well as higher rates of maternal mortality in comparison with [Western] European countries remain among the most serious challenges for the country.



Ms. O x a n a Sinyavskaya, Deputy Director of the Independent Institute for Social Policy, stated that a key achievement during the past 15

years in Russia was the recognition of the importance for social and demographic development factors. Social issues that previously received little attention are now rapidly emerging as important aspect of national policy. A large number of social problems linked to the population dynamics are being addressed. For example, the government is making a concerted effort to reform the social security programme in line with Russia's changing demography.

The greatest challenge Russia is facing today, according to Ms Sinyavskaya, is the need to enhance the delivery of social services. This should include suitable accommodation, education, health and child care, together with assistance to people with special needs. For instance, in the education system, there is a need to increase capacity and access to good quality higher education for different social groups. Another issue is that in comparison with men, women tend to have less access to additional education as they are much more occupied with household work and child care than men. At the same time, the network of social care support for women needs to be significantly expended.



Mr. Nikolay Gerasimenko, Deputy Chairman of the Health Care Committee of the Russian State Duma, member of the Russian Academy of Medical

Sciences, cited positive birth rate dynamics, which have been registered beginning from 2006. Among baseline factors associated with growing birth rate he listed the following: the generation born in 1985–1991, which had reached reproductive age; high birth rates of the Muslim population and comprehensive measures taken by the government to encourage the birth rates.



Experts also highlighted a positive tendency in terms of mortality decline. According to Mr. Sergey Zakharov, Deputy Director of Institute of Demography, Higher School of Economics, over the last three years, the mortality rates associated with cardiovascular heart disease and accidents have declined. Previously, it was these indicators that placed Russia behind most of developed countries. However, the problem of mortality from alcohol abuse remains a serious issue with slow progress being made. However, the proactive approach recently applied by the President's Office and the Government in an effort to reduce alcohol consumption is very promising.

Despite some recent positive developments, the birth rate will remain insufficient to halt the population decline over the coming generations. It is not possible to tackle the rapid decline in the short run. Material stimulation social policies directed at increasing birthrates date back as far as 2006. Experts underscored that the success of any demographic policy strongly depends on how it corresponds to the needs and expectations of concrete people and their families. There is a clear need in correcting family policy in Russia. There is a need to search for solutions that can help men and women better manage the difficult balance between career and family life.

Health care of infants and their mothers remain one of the most important factors. Reproductive rights and health received special attention in the ICPD Programme of Action. In Russia, experts see inconsistencies between theory and practice. A key problem is unreliable data considering that Russia does not carry out enough research in reproductive health and behavior at the national level. Reproductive health and rights in the Russian Federation are protected by legislation and state guarantees. In principle, services are accessible. However, many problems remain. For example, little is done to raise awareness about reproductive health and rights among the Russian population. Access to services also varies widely from region to region. At-risk groups such as migrants, victims of sexual abuse, and teenagers face considerable

challenges in getting access to such service consistent with their reproductive rights.

The most attractive destinations for migrants remain the biggest urban centers of the country, especially those with high average income. For example, between 2006 and 2008, Moscow attracted almost 60% of all migrants in Russia. The ratio of St. Petersburg is about 18%. Urban migration is a long-term tendency that has to be considered when structuring migration policy.



The importance of a migration policy for Russia has increase over the past few years. Significant changes have taken place in both internal and external migration.

Ms. Natalya Zubarevich, Doctor of Geographical Sciences, Professor of Moscow State University as well as Regional Programme Director of Independent Institute for Social Policy, noted that the life quality index and opportunities for finding well paid jobs heavily depend on the place of living. More than one third of Russian citizens (38%) live in big cities with the population of over 250,000 people. Those cities are more economically sustainable in the period of economic crisis.

About 36% of Russians live in towns and villages with the population of less than 20,000. With the exception of large industrial cities, chances for human capacity development there are limited. The economic situation in cities with 200,000-250,000 inhabitants varies considerably. There are 'rich' oil-producing cities as well as small towns with few real economic prospects. Most of them lack the diversity of skills and the resources necessary to develop their economy.

Overall, the experts point to the effectiveness of interventions for tackling demographic challenges, taken in Russia since 2006- 2007. They conclude that since 2007-2008 the number of births have increased, mortality rate decreased, and important changes took place in the migration policy. However, the uneven socio-economic and demographic development and inconsistency of the measures, which have been taken, hindered the implementation of some tasks or



slowed it down. The incorporation of socio-demographic factors into national policies and along with it, the acceptance of the fact that taking care of an individual is at the centre of efforts towards sustainable development in Russia and that people is the most valuable resource of any state was the most important achievement of the past 15 years. The present and future vector of Russia's development will depend on proper awareness of these values and priorities.

UNFPA

Tel.: (7 495) 787-21-13

Fax: (7 495) 787-21-37

E-mail: russia.office@unfpa.org

www.unfpa.ru



People



Magee Helps Refugees

A young woman, who had to live in a strange land with her baby daughter, was shocked when she learnt about her diagnosis – a malignant tumour...

Refugees and asylum-seekers have the right to medical assistance in line with laws and regulations of the Russian Federation. However, in reality, their access to medical services is limited and sometimes impossible because of the lack of residence registration, especially in Moscow and the Moscow Region. Magee Woman Care International (Research Institute and Foundation for protection of women's health, USA) has served as UNHCR implementing partner for nearly 15 years providing a link between refugees and doctors and delivering psychological, basic and primary health care to refugees and asylum-seekers residing in Moscow and the Moscow Region. In addition, it has ensured, where applicable, the implementation of medical requirements for the procedure of resettlement, which may last for several years. One may say for sure that all refugees and asylum seekers under NHCR care receive the necessary treatment in several medical institutions including Clinical hospital No 85 (department for adults), Central hospital No 4 under the Joint-Stock Company Russian Railroads (policlinics for children of refugee and asylum-seekers), and Verbilki

district hospital (outpatient clinic). People who gave the Hippocratic Oath and now work for Magee clinics, struggle for each and every patient, share their problems and inspire hope for the future. Each day, 15-20 persons of concern to UNHCR

attend these clinics, and Magee personnel provide assistance to all of them.

Refugees and asylum-seekers face a lot of psychological problems in their everyday life, and for this reason, psycho-



logical counselling is a significant part of Magee work, including individual and family counselling, group trainings and special events, provision of information, counselling by phone, etc. From January to December 2009, 217 refugees received psychological assistance. It is worth mentioning a growing number of visits from whole refugee families. This is a result of information and education provided to refugees about sharing responsibilities for family wellbeing among all family members. The issues addressed during these counselling sessions have changed of late. In the past, on the top of the list were the 'external' factors (household and economic problems or daily conflicts), while now these persons mostly focus on conflict resolution and identification of internal family resources (therapy for children and parents and for spouses), as well as on internal individual resources of family members.

Other issues of concern for refugee patients include health, psychosomatic disorders and anxiety, mutual support among refugees, post-traumatic disorders and adaptation to the future.

Individual work with refugees at Verbilki Community centre is a priority for Magee doctors. Doctors try to reduce the patients' tension and aggression, create an atmosphere of interaction and a favourable psychological environment.



One cannot underestimate sanitary and educational needs among refugees and asylum-seekers. Doctors speak about disease prevention, healthy nutrition, modern methods of preventing sexually transmitted infections, TB and HIV/AIDS. In 2009, Magee distributed 15,040 condoms and over 3,200 booklets *Healthy Lifestyle* and *Prevention of Hypertension*. Last year, Magee staff involved in children's and adults' projects conducted two trainings for doctors and nurses in relevant clinics.

Unfortunately, the incidence of diseases among UNHCR persons of concern is quite high. In 2009, over 8,200 people applied for medical consultations. Doctors are very concerned about the health of refugee men. They turn to doctors less frequently than women do, and their treatment requires numerous examinations, medicines, hospitalizations and sometimes even surgery. When in doubt, Magee doctors immediately refer patients for consultations to specialists, laboratory procedures and diagnostics, and where necessary insist on hospital admission. Hospitals try to avoid accepting these beneficiaries for free treatment, but in 2009, Magee managed to get into hospitals 119 patients for free, which amounts to 34.45 % of the total number of those placed in hospitals. Thanks to qualified specialists many lives have been

saved, and some of the stories can be called real miracles.

One of them is the story of a 27-year old Afghan woman, mother of a 4-year old girl. After obtaining the refugee status, in the course of medical examination in Magee clinic she learnt that she had a malignant tumour. One can only imagine the horror and fear she felt for herself and her kid. The woman lost appetite and sleep and begged doctors to save her life. To help her, Magee provided a leading psychologist who literally dragged the woman out of despair. They arranged for her to receive chemotherapy during the daytime and to return home for the night. This lasted for 5 months, when she learnt that her family was accepted for resettlement to Canada. Considering that cancer treatment procedures are standard, she could continue the treatment in Canada. Magee doctors are confident that her life is in no danger now, as they managed to diagnose the case early enough.

This is just one of the many cases, when Magee doctors helped save a human life.

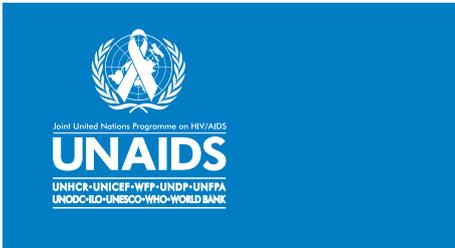
UNHCR

Tel.: (7 495) 232-30-11

Fax: (7 495) 232-30-17/16

E-mail: rusmo@unbcr.org

www.unbcr.ru



Regions

History of HIV/AIDS in Posters

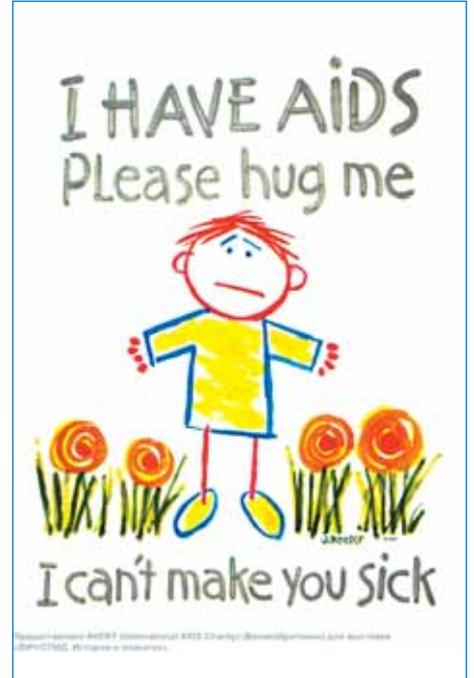


In April, the exhibition 'HIV/AIDS. History in Posters' opened in Orel. It included 20 posters created in various years since the outbreak of the HIV epidemic.

During 2010, the exhibition will be shown in 11 cities of Russia at major universities, youth clubs, exhibition halls, museums, and galleries. The geography of

the exhibition covers the Far East, the Volga Region, Siberia, cities of the South and Central Russia.

The oldest poster, presented at the exhibition, was designed in Great Britain in 1984. The posters were provided by different organizations, including UNESCO and International Labour Organization.



Each poster reflects a different aspect of response to HIV, such as prevention, awareness and tolerance. Visitors can see how designers and artists from Germany, Belgium, UK, USA, Russia, and Moldova conveyed the ideas of responsible attitude to life, tolerance towards people living with HIV and the global aspect of the HIV epidemic through a variety of artistic techniques.

The exhibition is targeted at students and young people. Russians under 30 account for two thirds of the total number of people living with HIV in the country.

The project is implemented in the framework of cooperation of Coca-Cola HBC Eurasia and the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria with the support of UNAIDS and stopSPID.ru information site.

UNAIDS
Tel.: (7 495) 663-67-90
Fax: (7 495) 663-67-98
www.unaids.ru



UN Information Centre

Regions

Arctic Is Our Home



Photo by V.S. Chukov, President of 'Arctic' Expedition Fund of the Russian Geographic Society

This was an overarching idea of the Arctic Indigenous Leaders Summit meeting held in Moscow on 14-15 April. The Summit brought together representatives of eight countries: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States. This was a unique event – an opportunity for organizations of indigenous peoples, together with government representatives, to attend meetings and take part in decision-making. Russia was represented by the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and Far East (RAIPON).

The main theme of the Moscow meeting was Industrial Development of the Arctic under Climate Change. Large industrial and energy facilities in the North, Siberia, and the Far East are often located in the areas of traditional residence of indigenous peoples and affect their lives in many ways. Meanwhile, the social, economic and demographic situation of these people is far from rosy.

Experts point out that the Russian federal legislation lacks clear norms that could be used to measure the industrial development impact on Arctic ecosystems and the traditional culture of its indigenous peoples, as well as mechanisms of fair compensation for damage. According to experts, only in 5

out of 27 north territorial districts populated by indigenous peoples, special statutory acts have been adopted obligating industrial companies to negotiate and make agreements with the representatives of the indigenous populations.

However, according to RAIPON, there are very few positive examples of the interaction between energy companies and organizations of indigenous peoples. Besides, the participants in the Moscow meeting emphasized that the ongoing climate change in the North creates threats to the natural environment and traditional culture of its indigenous peoples.

The Summit Declaration upheld the right of indigenous peoples to a social, economic, and cultural development based on traditional forms of economic activity that pose no threat to the balance of circumpolar communities and nature and are, therefore, entirely sustainable.

The document reminds that the Arctic region is rich with mineral reserves the global civilization needs. However, it stresses, the industrial development of Arctic resources must not upset the ecological balance, destroy the livelihood of indigenous communities, and impede their development.

The Summit called for elaboration of a broad regional strategy that would aim at preserving traditional culture in the context of climate change and industrial growth in the Arctic regions. And, most importantly, it urged to guarantee the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making related to the situation in the Arctic.

The Moscow meeting calls on the United Nations and its agencies to implement current programmes, and develop new ones, as may be necessary in order to analyze possible consequences of industrial development in the Arctic in the context of global warming. It asks the UN Environment Prog-

ramme (UNEP) to ensure that Arctic indigenous peoples have permanent representation in the agency's Governing Council. It also calls on the World Bank and the related financial institutions to take greater account of the rights of indigenous peoples in developing their investment programs.

There was also a proposal to stimulate the development of a system that would monitor the impact of industrial development on Arctic ecosystems and the traditional culture of its indigenous peoples. Such research and monitoring should employ the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples as well as with expert assessments.

The Declaration also calls on industrial corporations operating in the Arctic to take account of the risks associated with climate change in the development of their environmental policies, to ensure transparency of company plans and activities, and to guarantee the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the discussion of the plans involving the use of territories where they live.

It is noteworthy that immediately after the Moscow summit the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the main UN body dealing with indigenous peoples, held its ninth session in New York. During the session on 19-30 April, the questions related to the "development subject to preservation of culture and identity" were discussed. The theme of the Moscow meeting – the way the industrial development of the Arctic impacts the nature and peoples of the North – was one of major issues on the agenda of the New York meeting as well.

UNIC

Tel.: (7 495) 241-28-01 (Library),
241-28-94

Fax (7 495) 695-21-38

E-mail: dpi-moscow@unic.ru

www.unic.ru



UN Development Programme

Publications

Russian Energy Sector – Driving or Hindering Human Development?

The energy sector makes a vital contribution to the country's main socio-economic parameters of development, in particular the national income and budget. At the same time, according to the National Human Development Report for the Russian Federation *Energy and Sustainable Development* launched by the United Nations Development Programme 19 April 2010, the influence of the energy sector on human development is not that straightforward. The new report offers a detailed analysis of a major challenge in modern Russia – development of the fuel and energy complex in the context of its impact on human development and sustainable development of the country.

Dominance of energy resources export in the national economy not only makes it vulnerable to global shocks but shackles its long-term economic potential. This leads to reducing motivation for investments in human development, growth of social tension, and slowdown of real income growth. Single-industry economic structure can prevent a person from fully realizing his or her potential.

Sustainable development of the Russian Economy can no longer be provided by

extensive development of energy resources. Increasing energy efficiency is the country's major energy, economic and social resource required for Russia's transition from the "raw materials export oriented" to sustainable innovative development, mitigation of the negative impact of the energy sector on people's health and environment.

“Energy preparedness and environmental safety as well as energy and budget efficiency are the cornerstones of the long-term government policy,” noted Minister of Energy of the RF, Sergey Shmatko, in the preface to the Report. Formation of an adequate modern regulatory system as well as proper legal environment, consumer and governance mechanisms are necessary for achieving these goals. The Report is of interest and help to all those concerned with these problems.

The Report includes eight chapters. In the chapter ‘The Energy Sector, the Economy and the Crisis’, the authors note that the ‘resource curse’ factors can suppress motivation for investments in human development and its effective utilization. Low energy effectiveness dilutes relative advantages of the Russian econo-



my in the energy sector creating obstacles and postponing human development, leads to environmental impacts creating public health hazards.

Despite the fact that fuel and energy territories with the highest oil and gas reserves and, consequently, high personal and budget incomes, have succeeded in increasing life expectancy, reducing infant mortality and improving the vocational education system, their high profits do not help fight illnesses that depend on the state of society. This requires modernization of the social environment and lifestyles. The chapter ‘Energy Industry and the Regions: Human Development Challenges’ provides an insight into development of fuel and energy territories.

In the chapter 3, ‘Personal Incomes, the Energy Sector and the Crisis’, the authors conclude that income generated by the resource oriented economy is sufficient for forming the country's tax base and high incomes for a small group of people. It is highly important to realise that these incomes do not guarantee effective employment for the majority of the population. The chapter also looks at



Sergei Bobylev, NHDR Co-Chief Author, Professor of the Faculty of Economics at Lomonosov Moscow State University, presents the report

© Photo by Aleksey Vesbhin

the cause and effect of a low share of expenditures on housing and utilities in Russian household budgets compared to other countries.

In Chapter 4, 'The Energy Sector and Public Health', the authors claim that

efficiency ratings and the energy saving potential in main sectors of the Russian economy. Russia's energy efficiency potential is one of the biggest in the world representing almost half of the country's current energy consumption. The chapter discusses the advantages of

of problems, in particular, the lack of state support mechanisms and understanding on the part of society, the limited number of qualified specialists, etc.

In chapter 7, 'The Energy Industry and Environmental Sustainability', environmental impact of the fuel and energy complex is presented in the context of economic and social consequences. The situation in Russia is characterized as energy and environmental malaise. Today, Russia is a global environmental donor because the impact of its economy on the environment is much lower than the valuable input of its ecosystems into the global environmental stability, however due to the negative impact of the fuel and energy complex development Russia may lose this status.

Chapter 8, 'The Energy Industry and Sustainable Development Indicators', discusses the need to correct the traditional development indicators, as highlighted by the global economic crisis, and analyzes the opportunities for including the energy factor in sustainability indicators, such as energy intensity, the Adjusted Net Savings Index, etc. The authors present recommendations on using sustainable development indicators in decision making processes.

“Russia is a major player at the global energy market and a global environmental donor, and still has to find an optimum combination of energy preparedness and environmental sustainability in its own interests and in the interests of energy exporting countries,” highlighted UNDP Resident Representative in the RF, Frode Muring.

Current economic recession provides new opportunities for creation and implementation of new approaches to development including the transformation of the energy sector, mainly formed in the second half of the 20th century, into modern high-tech and safe industry of the 21st century.

The Report prepared for UNDP by a group of independent experts is aimed at contributing to the discussion of post-crisis development and a deeper understanding of the role of the energy sector in Russia's socio-economic development.



Frode Muring, UNDP Resident Representative in the Russian Federation, greets D. Maximychev, Deputy Director of the International Organizations Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

environmental pollution caused by the energy sector is a health hazard. Atmospheric pollution causes up to 40,000 deaths among urban population annually with at least 15-20% caused by the fuel and energy complex. Modern technologies should be implemented to reduce the negative impact of all segments of the energy sector, including extraction, refining, transportation, heat and energy generation.

Chapter 5, 'Energy-efficient Russia', looks at the country's energy effi-

energy efficiency compared to extensive energy resource use.

Chapter 6, 'Opportunities for Renewable Energy Sources', is devoted to renewables. Russia is at the initial stage of creating a strong renewable energy industry. In recent years, the business community has demonstrated interest in the area, and a lot has been done in terms of legislation for development of renewables. However so far this activity has not been coordinated and is facing a number



Chernobyl: Information Is Key to Development

In late March, over 30 journalists from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine gathered in the suburbs of Moscow for a training in the framework of a new three year UN project 'International Chernobyl Research and Information Network'(ICRIN). During three days representatives of news agencies, newspapers, magazines, radio and television, primarily working in the

the project. The first training took place in Ukraine in December 2009.

At the Russian training, like earlier in Ukraine, presentations and discussions focused on two main topics:

– ecological, radiological and economic aspects of life on the territories affected by the Chernobyl accident;



territories affected by the Chernobyl accident, learnt new scientifically supported information on the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and the current situation. They had an opportunity to speak with experts and discuss subjects of interest with colleagues from other affected countries, as well as UN representatives specializing in this area.

The ICRIN project is implemented in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The aim of the project is to develop practical recommendations for the population of the territories affected by the Chernobyl accident on the basis of the latest scientific data and distribute the information among residents of respective regions.

It is hard to underestimate the role of local media in this process. In this connection, trainings for journalists with participation of leading experts in health-care, atomic energy, social and economic development were scheduled in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus in the framework of

– medical and social aspects; health and future of people living on the territories affected by the Chernobyl accident.

The training programme included theory (experts' presentations, work with information materials, Q&A), creative tasks and practical recommendations.

Experts representing all three countries took part in the event. They included Valery Kashparov, Head of Ukrainian Research Institute of Agricultural Radiology, National University of Bioresources and Management of Natural Resources; Tatiana Marchenko, Head of Department for Eliminating the Consequences of Radiation Accidents and Catastrophes, RF Ministry of Emergency Situations; Irina Abalkina, Senior Researcher, Institute for Problems of Safe Nuclear Energy Development, Russian Academy of Science; Yakov Kenigsberg, Chair of the National Commission for Radiation Safety under the Council of Ministers, Republic of Belarus, and others.

The journalists were particularly interested in research findings related to the consequences of the Chernobyl acci-

dent for the population and the environment, as well as radiation risks, the level of contamination of the territories and agricultural products. The participants actively discussed myths and misconceptions related to the effects of radiation on health, as well as socio-economic prospects of the affected regions in the view of the recommended change of approach from providing benefits to fighting weak economy. Socio-psychological consequences of the accident and dealing with the culture of dependency were among the most interesting topics discussed at the training.

The participants found the training very useful. According to Svetlana Zotova, a Komsomolskaya Pravda correspondent from Tula, it was helpful "as a chance for journalists to meet colleagues and experts at an informal level". "The training helped me acquire new ideas for publications, not only about Chernobyl, but also about other subjects," she noted.

This was partly owing to a special session on new ways of covering socially significant campaigns and subjects basing on the example of the Chernobyl accident, presented by Vladimir Kasyutin, Secretary of the Russian Journalists' Union.

It should be noted that activities of the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN) include not only work with journalists but also distribution of information in a comprehensible form through the educational system, trainings for teachers, medical workers and heads of local communities. UN agencies hope that this information and practical recommendations based on research data will help residents of the affected territories to have a safe and productive life, overcome fears and bring their lives back to normal.

Victoria Zotikova

For more information please contact Ekaterina Simko at 8 495 787 21 00 ext. 22 11 or by email: ekaterina.simko@undp.org

UNDP

Tel.: (7 495) 787-21-00

Fax: (7 495) 787-21-01

E-mail: office@undp.ru

www.undp.ru



United Nations
Human Rights

Office of High Commissioner
for Human Rights

Society

Business and Human Rights

This was the main topic of the international forum 'Business and Human Rights. Protect, Respect, and Remedy' held in Moscow on 16 March at the initiative of the United Nations and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.



Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, Professor John Ruggie, came to Moscow for the first time to conduct the forum. His mandate was established by the General Assembly in 2005 and further prolonged in 2008. Professor Ruggie advocates for the three core principles: (1) the State duty to protect against human rights abuses committed by third parties, including business; (2) the corporate responsibility to respect human rights; (3) the need for greater access by victims to effective remedies. At the forum, Professor Ruggie presented international experience of cooperation of business, state agencies and civil society, talked about the position of the Human Rights Council, shared global and regional statistics data.

Frode Mauring, UN Resident Coordinator in the Russian Federation, noted in his statement, "Today, we have brought together government, business and civil society to hear from Prof. Ruggie and to

discuss opportunities and perspectives for the practical implementation of these concepts in Russia and other countries." Mr Mauring also recalled the Global Compact, a special initiative of the United Nations aimed at building a corporate social responsibility network globally.

Alexander Yakovenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, welcomed the forum on behalf of the ministry. He stressed that "even in current challenging conditions, the concept of socio-economic development of Russia is targeted at the improvement of human welfare standards."

Following the logic, stated by the title of the forum, its work was divided into three parts.

The first section, 'Protection', was led by representatives of governmental bodies of Russia and Ukraine responsible for the protection of human rights.

In the second session, 'Respect', business representatives shared experience of

implementing mechanisms of social corporate responsibility in their companies.

In the third section, 'Remedy', civil society representatives and human rights defenders raised the issues related to protection of human rights in the post-Soviet space.

One of the forum moderators, Executive Director of the Russian Managers' Association, Mr S. Litovchenko, summarised the outcomes of the forum in his blog: "Professor Ruggie's system could and should be introduced in state-controlled companies and institutions. This would not only create a precedent but also be an example to follow for the private sector and the whole country."

The forum revealed some obvious discrepancies in how different groups in society address the subject of business and human rights. While businesses are still questioning what the term 'human rights' means, human rights defenders are already calling for finding solution to specific problems.

Despite a variety of opinions expressed and issues raised during the forum, the fact that the subject is of interest to the modern society is positive in itself. The concern voiced out by different stakeholders, as well as their readiness to listen to each other and to build a constructive dialogue, makes us hopeful that mutual understanding is possible, and solutions will be found.

More information about the UN Global Compact on the web-sites:

www.unglobalcompact.org

www.undp.ru

OHCHR

Tel.: (7 495) 787-21-03

Fax: (7 495) 787-21-01

E-mail: dirk.bebecker@undp.org

www.unrussia.ru



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Events

International Mother Language Day in Moscow

According to the UNESCO *Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger*, some 200 languages (out of estimated 6,000) have become extinct in the last three generations; 578 languages are considered as critically endangered (22 in the Russian Federation); 526 as severely endangered; 646 as definitely endangered, and 601 as vulnerable.

To prevent new irreversible losses for the civilization is everyone's concern, and it relates to young people in particular. They are to live and bring up children in the new 21st century. That is why the interest to their native language among young people is inspiring. Many of them gathered at the forum 'Moscow – City of Many Faces and Diverse Languages'.

Students of 7–11 grades from 20 schools representing UNESCO Associated Schools (ASPnet), schools with ethno-cultural component, educational centers for migrants' integration Russian Language Schools, as well as schools-members of the Etnosfera International Youth Club took part in the forum. Moscow schools carried out various activities dedicated to the native language. The final event of the extensive programme took place on 18

February 2010 at the Alexeevsky children's arts centre. It was organized by the UNESCO Chair in International Education and Integration of Migrants' Children at School, Moscow Institute of Open Education and the Etnosfera Center for Cross-cultural Education with the support of the Moscow city Department of Education, the UNESCO Moscow Office and several embassies in the Russian Federation. The event was timed to coincide with International Mother Language Day marked annually on 21 February and aimed to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 30th session in November 1999. This year, it is celebrated in the framework of International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures.

Within the programme of the forum final event, schoolchildren made presentations about various languages, their history and current situation, 'grew' a symbolic language tree; discussed the issues of linguistic and cultural diversity, tolerance and respect for all languages and cultures as a factor of living in a multicultural city which is Moscow today.

Languages are crucial for preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Loss of any language would inevitably result in the loss of a unique culture, knowledge and traditions. On the other hand, the promotion of native languages both contributes to protecting linguistic diversity and also encourages a cultural dialogue based on the principles of mutual understanding and tolerance.



© Photo by Anna Sherepisova

Information Technologies in Education

The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) was established as an integral part of UNESCO by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1997 and is located in Moscow, Russian Federation. IITE aims to assist the Organization's Member States in meeting the challenges of the information society providing them with support in policy formulation and analysis. IITE's mission therefore is to serve as a centre of excellence and provider of technical support and expertise in the area of ICT use in education. Accumulated experience allowed IITE to become a unique international expertise and resource centre, offering advice and guidance on building national capacity in information and communication technologies (ICT) use in education worldwide. IITE, within its status and functions, supports bridging the digital divide in education and building inclusive knowledge societies by building national capacities in promoting environments for increasing access to

education and lifelong learning, facilitating policy dialogue and initiating development of national strategies on ICT application in education.

During 2008-2013 IITE focuses its activities on two strategic objectives. First is the capacity building of Member States on ICT in education through evidence-based policies, teacher professional development and equal access for vulnerable groups. The second one, is fostering ICT-enhanced learning through knowledge sharing, Open Educational Resources (OER), networking and cooperation

The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education is administered by a Governing Board which consists of 11 members selected for their eminence in the field and appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of geographical distribution.

After 2 years of transitional period, the 10th Session of the newly appointed IITE Governing Board was held at the premises of IITE in Moscow in December 2009. At the opening of the Governing Board meeting Alexander Yakovenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, delivered a speech on the vision of the Russian Federation concerning the future activities of the institute. Qian Tang, UNESCO Assistant Director-General a.i., delivered a statement on behalf of the Director-General. Members of the Governing Board discussed the medium-term strategy of the institute, the budget and the workplan for 2010-2011 and presented their recommendations.

UNESCO

Tel.: (7 495) 637-28-75

Fax: (7 495) 637-39-60

www.unesco.org/moscow



Participants of the 10th Session of IITE Governing Board

Summary

You can find the full version of the UN in Russia Bulletin in English at www.undp.ru or www.unrussia.ru (Documents)

UN / Statement of the Spokesperson of UN Secretary-General

on the 24th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster

The statement honours the sacrifices made by those who died, and those who survived. In the one hand, it emphasizes the importance of strengthening the safety and security of nuclear material and facilities. And on the other – says that the UN stands ready to do everything in its power to further the affected regions' revival. The Secretary-General calls on the international community to support the full recovery of all those affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

UN / Activities of Secretary-General in the Russian Federation, 17-19 March

The programme of the Secretary-General's three day visit to Russia included participation in the Middle East Quartet meeting, a luncheon with President Medvedev, a speech at MGIMO, as well as meetings with Russian journalists and UN staff working in Moscow.

UN / World Needs Russian Federation's Sustained, Creative Engagement across United Nations Agenda, Secretary-General Says in Address to Moscow Institute

In his speech at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations on 18 March, during his recent visit to Russia, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon focused on Russia's role in the United Nations agenda.

UNICEF / Roger Moore: 40 Thousand Children Die Every Day

In March, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Sir Roger Moore, came to Moscow to acquaint himself with UNICEF projects and mobilise support for them. Among other places, he visited an inclusive education school, where he could see how children with disabilities study along with other children.

UNFPA / Russia's Social and Demographic Development

On 31 March, UNFPA launched a new report called *Social and Demographic Development of Russia* dedicated to the country's progress towards reaching of the targets set at the international conference on population and development in Cairo in 1994.

UNHCR / Magee Helps Refugees

Magee-Women's Research Institute has been a UNHCR partner for almost 15 years providing medical and psychological assistance to refugees and asylum seekers in Moscow and the Moscow region.

UNAIDS / History of HIV/AIDS in Posters

'History of HIV/AIDS in Posters' exhibition opened in the city of Orel. The exhibition consists of 20 posters created in different years since the beginning of the HIV epidemic. During 2010 the exhibition will be placed in 11 cities of Russia at major universities, youth clubs, exhibition halls, museums and galleries.

UNIC / Arctic Is Our Home

On 14-15 April, Moscow hosted the 5th Arctic Leaders Summit. The title of the summit – *Industrial development of the Arctic under climate change – new challenges for indigenous peoples* reflects the fact that industrial development in these territories often affects indigenous peoples and their environment in a negative way. And climate change impact creates additional threats to the traditional environment of native population.

UNDP / Russian Energy Sector – Driving or Hindering Human Development?

The new National Human Development Report for the Russian Federation *Energy Sector and Sustainable Development* launched by the United Nations Development Programme on 19 April offers a detailed analysis of a major challenge in modern Russia – development of the fuel and energy complex in the context of its impact on human development and sustainable development of the country. While the energy sector makes a vital contribution to the country's main socio-economic parameters of development, the influence of the energy sector on human development is not that straightforward.

UNDP/Chernobyl: Information Is Key to Development

Over 30 journalists from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine attended a training in the framework of the new three year UN project, *International Chernobyl Research and Information Network (ICRIN)*, held in Moscow in late March. Representatives of various media outlets, primarily working in the territories affected by the Chernobyl accident, learnt new scientifically supported information on the consequences of the Chernobyl accident and the current situation.

OHCHR / Business and Human Rights

On 16 March, Moscow hosted the international forum, *Business and Human Rights: Protect, Respect and Remedy*, organized by the United Nations with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Business and Human Rights, Professor John Ruggie, spoke about obligations of states and businesses in ensuring human rights.

UNESCO / International Mother Language Day in Moscow

International Mother Language Day marked on 21 February aims to promote linguistic and cultural diversity. The final event of the Youth Forum '*Moscow – City of Many Faces and Diverse Languages*, dedicated to this date, involved 7–11 grade schoolchildren from UNESCO associated schools.

UNESCO / Information Technologies in Education

The UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (IITE) in Moscow was established as an integral part of UNESCO by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1997. In 2008-2013, IITE focuses on capacity enhancement of Member States on ICT in education and fostering ICT-enhanced learning.

United Nations



Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals is a set of specific and measurable targets aimed at reducing poverty and raising living standards, which was adopted by 191 United Nations member-states, including the Russian Federation, at the Millennium Summit in 2000.

These Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be reached by 2015 or earlier, are as follows:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Goal 1 | Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger |
| Goal 2 | Achieve universal primary education |
| Goal 3 | Promote gender equality and empower women |
| Goal 4 | Reduce child mortality |
| Goal 5 | Improve maternal health |
| Goal 6 | Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases |
| Goal 7 | Ensure environmental sustainability |
| Goal 8 | Develop a global partnership for development |