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*The President and the Governing Board
of AFICS (NY) wish all
Association members and their families a
very happy, healthy and peaceful new year!*



"The mission of AFICS(NY) is to support and promote the purposes, principles and programmes of the UN System; to advise and assist former international civil servants and those about to separate from service; to represent the interests of its members within the System; to foster social and personal relationships among members, to promote their well-being and to encourage mutual support of individual members."

AFICS(NY) webpage: <<http://www.un.org/other/afics>>

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Association of Former
International Civil Servants (NY)*

Editor

Mary Lynn Hanley

Design & Layout

Fidel Keymolen

Columnist

Dr. Sudershan Narula

Contributors

George F. Saddler

Andrés Castellanos

Lola Costa-Esnard

Dawne Gautier

Publishing Director

Edward Omotoso

Please submit news, views, photos and letters to the Editor by e-mail: <Mlhanley11@aol.com>

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NOTES FROM THE 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2010! This is a very important year for both the United Nations, celebrating the **65th anniversary of its founding** and AFICS (NY) marking its **40th anniversary!** From its inauguration as a fledgling group created on 10 June 1970 with some 200 members, AFICS has grown to some 3600 members, committed to the goals in our mission statement, as stated on the cover of each *Bulletin*.

Looking back, we see how far both the United Nations and AFICS have come since their respective beginnings. In his UN Day 2009 message, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon summed up the organization's place in today's world: "People look to the United Nations to defeat poverty and hunger, to keep the peace, to expand education and stand up for human rights in every corner of the globe. They look to us to stop the spread of deadly weapons and disease, and to protect people and families hit by disasters. In December, they will look to us to seal a comprehensive, equitable and ambitious deal on climate change that will protect us all and pave the way toward a greener, more sustainable economy."

While recent reports from various UN bodies that we have brought together in this Bulletin show important progress in many of these areas, they also make it clear how far we still have to go!

Most in the news, the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen did not produce the dramatic commitments desired from many nations. But it did end with an Accord, painstakingly hammered out by delegates representing 194 countries to serve as a starting point for effecting meaningful change.

The need to eliminate all forms of discrimination was the theme for Human Rights Day, celebrated in December, and marking the 61st anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Choosing the slogan, "Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination," UN officials drew attention to the main targets of discrimination, including the disabled, women and girls, the poor, migrants, minorities, and all those perceived as different.

Along the same lines, on World AIDS Day, the UN S-G called for an urgent end to discrimination against people living with HIV and AIDS to help combat the spread of the disease. Though new HIV infections have been reduced by 17 per cent globally since 2001, progress has been uneven across regions, countries and populations and the disease remains one of the world's leading causes of premature death. Countries were urged to remove punitive laws, policies and practices that punish rather than protect those living with HIV and AIDS.

Showing how closely many UN issues are interrelated, UNFPA's *State of the World Population 2009* report highlighted the role that women play in climate change, noting that poor women in poor countries are the hardest hit, even though they contribute the least to the phenomenon. Similarly, the 2009 *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* points to long-standing inequalities with regard to women in access to economic and financial resources, which has placed them at a disadvantage in relation to men in economic development. It notes that gender equality in access and control of resources contributes to economic development, with strong multiplier effects in relation to a range of goals, including poverty eradication, as well as a strong inter-generational impact that significantly affects the well-being of children.

Migration can enhance human development for the people who move, for destination communities and for those who remain at home was the message of UNDP's 2009 Human Development Report, titled *Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development*. Allowing for migration – both within and between – countries has the potential to increase people's freedom and improve the lives of millions around the world, according to the report.

As for poverty reduction, the ultimate objective of the Millennium Development Goals, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was observed in October 2009 with the theme, "Children and Families Speak Out Against Poverty." During the weekend of 16-18 October

a Guinness World Record was shattered when 173,045,325 citizens gathered at over 3,000 events in more than 120 countries, demanding that their governments eradicate extreme poverty and realize the MDGs.

Entering our 40th year, AFICS intends to look to the future! The world keeps changing and, as retirees, we must change with it. Over the years, the first of our goals – to support and promote the purposes, principles and programmes of the UN System – or "advocacy" as we now call it – has continued to grow in importance and must continue to do so. We are living longer than ever before and, assisted by more and better communications tools, we have increasing opportunities to support the work of the UN – through actions in our communities, letters to the editors of our local media, or just making friends and neighbours aware of what the UN really does.

After all, our retirees are capable of extraordinary feats, from winning the Credit Union Executives Society (CUES) Director of The Year award (see page 20), to walking every street in Manhattan and showing the city's diversity in a book of photos (page 31), to reviving piano playing skills after a hiatus 50 years to give fund-raising recitals for local charities (page 21). Let's do all we can to make our 40th year one of action to support the UN!

Linda Saputelli
1st Vice President, AFICS (NY)

As we were going to press, news came of the horrific earthquake in Haiti with its enormous loss of life and numbers of people injured and left homeless, including many UN staff. AFICS (NY) immediately volunteered to assist the UN as appropriate in relief and reconstruction. The Charities Foundation contributed an initial \$4,000 and we encourage members to send cheques made out to Charities Foundation of AFICS, marked "for Haiti," to United Nations, Room DC1-580, New York 10017 so we can give more.

We will report on UN casualties and survivors of this disaster, as well as relief efforts, in our April *Bulletin*. Meanwhile, members are requested to consult the UN Website <www.un.org> for updates.

UNITED NATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

CLIMATE CHANGE DEAL IS “ESSENTIAL BEGINNING” SAYS UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

(Adapted from UN Website)

On 19 December 2009, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the climate change deal reached by world leaders at a United Nations summit in Copenhagen, calling it an "essential beginning" that contains progress on all key fronts, but adding that work must now focus on turning the deal into a legally binding treaty. Delegates representing 194 countries attending the Copenhagen conference agreed that night to work towards implementing an accord forged by some world leaders after two weeks of marathon negotiations in the Danish capital.

"Finally we sealed the deal. And it is a real deal. Bringing world leaders to the table paid off. ... We have the foundation for the first truly global agreement that will limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support adaptation for the most vulnerable and launch a new era of green growth," Mr. Ban told journalists at the conference on 20 December. "The Copenhagen Accord may not be everything that everyone hoped for, but this decision of the Conference of Parties is a beginning, an essential beginning."

He said results had been made on all four of the benchmarks for success that he laid out during the special leaders' summit on climate change held in New York in September. "All countries have agreed to work towards a common long-term goal to limit the global temperature rise to below two degrees Celsius; many governments have made important commitments to reduce or limit emissions; countries have achieved significant progress on preserving forests; and countries have agreed to provide comprehensive support to the most vulnerable to cope with climate change."

The Secretary-General said these commitments had been backed up by \$30 billion of pledges for short-term adaptation and mitigation measures for poorer countries, and further commitments to raise \$100 billion by 2020 to achieve those goals.

The deal also provides a mechanism for drawing the many nationally announced climate goals into an international deal. Through an annex, developed countries would choose to list their greenhouse gas reduction targets and financing offers, and developing countries would register mitigation and adaptation projects that could be monitored or reviewed.

But he cautioned that serious work lies ahead in turning the Copenhagen Accord into a legally binding treaty, and said he would work closely with world leaders to make that happen. The so-called Copenhagen Green Climate Fund, aimed at helping poor countries adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change, must be launched as soon as possible so it can start providing assistance to those in need and kick-start clean energy projects.

Mr. Ban acknowledged that the current mitigation commitments offered by countries fail "to meet the scientific bottom line." The Nobel Peace Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that to stave off the worst effects of global warming, industrialized countries must slash emissions by 25 to 40 per cent from 1990 levels by 2020, and global emissions must be halved by 2050.

"We still face serious consequences. So while I am satisfied we have a deal here in Copenhagen, I am aware that it is just the beginning. It will take more than this to definitively tackle climate change, but it is a step in the right direction."

UN Assistant Secretary-General Robert Orr said the Copenhagen conference may have “topped the list” for complexity. The actual negotiations involved the active participation of 28 heads of State representing key countries or groups of countries. The Accord was recognized by consensus and creates a procedure for individual countries to associate with the agreement.

Mr. Orr said that while some delegates consider that the Accord has many flaws, countries overwhelmingly believed that it would advance the climate change negotiations. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), said the deal was “perhaps not the big breakthrough some had hoped for, but neither was it a breakdown, which at times seemed a possibility. “The litmus test of developed countries’

ambitions will, in a sense, come immediately. If the funds promised in the Accord start flowing swiftly and to the levels announced, then a new international climate change policy may have been born.”

Mr. Steiner stressed that the final deal represented a compromise of differing national and economic interests among States large and small, rich and poor. “Trying to take over 190 countries through the same door towards a more cooperative global warming policy has proved challenging but ultimately possible and doable. Time will be the true judge as to whether 19 December 2009 was indeed an historic date for accelerating a response to combating dangerous climate change and for more sustainable management of economically important ecosystems, such as forests.”

UN MARKS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY WITH CALL TO END ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

(Adapted from UN Website)

The United Nations marked Human Rights Day on 10 December 2009, the 61st anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, by stressing the enduring need to eliminate all forms of discrimination, with officials in the world’s most crisis-plagued regions – from Iraq to Afghanistan to Somalia – appealing for tolerance in the interest of peace.

“No country is free of discrimination,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a message for the Day, for which the theme in 2009 was ‘Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination.’ “It may appear as institutionalized racism, as ethnic strife, as episodes of intolerance and rejection, or as an official national version of history that denies the identity of others.”

“Discrimination targets individuals and groups that are vulnerable to attack: the disabled, women and girls, the poor, migrants, minorities, and all those who are perceived as different,” he added, pledging UN commitment to fight inequality and intolerance wherever they are found.

In Baghdad, Mr. Ban’s Special Representative Ad Melkert called on all Iraqis to respect each others’ political rights, as well as cultural, religious, ethnic and gender differences, singling out the status of women. “Violence against women cannot be seen in isolation from discrimination against them,” he said.

In Kabul, too, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) stressed that eight years after the end of Taliban rule, women still face growing challenges in public life and have limited access to justice. “Life in public spaces for Afghan women is shrinking and gender-based violence is still widespread and deeply rooted in Afghan society,” UNAMA human rights chief Norah Niland said.

Mr. Ban’s Special Representative for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, praised the courage of those who continued to risk their lives to protect and defend human rights in a faction-riven country that has known no peace for nearly two decades. “A whole generation is growing up having never known what it means to live in a peaceful, stable environment where rights are respected,” he said.

In New York, General Assembly President Ali Treki joined the chorus of those calling for the respect of human rights without distinction to race, sex, language or religion. “Millions of human beings continue to fight a daily battle against discrimination to gain access to education, health services and decent work,” he said. “The realization of all human rights, social, economic and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights, is hampered by discrimination.”

And in Geneva, UN High Commissioner for Human

Rights Navi Pillay deplored the fact that discrimination is still rampant 61 years after the Declaration's adoption. "Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours and produce half of the world's food, yet earn only 10 per cent of the world's income and own less than one per cent of the world's property," she said, also citing discrimination plaguing ethnic, racial and religious minorities, refugees and migrants.

In a joint statement the various independent experts who report to the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council warned that efforts to end discrimination are falling short and progress is even being reversed in some instances. "Globally, stronger commitments and more determined action are required if we are to defeat discrimination," they said. "Our ethnic, cultural or religious differences should be acknowledged, valued and respected, not seen as a threat to our unity as they too often are, but as a celebrated component of it."

At UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquarters in Paris, Director-General Irina Bokova said this year's theme is particularly pertinent since the world has become more diverse than ever before. "It is only through mutual respect, understanding, constructive dialogue and acceptance of the right to be different that we will defuse tensions and build more peaceful multicultural societies," she stressed.

Celebrations marking the Day spanned the globe, with

the parliament of Timor-Leste – the tiny South-East Asian nation that the UN shepherded to independence in 2002 after its vote to separate from Indonesia – holding a special commemorative session at which Mr. Ban's Special Representative Atul Khare highlighted the importance of the role of the Government and civil society in ending violence against women.

A half a world away in Washington, D.C., UN Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director Thoraya Obaid was awarded the UN Association for the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) Louis B. Sohn Human Rights Award for her deep commitment to the belief that women's rights are human rights. "What makes it [the award] more significant for me is that I am receiving it on Human Rights Day," she said. "Such an honour will only make me, and UNFPA, more committed to promoting the human rights of women and girls who still face gender discrimination and violence, to advancing their empowerment and gender equality and to ensuring universal access to reproductive health."

Meanwhile, back at UN headquarters in New York a special Human Rights Day event entitled 'Race, Poverty and Power,' was being held, as well as a panel discussion on opposing rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

And in Geneva, women from 28 countries convened for a UN-backed symposium entitled 'The Courage to Lead: A Human Rights Summit for Women Leaders.'

MARKING WORLD AIDS DAY, UN OFFICIALS URGE END TO DISCRIMINATION

(Adapted from UN Website)

On 1 December 2009, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon led senior United Nations officials in marking World AIDS Day by calling for an urgent end to discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS to help combat the spread of the disease.

Mr. Ban said that progress in reversing the AIDS epidemic in some countries is outpaced by new infections on a global scale, making it one of the leading causes of premature death worldwide. "I urge all countries to remove punitive laws, policies and practices that hamper the AIDS response, including travel restrictions against people living with HIV," he said. "Successful AIDS responses do not punish people; they protect them."

Laws that institutionalize discrimination against groups most at risk of the infection, such as sex workers, drug users and men who have sex with men only fuel the epidemic and prevent cost-effective interventions, Mr. Ban added. "We must ensure that AIDS responses are based on evidence, not ideology, and reach those most in need and most affected. On this World AIDS Day, let us uphold the human rights of all people living with HIV, people at risk of infection, and children and families affected by the epidemic."

Speaking at an event in South Africa, the Executive Director of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Michel Sidibé also underscored the importance of an AIDS response based on human rights.

“Universal obstacles to human rights are getting in the way of universal access,” Mr. Sidibé told a gathering at the Swedish Embassy in Pretoria.

Later in the day, Mr. Sidibé told President Jacob Zuma that he is “giving hope to millions who have been waiting for South Africa to join the front line in the global response.” According to 2007 estimates, some 5.7 million people are infected with HIV in South Africa, the largest population living with the disease around the world. Sub-Saharan Africa is the world’s hardest hit region, accounting for over two-thirds of all people living with HIV and nearly three quarters of AIDS-related deaths in 2008.

Mr. Sidibé praised President Zuma for the bold and ambitious goals he set out “to accelerate the AIDS response and cut new infections in half, and scale up treatment to 80 per cent of those who need it by 2011.” He said that by cutting the number of new infections in Africa in half by 2015, an estimated 2.25 million infections will be averted, saving around \$12.5 billion in treatment costs. “That is a huge gain, financially and in human lives.”

In her message to mark the Day, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark noted a recent UNAIDS report that highlighted significant successes in increasing access to life-saving treatment over the last five years, with more than 4 million people in

developing countries receiving the necessary medication and almost 3 million lives saved already. New HIV infections have also been reduced by 17 per cent globally since 2001. Miss Clark said that significant successes in tackling the spread of HIV/AIDS are attributable to promoting the participation of marginalized and vulnerable populations, and the global campaign to drive down the price of key drugs and prevention technologies.

“Unfortunately success is uneven across regions, countries and populations,” she said. “Far too often, prevention programmes are still not reaching those most in need. Too little is being done in too many places to empower girls and women. Stigmatizing homosexuals and refusing to provide harm reduction services for drug users also sets back prevention and treatment work.”

She noted that for every two people put on treatment, five become newly infected with HIV.

Among the most visible commemorations for the Day was a UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) initiative, in which landmark monuments around the world dimmed their lights to stress the urgency of halting the epidemic. The Eiffel Tower in Paris joined the “Lights for Rights” operation by switching off its lights for five minutes in the evening, along with the Empire State Building and the Brooklyn Bridge in New York, among other sites.

THE STATE OF WORLD POPULATION 2009

UNFPA Report Points to Central Role Women Play in Efforts to Fight Climate Change

(Adapted from UN Website)

Climate change strikes its fiercest blow against the poorest, most vulnerable people around the world, according to a United Nations report released on 18 November, urging policy makers to heed the role of women – who make up the majority of the poor – in combating climate change.

The 94-page UN Population Fund (UNFPA) report, titled *The State of World Population 2009*, warned that the poor depend more on agriculture for their livelihoods, risking hunger and loss of income when droughts strike, rains become unpredictable and hurricanes move with unprecedented force.

The poor also tend to live in marginal areas, vulnerable

to floods, rising seas and storms, notes the report, stressing that women bear the disproportionate burden of climate change as they make up the majority of the world’s 1.5 billion people living on less than \$1 a day.

The report was launched in about 130 cities worldwide including London, where it was presented by UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid.

“Poor women in poor countries are among the hardest hit by climate change, even though they contributed the least to it,” said Ms. Obaid. “With the possibility of a climate catastrophe on the horizon, we cannot afford to

relegate the world's 3.4 billion women and girls to the role of victim. Wouldn't it make more sense to have 3.4 billion agents for change?"

At a press conference accompanying the launch of the report at UNFPA Headquarters in New York, Daniel Schensul, an expert on climate change and sustainable development, explained the importance of the links among women, population and the planet's shifting climate, saying that the impact of population size and growth on heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions varied in different locales. In industrial countries, for example, population growth is low, but people's high consumption rates lead to high total emissions. Least developed countries have the highest population growth rates, but are the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases.

Countries have to think beyond size and growth when considering the impact of population. "Where we live, how old we are, how we organize our lives, in small or larger families, are also very important," Mr. Schensul continued. "Smaller households, in both developed and developing countries, consume considerably more per capita. That is why, as the report points out, a divorce causes more emissions than the birth of a child."

Now at 6.8 billion, the world's population is increasing by about 79 million people each year. By 2050, it could

reach as high as 10.5 billion or remain as low as 8 billion. "The difference of 2.5 billion between the two numbers is highly relevant for climate change and the long-term future of human kind," Mr. Schensul said. "Climate change is an interaction of the number of people, their wealth and affluence and the technology and energy choices that people make."

The report contends that the international community's fight against climate change would be more successful if policies, programmes and treaties consider the needs, rights and potential of women. It spotlights studies showing women are more likely than men to die in natural disasters, with the gender mortality gap most pronounced where incomes are low and status differences between men and women are high.

The UNFPA report also demonstrates that investment in women and girls – particularly in education and health – boosts economic development, reduces poverty and benefits the environment. It says that girls with more education tend to have smaller and healthier families as adults because access to reproductive health services – including family planning – results in lower fertility rates that contribute to slower growth in greenhouse-gas emissions in the long run.

PRESS CONFERENCE ON 2009 WORLD SURVEY ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

(Adapted from UN Website)

The 2009 *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* was launched at United Nations Headquarters on 26 October with the participation of six experts, each focusing on one of its six chapters.

The report points to long-standing inequalities in access to economic and financial resources, which has placed women at a disadvantage in relation to men in economic development, said Carolyn Hannan, Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women, at a press conference introducing the survey, which comes out every five years, for presentation to the General Assembly's Second Committee (Economic and Financial). She added that its introduction provides a very important opportunity to raise critical gender-equality issues in relation to economic development.

This year, the report is devoted to women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance, Ms. Hannan continued. Among the issues analyzed are: resources generated at national level through budgets, trade and development cooperation; financial resources, such as credit, savings, remittances and insurance; and employment and social protection, as well as land, property and other productive resources. The report also spotlights the links between different types of economic and financial resources.

The survey shows that progress on women's economic empowerment and increasing women's access to resources has been slow and uneven, she said. The starting point in the survey is that gender equality in access and control of resources contributes to economic development, with strong multiplier effects in relation to a

range of goals, including poverty eradication. There is also a strong inter-generational impact, which significantly affects the well-being of children.

Also speaking to the press were two of the authors of the survey, Naila Kabeer of the Institute of Development Studies (United Kingdom), and James Heintz of the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts.

Ms. Kabeer said that the authors of the report had looked at all the areas in which the question of access to resources was important, including labour markets and employment, and asked what should be done to promote women's progress – not just for poor women, but educated and better-off women as well. Inequalities were not peculiar to poorer countries alone but were also present in developed countries. For that reason, it was important to look beyond some of the real gains that women had made in the labour market and education and ask about the nature of constraints that kept women in inferior positions in the labour market and therefore dependent “on sometimes unreliable husbands and sometimes on unfair States.”

The report responds to various commitments made over time to address gender inequalities and provides the rationale for why those commitments must be taken seriously, she continued. The conclusion of the report is that the promotion of women's access to economic and financial resources is likely to become an investment in the welfare of the next generation. Women who had access to resources were much more likely to be more productive, and their activities were more likely to yield higher returns.

Women's unpaid care responsibilities are at the heart of the asymmetrical way in which macroeconomic policies have been developed, since those did not recognize women's unpaid work, she continued. Also addressed in the survey are issues of: natural resources, including land and water; various types of property; financial services; and social protection, which has been particularly important at times of economic and financial crises. The report seeks to show that single interventions have not gone very far. A comprehensive package is needed to look at the connections between paid and unpaid work, production and reproduction, formal and informal sectors, and the situation in the North and the South.

Mr. Heintz said that the current global financial crisis

had fundamentally changed the macroeconomic environment, and the report looks at some of the implications of present and past macroeconomic policies from the gender perspective. It also investigates the relationship between gender equality and economic growth. The degree to which growth benefited women was determined by the policy environment. For that reason, the report presents concrete policy suggestions in terms of fiscal policies, including gender-responsive budgeting; and monetary policies. The document also looks at the “incredible under-representation” of women in governance structures of the institutions that determine macroeconomic policies, such as central banks.

In terms of employment and labour-market issues, the focus of the report is on women's control over resources, he continued. Among the factors examined in detail, he mentioned labour-market segmentation, concentration of women in the informal and non-standard forms of employment, continuing persistence of discrimination, and unequal distribution of unpaid care work within households. The report's central message in terms of employment is that it is critical to make gender-equitable employment policy a core component of all national development strategies as a way of meeting development and poverty-reduction goals.

Responding to several questions about the report's preparation, Ms. Kabeer said that while no new surveys had been carried out, its authors had examined “as much up-to-date material as we could find.” The value of the report was in bringing it all together in a way that showed interconnections among different kinds of resources, activities and elements of macroeconomic policy. That value lay in the synthesis and in showing some of the similarities and differences between the affluent and poor countries.

Mr. Heintz added that the report brings a large volume of research and policy work together. It draws on numerous government and agency reports, as well as some cutting-edge academic research.

Ms. Hannan stressed the importance of the recommendations contained in the report, expressing hope that they would be reflected in the resolution on women and development that the Second Committee was expected to adopt during the current session.

To a question about microfinance, Ms. Kabeer said that while very effective in promoting entrepreneurship among poor people, that tool should be adapted to local

circumstances and take into account the obstacles that women face. Microfinance was likely to be successful for women's economic empowerment when it recognized the kinds of constraints that prevented women from expanding their businesses, when it addressed

training, linked them up to markets, provided childcare support and addressed women's family situations. Microfinance should be embedded in a package of services that address these issues.

SECRETARY-GENERAL BAN KI-MOON'S MESSAGE FOR UN DAY, 24 OCTOBER 2009

(Adapted from UN Website)

On this United Nations Day and every day throughout the year, the United Nations is at work – for the planet, for jobs, for “we the peoples.”

We deliver more humanitarian aid than anyone – and to the toughest places. We vaccinate 40 per cent of the world's children. We feed more than 100 million people and are helping more than 30 million refugees, most of them women and children fleeing war and persecution. We are deploying more peacekeepers than ever – more than 115,000. In the last year alone, we provided electoral assistance to almost 50 countries. And the entire UN system has mobilized to face global economic turmoil and the social unrest it threatens.

People look to the United Nations to defeat poverty and hunger, to keep the peace, to expand education and stand up for human rights in every corner of the globe. They look to us to stop the spread of deadly weapons and disease, and to protect people and families hit by disasters. In December, they will look to us to seal a

comprehensive, equitable and ambitious deal on climate change that will protect us all and pave the way toward a greener, more sustainable economy.

This is a unique moment in world affairs. Multiple crises – food, fuel, financial, flu – are hitting at once. Climate change looms larger every day. Each illustrates a 21st-century truth: we share one planet, one home. As people, as nations, as a species, we sink or swim together.

The United Nations is doing its utmost to respond – to address the big issues, to look at the big picture. We are forging a new multilateralism that can deliver real results for all people, especially those most in need. But I am also painfully aware of the distance to go and the gap between commitment and action. On this UN Day, let us resolve to redouble our efforts on behalf of the vulnerable, the powerless, and the defenceless. Let us stand more united than ever – united in purpose and united in action to make the world a safer, better place.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2009 CHALLENGES COMMON MIGRATION MISCONCEPTIONS

(Adapted from UNDP Press Materials)

Allowing for migration – both within and between – countries has the potential to increase people's freedom and improve the lives of millions around the world, according to the *2009 Human Development Report* launched in Bangkok, Thailand on 5 October 2009.

We live in a highly mobile world, where migration is not only inevitable but also an important dimension of human development. Nearly one billion – or one out of seven – people are migrants. The Report, titled *Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development*, demonstrates that migration can enhance human

development for the people who move, for destination communities and for those who remain at home.

“Migration can be a force for good, contributing significantly to human development,” says United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark. “But to realize its benefits, there needs to be a supportive policy environment as this Report suggests.”

Indeed, migration can raise a person's income, health and education prospects. Most importantly, being able to decide where to live is a key element of human free-

dom, according to the Report, which also argues that large gains in human development can be achieved by lowering barriers and other constraints to movement and by improving policies towards those who move.

However, migration does not always bring benefits. The extent to which people are able to gain from moving depends greatly on the conditions under which they move. Financial outlays can be relatively high, and movement inevitably involves uncertainty and separation from families. The poor are often constrained by a lack of resources, information and barriers in their new host communities and countries. For too many people movement reflects the repercussions of conflict, natural disaster or severe economic hardship. Some women end up in trafficking networks, lose significant freedoms and suffer physical danger.

This is the latest publication in a series of global Human Development Reports, which aim to frame debates on some of the most pressing challenges facing humanity, from climate change to human rights. It is an independent report commissioned by UNDP. Jeni Klugman is the lead author of the 2009 Report.

Challenging common misconceptions

The findings in this Report cast new light on some common misconceptions. Most migrants do not cross national borders, but instead move within their own country:

740 million people are internal migrants, almost four times the number of international migrants. Among international migrants, less than 30 per cent move from developing to developed countries. For example, only three per cent of Africans live outside their country of birth.

Contrary to commonly held beliefs, migrants typically boost economic output and give more than they take. Detailed investigations show that immigration generally increases employment in host communities, does not crowd out locals from the job market and improves rates of investment in new businesses and initiatives. Overall, the impact of migrants on public finances – both national and local – is relatively small, while there is ample evidence of gains in other areas such as social diversity and the capacity for innovation.

The authors demonstrate that the gains to people who move can be enormous. Research found that migrants

from the poorest countries, on average, experienced a 15-fold increase in income, a doubling of school enrolment rates and a 16-fold reduction in child mortality after moving to a developed country.

Links to development

For the countries where migrants are coming from, the Report warns that migration is no substitute for development. However, mobility often brings new ideas, knowledge and resources – to migrants and to origin countries – that can complement and even enhance human and economic development. In many countries, the money sent back by migrants exceeds official aid.

Migrants' gains are often shared with their families and communities at home. In many cases this is in the form of 'cash remittances' but the families of migrants may benefit in other ways too. These 'social remittances,' as they are called, include reductions in fertility, higher school enrolment rates and the empowerment of women.

The Report also argues that the exodus of highly skilled workers such as doctors, nurses and teachers – a major concern of a number of developing countries that are losing these professionals – is more a symptom rather than a cause of failing public systems.

When integrated into wider national development strategies, migration complements broader local and national efforts to reduce poverty and enhance social and economic development.

Taking down barriers

Overcoming barriers lays out a core package of reforms, six "pillars: that call for:

- Opening existing entry channels for more workers, especially those with low skills;
- Ensuring basic human rights for migrants, from basic services, like education and health care, to the right to vote;
- Lowering the transaction costs of migration;
- Finding collaborative solutions that benefit both destination communities and migrants;
- Easing internal migration; and
- Adding migration as a component for origin countries' development strategies.

In terms of international migration, the Report does not

advocate wholesale liberalization, since people at destination places have a right to shape their societies; but it argues that there is a strong case for increased access for sectors with a high demand for labour, including for the low-skilled. This is particularly important for developed countries because their populations are aging – and this may increase the demand for migrant workers.

Easing access and reducing the cost of official documents are other important steps towards lowering the barriers to legal migration. Rationalizing such “paper walls” will help stem the flow of irregular migrants, the Report argues, as people find it easier and less expensive to use legal channels.

Overcoming barriers also calls on receiving countries to take steps to end discrimination against migrants. The Report stresses the importance of addressing the concerns of local residents and increasing awareness of migrants’ rights, in addition to working with employers, trade unions and community groups to combat xenophobia.

Despite the cases of intolerance, research commissioned by UNDP for the Report demonstrates that people in destination countries are generally supportive of further migration when jobs are available, and appreciate the gains – economic, social and cultural – that increased diversity can bring.

Time for action

The world recession has quickly become a jobs crisis, and a jobs crisis is generally bad news for migrants. In

a number of areas, the number of new migrants is down, while some destination countries are taking steps to encourage or compel migrants to leave. But now is the time for action, the Report argues.

“The recession should be seized as an opportunity to institute a new deal for migrants – one that will benefit workers at home and abroad while guarding against a protectionist backlash,” says Klugman. “With recovery, many of the same underlying trends that have been driving movement during the past half-century will resurface, attracting more people to move.”

People are going to move, and thus *Overcoming barriers* provides the tools to better manage inevitable human mobility, laying out principles and guidelines for traditional immigration destinations, such as the United States and Europe, and new migration magnets, such as Costa Rica, Morocco and Thailand. The package of reforms put forward in *Overcoming barriers* depends on a realistic appraisal of economic and social conditions and recognition of public opinion and other political constraints, the Report observes. But, with political courage, they are all feasible.

For access to the Human Development Report, as well as information on the Human Development Index (see below) and the complete press kit, please visit: <www.hdr.undp.org>. The Report is published in English by Palgrave Macmillan and has been translated into more than a dozen languages, including Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian.

IN 182 COUNTRIES, UNEVEN PROGRESS AND INEQUALITY IN HEALTH, WEALTH AND EDUCATION PERSIST

Disparities in Life Expectancy Can Range up to 30 Years, Says 2009 *Human Development Report*

Also released as part of the 2009 *Human Development Report* was the latest “Human Development Index (HDI),” a summary indicator of people’s well-being, combining measures of life expectancy, literacy, school enrolment and GDP per capita. It shows that despite progress in many areas over the last 25 years, the disparities in people’s well-being in rich and poor countries continue to be unacceptably wide.

This year’s HDI has been calculated for 182 countries and territories – the widest coverage ever. The esti-

mates, which rely on the most recently available data compiled by the UN and other international partners, are based on 2007 data.

“Despite significant improvements over time, progress has been uneven,” says the Report’s lead author Jeni Klugman. “Many countries have experienced setbacks over recent decades, in the face of economic downturns, conflict-related crises and the HIV and AIDS epidemic. And this was even before the impact of the current glob-

al financial crisis was felt,” Klugman adds, since the most recent internationally comparable data is for 2007.

New rankings

The top three ranked countries in the HDI are, in order, Norway, Australia and Iceland. France rejoined the top 10 countries after dropping down for one year, while Luxembourg fell from the top 10.

Five countries rose three or more places, compared with 2006: China, Colombia, France, Peru and Venezuela. The gains were largely driven by increases in incomes and life expectancy and, in the cases of China, Colombia and Venezuela, were also due to improvements in education.

There were extensive changes in country rankings across the board – 50 countries dropped one or more places in rank relative to 2006, and a similar number moved up – although most countries moved no more than two places. For example, in sub-Saharan Africa, Ghana gained two positions (due to education gains) while Chad, Mauritius and Swaziland fell two places. Seven countries dropped more than two places in the ranking: Belize, Ecuador, Jamaica, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Malta and Tonga.

The bottom three ranked countries in this year’s HDI, in order, are: Niger, Afghanistan (included for the first time since 1996) and Sierra Leone, respectively. In other words, a child born in Niger can expect to live just over 50 years, which is 30 years less than a child born in Norway. Furthermore, the differences in per capita income are huge – for every dollar earned per person in Niger, US\$85 are earned in Norway.

Klugman underlines that data revisions and updates imply that the HDI is subject to adjustment, and urges readers to not compare this year’s HDI with those published in previous Reports, but to refer directly to the 2009 Report which contains revised data and updated figures since 1980.

Wide differences

This year’s HDR introduces a new top country category: Very High Human Development. It shows that people

living in countries in the higher human development categories can expect to be better educated, to live longer and to earn more: for example, per capita income ranges on average between less than \$1,000 in Low HDI countries to more than \$37,000 in the Very High HDI countries.

Differences in life expectancy and educational attainment are also striking. For example, a child born in a Low HDI country can expect to live on average just over 50 years – 17 less than in Medium HDI countries, and 30 years less than in the Very High HDI countries. One in five adults in Medium HDI countries and one in two in Low HDI countries are still illiterate, while this is very rare elsewhere.

Longer-term trends

Trends in the HDI since 1980 show significant advances in human development, with an average improvement of 15 per cent in countries’ HDI scores. The strongest gainers have been China, Iran and Nepal. Yet progress has been much more significant in education and health than on the income front.

“While the closing of the gaps in many health and education indicators is good news, the persistent inequality in the distribution of world incomes should continue to be a source of concern for policy makers and international institutions,” says Klugman, who noted that deeper analysis of these trends is being undertaken as background for the 2010 Report, which marks the 20th anniversary of the HDR.

A wealth of statistics in the HDR beyond the HDI

Beyond the HDI, the Report includes tables on various measures of human development including demographic trends, the economy and inequality, and education and health. It also provides a wealth of internationally comparable data that allows users to detail the key features of international and internal movements of people.

“These tables provide a basic reference for reporters, students, policy makers and researchers interested in knowing more about the role of migration in today’s changing world,” says Klugman.

AFICS (NY) IN ACTION

TAX TIPS

By Dede Emerson

Here are some important tax changes for 2009 that might apply to AFICS retirees:

1. For 2009, there is an additional deduction for state and local sales and excise tax on the purchase of qualified motor vehicles purchased after February 17, 2009. A qualified motor vehicle must be new and includes a passenger automobile, light truck, motorcycle, or a motorhome.
2. The amount each taxpayer can deduct for each exemption is \$3,650, up from \$3,500 in 2008.
3. The standard mileage rate for medical reasons is \$.24 a mile; the standard rate for charitable purposes is \$.14 a mile.
4. The social security and Medicare wage threshold for household employees is \$1,700 for 2009. If the employee was paid less than \$1,700 the taxpayer does not have to report and pay social security and Medicare tax on that employee's 2009 wages.
5. Deductible Long-Term care premiums includible as medical expenses have increased to \$3,180 for a person 61- 70; and to \$3,980 for a person age 71 and over. The limit on premiums is for each person.
6. Schedule L is a new form used to calculate the standard deduction for taxpayers who are increasing their standard deduction by certain state or local real estate taxes, new motor vehicle taxes, or a net disaster loss.

REMINDERS

As we begin the New Year, AFICS has a few reminders for all members:

- 1) **PREVENT RETURNED MAIL!** If you have moved to a new location or changed your e-mail address, please let us know so that we can keep our records up-to-date. We must do all we can to cut down on returns of mail or e-mail messages that do not reach their designated recipients. We promise never to share your information with others without your permission.
- 2) **SAVE PAPER!** Now that the *Bulletin* is available on-line at the AFICS (NY) Website (www.un.org/other/afics) – before the printed version is reproduced and mailed – some of you may wish to no longer receive a hard copy. If so, please let us know so that paper and postage can be saved.
- 3) **VOLUNTEER!** Our AFICS Committees are always in need of volunteers, especially the Committee on Aging, NGO Liaison and Information Committee, Social Committee and Outreach Committee. The latter in particular is looking for volunteers to help members in need of someone to accompany them to medical appointments, settle in back home after hospital stays or assist with essential matters they can no longer manage on their own. We would also like to hear from anyone willing to help out around the AFICS office.

Call (212) 963-2943 if you would like to assist with any of the above.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Aging

LIST OF SITES PROVIDING INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

The internet makes available an array of websites aimed at providing seniors with useful information on a wide range of topics. The Committee on Aging has put together a list of selected sites to give an idea of what is available. It includes:

- general information on programmes and services of interest to older people, including NY City and NY State government, as well as general sites;
- information on health and wellness, including explanations of Medicare and Medicaid;
- sites dedicated to certain illness and conditions such as Cancer, Arthritis, Diabetes, Heart trouble, and loss of vision and hearing;
- availability of care and caregivers for the elderly.

Contact the AFICS (NY) office for a copy of the list. (Tel: 212 963-2943; E-mail: <afics@un.org>). We encourage you to explore these sites, whether to solve problems you, or someone you know, are currently experiencing or to help you plan for the future.

Helen Geffen Roht, Chairperson

Committee on NGO Relations & Information

Under the leadership of its Chairperson, Lola Costa-Esnard, members of the Committee on NGO Relations & Information attend and report on numerous UN meetings of interest to AFICS and FAFICS members. Here are summaries of selected reports, Sept. – Nov. 2009:

Elsie Shallon reported on two meetings: **The CONGO Committee on Climate Change** (16 September 2009), with the sponsorship of the Government of Grenada – in preparation for a One-Day Summit on Climate Change – had invited Riane Eisler to speak on her book, *The Real Wealth of Nations: From global Warming to Global Partnerships*. Eisler described the world's problems as caused by a pattern of domination and called for changing this pattern through a more caring economy and the development of human capital.

The CONGO Committee on the Status of Women (15 October) organized a panel of representatives from UNDP, UNIFEM and CEDAW to address "Gender Perspectives on Global Treaty Negotiations." UNDP and UNIFEM speakers stressed the effects of climate change on women, pointing to their greater vulnerability (e.g. 90% of Bangladeshi victims in recent disaster were women; women in Sudan suffer most from desertification as do African women when there is no financing for agriculture; and in particular, aging women are most vulnerable).

Norelle Townsend represented AFCS/FAFICS at **World Habitat Day** (5 October) celebrated with the theme "Planning our urban future." For the first time it was held in the USA (Washington D.C.), and was co-hosted by the Obama Administration. She reported that the 5th World Urban Forum (WUF) to be held in March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro was looking forward to engaging the services of AFICS's Brazil Correspondent, Mr. Eduardo Albertain.

Ms. Townsend also reported on the fruitful monthly meetings of the CONGO Committee on Human Settlement, saying that retirees had made inputs to statements submitted at major relevant UN conferences. The CONGO-CHS had participated in the seminar "Emerging Diaspora Markets" discussing how these EDMs could fuel capital flows. It had organized a meeting with a well-known urban ecologist on the occasion of the 24-26 June Conference on World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development and was represented at a number of international meetings of the International Real Estate Federation and the Global Housing Foundation (both members of the CONGO-CHS).

Luciana Marulli reported that **issues of women and gender** had received much attention in the last six months, culminating in two resolutions of the Security Council – to combat violence against them in armed conflict; and to empower them in post conflict situations. With the U.S. as chair of the Security Council, on 30 September, Hilary Clinton called sexual violence not cultural but criminal, drawing greater prominence to the

issue. A GA decision had also been adopted to merge the Secretariat units dealing with women (DESA/DAW, UNIFEM, INSTRAW and the Office of the Special Advisor on Women). In addition, Ms. Marulli attended the DPI briefing given by the Congo Committee on the Status of Women, dealing with financial crises, older women and migration. She drew particular attention to the upcoming Commission on the Status of Women meeting (2-12 March).

Ms. Marulli also reported on the two-day NGO Forum to be held in NY, 27/28 February 2010. She had visited

the Salvation Army headquarters on 14th Street where that Forum would be held and was very impressed with the possibilities for large gatherings at the site. She pointed out that registration was now open, with NGOs required to pay \$150 and an additional \$50 fee for the Ambassadors' dinner.

Tony Fouracre, representing AFICS/FAFICS attended the DPI NGO briefing, "Global Action to Seal the Deal on a New Climate Change Agenda" (12 November 2009).

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS 2009 SYMPOSIUM

"Aging Activism: A Global Tool to Create a Society for All Ages"

Report by David Waugh (on behalf of FAFICS/AFICS/NY)

A symposium on the theme for the International Day of Older Persons 2009 was held at UN Headquarters on 7 October in observance of the official International Day of Older Persons (1 October). Welcome remarks were made by Kiyotaka Akasaka, Under Secretary General for Communications and Public Information, followed by a Message from UN S-G Ban Ki-moon, a Message from Dr. Ali Abdusslem Treki, President of 64th Session of the GA; Greetings from Dr. Ann Pawliczko of UNFPA, and a welcome from Jessica Frank Lopez, Chair, CONGO Committee on Aging, NY.

Symposium content and presentation

The symposium was extremely enlightening both in content and in presentation of policy and practice affecting real lives. What made it all the more interesting were the contrasts among approaches taken by the economies represented by the presenters: Mr. Jean-Francois Regis Zinsou, Benin; H.E. Amb. Mr. Mohammed F. Al-Allaf, Jordan; H.E. Amb. Mr. D. Juan Antonio Yanez-Barnuevo, Spain; and H.E. Amb. Ms. Regina Maria Cordeiro Dunop, Brazil

In Benin, many older persons work, as is typical in developing countries. While not stated explicitly, one can surmise that they work in households or in the informal sector, as is usually the case in these countries. Despite efforts, the quality of life has deteriorated in recent years. The exodus from rural to urban areas has impacted heavily on seniors inasmuch as rural culture offers high respect to older persons and, unfortunately,

urban culture does not, and this is reflected in the collapse of the social fabric. Moreover, it is still possible in rural areas for older persons to live in traditional and extended families.

In Jordan, youth under 30 years of age constitute 70 per cent of the population; thus the focus is on young people. Nevertheless, there is a "national strategy for senior citizens," that has many excellent design features and, when fully implemented, will provide a model framework. Its limitations: the goals are too ambitious; the resources are insufficient; there is inadequate international support and involvement; and the changing social structure of families is impacting unfavourably on social discipline. The presence of seniors is important in transmitting a culture of respect for older persons. The digital divide between young and old is a serious matter and there is need to deal with this so that older persons can have more influence on the lives of younger people.

Spain is an aging country; 18 per cent of the population is over 60 and this will rise to 35 per cent by 2050. Spain holds 4th place among countries with the oldest population. In 2050, it will hold third place, after Japan and Korea. Spain has powerful local governments, which are the locus of action. The country works to encourage and to provide the means for active engagement of older persons in mainstream economic life. Considerable resources are dedicated to education, training, health, independent living and other inducements leading to

social and economic independence. As a holiday destination, Spain has a huge capital investment in travel and recreation industries but facilities for visitors are largely unused during non-holiday periods and at certain times of the year. Putting them to use, the government supports and subsidizes holidays for seniors, more than one million of whom participate each year. A new social security amendment creates incentives for and promotes active employment for seniors as long as possible.

Brazil's seniors represent 11 per cent of the population; the proportion is expected to grow to 25 per cent by 2050. Life expectancy has increased in recent years from 59 to 71. Of all seniors, 8 out of 10 are active in government programmes and all seniors have access to public health resources; 1.5 million seniors are in the labour force. As a country with a huge youth population, the role of seniors is seen as accommodating youth, in their care and education, and in the transference of skills and practical knowledge.

Aging Activism in Action

Three presenters, all older persons, told their personal stories of courage and heroism in effecting change in their lives and in the world.

Carole Holmes – Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign – told a story of the tragedy of AIDS. She leads the campaign to link the grandmothers of North America to the grandmothers of Africa, with reference to the many African grandmothers who are the sole social and economic support for their grandchildren.

Capri S. Cafar – now a state senator from Ohio, USA – was motivated for achievement and success in bringing about change in health policy – by caring for her grandfather in his losing battle with Alzheimer's disease. She chose a career in health policy, leading to her study of law and to her election as a state senator, where she has made a difference in health outcomes in Ohio.

Joan Wilde – outraged over the war in Iraq – decided to take it on as a personal challenge. Among her accomplishments is the organization of the "Grandmothers against the War, New York." She is also a champion of the Gray Panthers.

Workshops

In the afternoon, three simultaneous workshops were offered. I chose "From Rhetoric to Reality: Educating and Empowering for Implementation." This session

worked from the "United Nations Principles for Older Persons" document in which governments are encouraged to incorporate a number of principles into their national programmes whenever possible. There are five areas of focus: Independence, Participation, Care, Self-fulfilment, and Dignity. Following each of the five areas of focus is a list of actions that "should" be taken.

It was my privilege to report on behalf of the work of the group assigned to the topic of "Independence." One of the items on the list was "Older persons should have the opportunity to work or to have access to other income-generating opportunities." We took as our problem solving methodology the strategic action formula – "SWATs" (assessing Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). As time was limited, dealing with "threats" seemed the way to use it most efficiently. Many of the threats to independence, which we called "barriers," are actionable; here, public policy, and public and private action, can work to remove common barriers: poverty; discrimination, lack of jobs; insufficient skills for available jobs; fragility issues, mobility issues, physical and mental health issues; and insufficient opportunities for education and skills development. We noted that the UN itself imposes a mandatory retirement of 60 years on its own employees, thus failing to support its own principles.

Summary

The observance of IDOP at the UN is an annual event focusing on older persons. The 2008 session called for a Convention on the Rights of Older Persons, which will be of great importance, not only for older persons, but for all members of society. The current session did not move that agenda forward, but it did highlight the successes and difficulties of several countries concerning the 2009 theme: Aging Activism.

* * *

Note: David Waugh is Secretary of the Washington, D.C. Chapter of AFICS/NY. A long-service, career retiree from ILO, he currently is representative to UNDP, ECOSOC, and CONGO on behalf of the International Federation of Training and Development Organizations (www.iftdo.net). David is also Executive Director of the 60,000 member Maryland and District of Columbia Alliance for Retired Americans (www.mddcara.com), a branch of the National Alliance for Retired Americans, a 4 million member organization.

Social Committee

SPIRIT OF NEW YORK CRUISE

On 19 November 2009, a group of 118 AFICS (NY) members and their guests enjoyed a most entertaining and exciting lunchtime experience on the Hudson River aboard “The Spirit of New York,” organized by the Social Committee. As we pulled away from the dock, we grabbed our streamers and drinks and joined our spirit entertainers in a festive Bon Voyage toast.

Those participating in this special event were treated to a grand luncheon buffet, dancing to the music of a DJ, a dazzling group of singing waiters and amazing views of New York’s historic harbour. Additionally, we realized that we have many very good dancers in AFICS (NY)! A good time was had by all!

Barbara Linardo, Joint Chairperson



MEMBERS' FORUM

JOE TOOCHIN NAMED CUES® DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

(Adapted from CUES Press Release)

The Credit Union Executives Society (CUES) has named Joseph E. Toochin, Vice Chairman of the Board of the United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) in Long Island City, N.Y., the 2009 CUES Director of the Year. The honour was presented to him on 6 December during the award celebration at CUES' Directors Conference at the Desert Springs JW Marriott Resort & Spa in Palm Desert, Calif. (A long-time UNDP staff member, Joe Toochin is now a life member of AFICS {NY}).

Upon receiving the award, Mr. Toochin, a 14-year veteran of the credit union movement, said, "Thank you very much. I'm truly honoured and humbled by this extraordinary award, especially coming in the last year of my final term on UNFCU's Board. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Credit Union Executives Society's Board of Directors for this tremendous honour. If anyone had told me I would close my almost 15-year career on the UNFCU Board of Directors as the 25th CUES Director of the Year, I would have said, 'This is ridiculous; it's not possible.' I would not have believed them."

Mr. Toochin has been on the board of the United Nations Federal Credit Union since 1995. During that time, assets have increased from \$636 million to \$3 billion, membership has grown from 26,000 to 84,000, and the UNFCU expanded into Switzerland, Kenya, Italy and Austria. He has also made many contributions to the community, including forging a partnership between the

UNFCU and another local credit union, demonstrating how large credit unions can support and advance the mission and work of community development credit unions.

Mr. Toochin also serves on the board of the SEKELO Projects, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides emotional and physical support for young people living with HIV/AIDS and those whose whole lives are affected by it.

The CUES Director of the Year award recognizes board members for excellence in credit union volunteerism. Judging is based on leadership positions held at the credit union, contributions to other credit unions and credit union organizations, professional development, community service and credit union performance during the nominee's time on the board. In recognition of the award, Mr. Toochin was presented with an engraved crystal trophy. In addition, he will receive a profile in Credit Union Management™ magazine and CUES will donate \$500 on his behalf to The Floating Hospital, which is dedicated to providing health care services to underprivileged children in the New York area.

The Credit Union Executives Society is a Madison, Wisconsin-based, independent, not-for-profit, international membership association for credit union executives. Its mission is to educate and develop credit union CEOs, directors and future leaders.



Joe Toochin (right) receives 2009 CUES Director of the Year Award.

ACTIVITIES IN RETIREMENT

By Eileen Mary Gleeson

*As readers of the **Bulletin** know, we often request that AFICS Members send us information about their activities to share with other retirees. We are grateful for the following contribution, addressed to “fellow retirees.”*

After my retirement in 1989 as an Editorial Assistant in the Department of Public Information, I pursued a career as a Veterinary Technician but was unable to continue due to a serious back injury. A year later I was rehired by the United Nations as an Editorial Consultant until 1995.

In 1996, I moved to Glen Ridge, New Jersey.

In 2000, I underwent spinal surgery, and in 2006, had a hip replacement. (I am now a “bionic woman!”)

In 2007, I wrote and published an international cookbook entitled *Treasured Recipes from Glen Ridge Seniors’ Golden Circles and Friends*, as a fund-raising project for the Glen Ridge community. The book contains over 500 recipes collected from my UN colleagues, English friends, and favourites from my own collection. The Glen Ridge Seniors Golden Circle, of which I am Membership Chairperson, arranged for me to have a book signing and it proved to be very successful.

On 7 October this year, I gave a piano recital, the first after 50 years!* I am now scheduled to perform again at a music programme at my church, and to give a yearly

** (Editor’s note: Eileen had begun studying piano at age 6 in her native Bath, England. She performed with the Bath Symphony Orchestra at age 12, and later obtained Performer’s and Teacher’s diplomas from the Trinity College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music in London, performing again with the Bath*

recital sponsored by the Glen Ridge Seniors’ Golden Circle. I have also been asked to give a fund-raising recital early in 2010 for the New Jersey State Opera Guild (greater Newark chapter), of which I am a member.

I sing in my church choir. We are now preparing for our annual Service of Music when we will perform two Bach Cantatas (in German!) and next year we will be performing a Gospel Celebration (May 2010).

I knit and design (under my own label), lap robes for hospital patients.

Each year, I prepare a plan for the landscaper to follow when planting shrubs and flowers in the front garden of the apartment building where I live. The arrangement has proved to be successful and a local newspaper has commented on its attractiveness.

I am also preparing a book of poems and thoughts, which I am thinking of entitling *SOLILOQUY*. I have not yet found a publisher, so I may publish it myself.

Just wanted to let you all know that I am keeping busy!

Symphony Orchestra. While working at the UN, from 1961 until 1995, Eileen did not own or play a piano but took it up again after moving to Glen Ridge. A half century later she is performing once more and regards the return of music to her life as a “divine intervention.”



Editor's Note: Except for a smaller cafeteria and the Delegates' Dining Room, the UN Building is now empty, undergoing extensive renovation, and the new annex has been inaugurated. Sending us the following, AFICS (NY) Governing Board Member, Denis Beissel writes, "Everyone may wish to read this, an elegant and evocative poem to the building in which many of us worked."

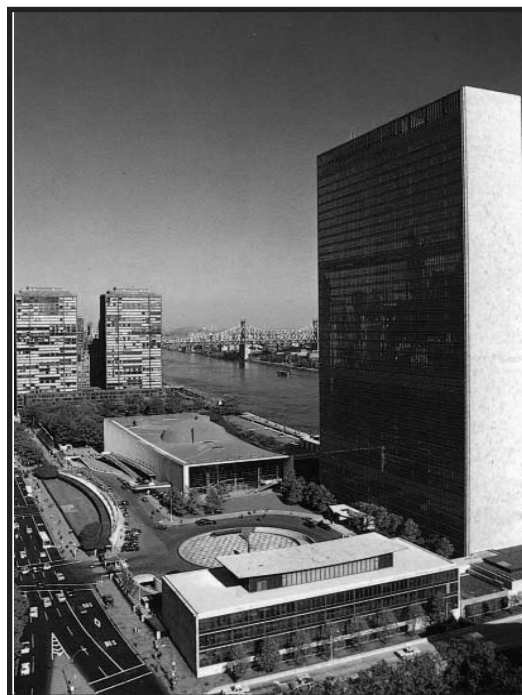
BLUE SENTINEL

By Michael Rose

The tall blue shape stands graceful as a dream,
A vessel of hope, a turn away from war.
It may not always win the world's esteem,
But it reflects what the world is reaching for.

It rises fair beside the broad East River,
A little apart from bright Manhattan streets.
A wealth of nations built this elegant sliver,
Hoping to end the blunders history repeats.
More famous towers there are, perhaps more fair.
It does not take first place in every heart.
But we are lucky who have laboured here.
We will recall it well when we depart.

This blue regard is mankind at its best.
To know its ways is to have been well blessed.



(Michael Rose is Director of the UN's Editorial, Terminology and Reference Service, Documentation and Conference Management Division, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management)

ADVOCATES' CORNER

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY – 17 OCTOBER 2009

Message from S-G Ban Ki-moon Assesses MDG Progress and Needs at Critical Juncture

(Adapted from UN Website)



Today we recognize the daily struggles and contributions of those living in poverty and resolve to intensify efforts to eliminate the scourge once and for all.

At a time of multiple global crises, the

poorest and most vulnerable have a special claim on our attention. We know that, in any recession, those hurt first – and worst – are the poor. According to recent estimates, the global economic crisis has claimed at least 50 million jobs this year. As many as 100 million more people are expected to fall below the poverty line in 2009. Climate change further compounds the problem.

The theme of this year's observance, "Children and Families Speak Out Against Poverty," coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We recognize that investing in children and securing their rights is one of the surest ways to ending poverty.

Despite our world of plenty, children's basic needs are still being sidelined. Millions of children continue to be deprived of an education, with many more at risk of dropping out of school. This is particularly true for girl children.

Yet we also know that common sense investments to meet the Millennium Development Goals can make a profound difference. In areas where global investments have been scaled up – such as AIDS, TB, malaria and vaccine-preventable diseases – we are seeing heartening progress. There has also been notable success in reducing under-five mortality. These gains suggest how we can accelerate progress toward those MDG targets

where the world is still far behind – by investing in key areas such as primary education, basic infrastructure and maternal health.

The United Nations system is responding to the crisis on a number of fronts – promoting food security, building a greener economy, ensuring stronger safety nets and putting forward a Global Jobs Pact. We are also developing a Global Impact and Vulnerability Alert System – GIVAS – to create a networked capacity for real-time data collection and analysis. Policies must be driven by a solid picture of developments on the ground.

We are at a critical juncture in the fight against poverty. Now is the time to amplify the voices of the vulnerable and ensure that the world follows up on its pledges. With the right investments and concrete action, we can build upon the gains, fulfil our commitments, and ensure that every man, woman and child has the opportunity to make the most of his or her potential.

LARGEST EVER MOBILIZATION AGAINST POVERTY SETS NEW GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

(Adapted from internet highlights of Jubilee USA Network Press Release)

A new world record for the largest mobilization of human beings in recorded history was set during the week of 16 – 18 October 2009 when more than 173 million people across the globe gathered at "Stand Up, Take Action, End Poverty Now!" events worldwide. A Guinness World Record was shattered when 173,045,325 citizens gathered at over 3,000 events in more than 120 countries, demanding that their governments eradicate extreme poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

"The more than 173 million people who mobilized this weekend sent a clear message to world leaders that there is massive, universal, global demand for eradicating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals," said Salil Shetty, Director of Jubilee USA Network's United Nations Millennium Campaign. "In particular, we have seen citizens determined to show their governments that they will hold them accountable for keeping their promises to end hunger, improve

maternal health and abolish trade-distorting agricultural subsidies. They will not accept excuses for breaking promises to the world's poorest and most vulnerable people, who have already been hardest hit by the global food, economic and climate crises they had no role in causing."

People's participation by region was as follows: Asia - 101,106,845; Africa - 37,848,412; Arab region - 31,394,459; Europe - 2,102,121; Latin America - 229,371; North America - 191,535; and Oceania - 172,582.

Jubilee USA Network is an alliance of more than 80 religious denominations and faith communities, human rights, environmental, labour, and community groups working for the definitive cancellation of crushing debts to fight poverty and injustice in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

STATUS REPORT ON KEY MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

(From Millennium Development Goals Report 2009, UNFAO; Progress assessments by WorldVision)

GOAL: Eradicate extreme poverty – AVERAGE

Number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day dropped to 1.4 billion (from 1.8 billion in 1990). But 100 million more people face hunger due to the economic crisis.

GOAL: Reduce child mortality – GOOD

Number of children dying of preventable causes has been cut to 9 million (from 12.6 million in 1990).

GOAL: Improve maternal health – POOR

Miniscule progress. Now there are 450 maternal deaths per 100,000 births, down from 480 in 1990.

GOAL: Combat AIDS and Malaria – GOOD

AIDS deaths reduced to 2 million (from 2.2 million in 2005); use of malaria-fighting bed nets increased by 18 per cent since 2000.

UN AT WORK WORLDWIDE

UN MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN (UNAMA)

(From a UN Dispatch on the Internet)

There are 19 UN agencies on the ground in Afghanistan. Their work is coordinated by the United Nations Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which fields a staff of about 1,500, 80 per cent of whom are Afghan nationals. The UN's activities range from humanitarian relief such as refugee resettlement (it has helped to resettle 4.7 million refugees); to security efforts (e.g., weaning farmers from poppy cultivation and removing landmines); to political development (overseeing elections and promoting public sector reforms); to public health work (see below).

ERADICATING POLIO TAKES PERSUASION, PARTICIPATION AND PEACE

(From U.S. Fund for UNICEF)

A three-day polio eradication campaign led by UNICEF in late 2009 targeted 1.2 million children under age five in conflict-affected districts as part of the ongoing effort to eradicate polio in Afghanistan, only one of the four remaining polio-endemic countries. In recent years, UNICEF's efforts in the country have led to a substantial decrease in polio cases, with only 17 confirmed cases in 2007. However, the recent increase in armed attacks has created an environment of fear and limited access for vaccination teams in conflict-affected

areas, leading to an increase to 23 polio cases reported by late November 2009.

More than 15,000 health workers went door-to-door in eight provinces, reaching many families who were otherwise unable to visit health facilities due to lack of

finances to travel, remote locations, or fear of attacks. Overall in 2009, four nationwide house-to-house vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan reached nearly 7.5 million children, though some 110,000 still cannot be reached with vaccinations due to security issues.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL ADOPTS LANDMARK RESOLUTION TO PROTECT WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM HORRIFIC VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

(Adapted from Huffington Post)

In September 2009, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton chaired a session of the 15-member United Nations Security Council during which the Council unanimously adopted landmark resolution 1888, which aims to protect women and children from horrific violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations.

Led by the U.S., more than 60 nations urged the UN to adopt the resolution and expand protections to prevent sexual and other violence against women in conflict zones – and to even consider imposing sanctions on countries where such violence against women is used as a weapon of war.

"Even though women and children are rarely responsible for initiating armed conflict, they are often war's most vulnerable and violated victims," Clinton told the Security Council on September 30. She noted that while the UN has been making special efforts since 2000 to prevent violence against women globally, "violence against women and girls in conflict-related situations has not diminished; in fact, in some cases, it has escalated."

The United Nations Development Fund for Women reports that "violence against women during or after armed conflict has been reported in every international or non-international war zone," including in, but by no means limited to, Afghanistan, Chechnya/Russian Federation, Darfur/Sudan, and the former Yugoslavia. For example, a report from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon noted that since the beginning of 2009, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a country wracked by

war, which Clinton visited in August, 1,100 rapes occur each week; an average of 36 daily.

And as a tragic reminder of the severity of this global problem, the day before Clinton addressed the Security Council international media reported that in Guinea soldiers had publicly raped women in the streets, as part of an army crackdown of an opposition protest against the government.

Clinton told the UN, "In too many countries and in too many cases, the perpetrators of [such] violence are not punished, and so this impunity encourages further attacks," creating political and economic instability, as well as intimidating women so they are prevented from helping rebuild their societies once armed conflict has abated. Addressing the issue is important, Clinton said, because "our failure as an international body to respond concretely to this global problem erodes our collective effectiveness. So we must act now to end this crisis not only to protect vulnerable people and promote human security, but to uphold the legitimacy" (of the UN).

Security Council resolution 1888 calls for the UN to appoint a special representative to coordinate the efforts of the international community to prevent violence against women in conflict areas, as well as to work to strengthen national judicial systems to address the problem of impunity and better respond to victims. Further, the resolution requests that the UN consider sanctions when patterns of sexual violence are prevalent in war zones or post-conflict societies.

CALLING FOR MORE FEMALE POLICE, UN OFFICER WELCOMES NEW PACT WITH INTERPOL

(From UN News)

A senior United Nations official, on 20 October 2009, welcomed a recent landmark agreement with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to strengthen police units in peacekeeping missions around the world, and called on Member States to contribute more women officers to those operations.

The new agreement between the UN and INTERPOL aims to boost policing cooperation in restoring stability in post-conflict areas, according to UN Deputy Police Adviser Ann-Marie Orlor. Agreed during the previous week in Singapore, the arrangement includes the exchange of information, cooperation in relation to interim law enforcement, security support to national police and training for the development of national police and other law enforcement agencies.

“Our efforts to become more effective and highly professional through the development of strategic framework for international police peacekeeping depend on

the commitment of Member States to provide well-qualified men and women who can contribute to fulfilling our core police functions and to train them in accordance to UN standards and values,” said Ms. Orlor. “We have a real chance of making genuine improvements and we are counting on Member States to support us in these efforts.”

In August, the Police Division of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) launched a drive to recruit more police and more female police officers, targeting an increase in the number of women from 8 per cent today to 20 per cent in 2014. “The long-term goal is, of course, to have 50-50,” stressed Ms. Orlor.

There are currently around 12,000 policemen and women, from over 100 countries, serving in 17 UN missions, compared to 2,400 a decade ago. The Security Council has authorized the deployment of a total of 15,000 UN police to peacekeeping operations.

HEALTHY LIVING

ANKLE SPRAINS

By Dr. Sudershan Narula

A sprained ankle is one of the most common joint injuries; it sends about a million Americans to clinics every year and causes chronic problems for many.

A vulnerable joint

The ankle, which joins the lower leg bones to the foot, is held together by bands of elastic fibres called ligaments. A sprain results when one or more ligaments is stretched beyond its normal range. In a severe sprain, the elastic fibres tear partly or completely.

Sprained ligaments swell rapidly and are painful. Generally the greater the pain, the more severe is the injury. Sprains occur when the foot turns in or out to an abnormal degree relative to the ankle.

Classification of ankle sprains

The sprained ankle is often classified as to how severe it is:

- a. First degree: some stretching or mild tearing of the ligament, little or no functional loss – the joint can still function and bear some weight (...but hurts!!!), there is mild pain, some swelling and some joint stiffness.
- b. Second degree: some more severe tearing of the ligaments, moderate instability of the joint, moderate to severe pain – weight bearing is very painful and there is swelling and stiffness.

c. Third degree: total rupture of a ligament – there is a loss of motion, gross instability of the joint, joint function is lost, and there is severe pain initially followed by no pain and severe swelling.

Treatment

A sprained ankle is a common injury, prompting many people to consider it “just a sprain” and not treat it with the respect it deserves. The too-common consequence of this neglect is a lasting weakness, unstable joint and repeated sprains. Given that some 25,000 ankle sprains occur each day in the United States, it is worth knowing how they should be treated and how they can be prevented.

Self-Care at Home

The initial treatment recommended below is to be started as soon as possible after the injury. This care is directed toward lessening pain and helping healing. Because most of the pain is caused by inflammation, the goal is to reduce inflammation and keep it from happening.

For most first degree sprains, you can probably treat the injury yourself.

1. Ice is the best treatment

Ice will do more for most people than medications.

- o For the first 48 to 72 hours, apply an ice pack for 10 to 20 minutes every 1 to 2 hours during the day. Ice counteracts the increased blood flow to the injured area and thus reduces the swelling, redness, and warmth. Applied soon after the injury, ice prevents much of the inflammation from developing.
- o Apply ice for 20 minutes at a time, with at least 30 minutes between applications; this is to prevent tissue damage, which can occur if you use ice too much.

Tips for using ice:

- **Ice option 1 – traditional** – Use a Ziploc bag with ice cubes or crushed ice. Add a little water to the ice bag so it will conform to your body.
- **Ice option 2 – creative** – Use a bag of frozen peas or corn from the frozen goods section. This option provides a reusable treatment method that is also edible.
- **Prevent frostbite** – Do not allow ice to sit against the skin without a layer of protection. Either continually move the ice or use a thin towel between the ice and skin.

2. Rest

Rest prevents further injury and avoids stress on already inflamed tissue.

- o *Immobilize* the ankle joint by wearing a brace or splint.
- o Compression wraps such as Ace bandages provide some support to prevent movement of the ankle. You should not, however, apply them too tightly.
- o Don't walk on the ankle; use crutches until walking is not painful without them.

3. Elevation

Keeping the injured area up as high as possible will help the body absorb fluid that has leaked into the tissue.

- o Ideally, prop the ankle up so that it is above the level of heart, as much as you can, for 48 hours.
- o A few pillows under the ankle should be fine to get the leg up high enough yet keep the injured limb comfortable.

4. Anti-inflammatory pain medications

These will reduce the pain and combat the swelling. Several are available over-the-counter, such as ibuprofen (Motrin IB and Advil) and naproxen (Aleve or Naprosyn).

*** Seek medical assistance if you aren't improving after the first two or three days.*

A question: Should Heat Be Applied to a Sprained Ankle?

Many people swear by heat, saying it soothes the pain and promotes healing by stimulating blood flow. Others advocate ice, precisely because it does the reverse, slowing blood flow and minimizing inflammation.

Answer: According to research, ice wins every time.

- o *One prominent study found that immediate ice therapy resulted in earlier return to activity, as defined by ability to walk, climb stairs, run and jump without pain.*
- o *In people with the most severe injuries including torn ligaments -- treatment with ice resulted in a 13-day recovery, compared with 30 days for those treated with heat.*

When to Get Emergency Medical Assistance

If the sprain is 2nd or 3rd degree, i.e.:

1. You heard a popping sound when your joint was injured;

2. You can't use the joint, or you feel unstable when you try to bear weight on the joint. This may mean the ligament was completely torn.

If you have a severe sprain, on the way to the doctor, apply a cold pack. Inadequate or delayed treatment may cause long-term joint instability or chronic pain.

No quick fix

Because ankle sprains are so often mistreated – or not treated at all – they have the highest recurrence rate of any joint injury and often result in chronic symptoms. Under-treatment means that 30 to 40 per cent of people with simple ankle sprains develop chronic long-term joint pathology.

The bottom line is that *ankle sprains usually need more rehabilitation and take longer to heal than most people allow for*. Your physician will prescribe a period of *immobilization* and the necessary *rehabilitation* exercises. An anti-inflammatory drug may be recommended and crutches provided if the ankle is too painful to bear weight.

The recommended ankle *immobilization* to protect the joint and allow the injured ligaments to heal is generally:

- At least a week for the simplest sprain;
- 10 to 14 days for a moderate sprain; and
- Four to six weeks for more severe sprains.

Lack of pain is not always the best indicator that it's safe to resume activity; the pain of an ankle sprain can sub-

side fairly quickly, but that does not mean the injured ligaments have healed.

The Healing Process

Immobilization using a brace or cast provides ligaments with the rest they need to heal and reduces the risk of aggravating the injury. Even a complete ligament tear can heal without surgery through proper immobilization. One of the most effective immobilizers is the AirCast Air-Stirrup ankle brace. This inexpensive half-pound device limits motion but can be removed for needed exercises.

But immobilization should not be overdone and must be followed in a week by exercises that prevent muscle atrophy and stiffness. During healing, new tissues are laid down, and they need to be aligned with the action of the joint through proper exercise.

Rehabilitation should include range-of-motion and stretching exercises, strength training and balance training. Even after an injury has healed, an ankle often needs extra protection during physical activities. Studies have shown that wearing a lace-up ankle brace is more effective than taping the ankle in preventing re-injury.

Prevention

Of course, preventing injury in the first place is ideal. It is important to wear proper shoes for your chosen activity – shoes that are comfortable, supportive and not worn out. Women should be very careful in high heels or platform shoes. Such footwear has been called “an ankle sprain waiting to happen.”

THE LATEST WRINKLE

AGE: SIXTY PLUS

(Attributed to “CLAUDINE” on the Internet, with thanks to Lola Costa-Esnard for sending it on to us.)

Q: Where can women over the age of 60 find young, sexy men who are interested in them?
A: Try a bookstore – under fiction.

A: Keep busy. If you're handy with tools, you can finish the basement. When you are done, you will have a place to live.

Q: What can a man do while his wife is going through menopause?

Q: How can you increase the heart rate of your 60+ husband?

A: Tell him you're pregnant.

Q: How can you avoid spotting a wrinkle every time you walk by a mirror?

A: Take off your glasses.

Q: Why should 60+ folks use valet parking?

A: Valets don't forget where they park your car.

Q: Is it common for 60+ folks to have problems with short-term memory storage?

A: Storing memory is not a problem, retrieving it is a problem.

Q: As people age, do they sleep more soundly?

A: Yes, but usually in the afternoon.

Q: Where do 60+ folks look for fashionable glasses?

A: On their foreheads.

Q: What is the most common remark made by 60+ folks when shopping in antique stores?

A: "I remember these."

OUR AMAZING WORLD

ACTUAL COMPUTER CALL CENTER CONVERSATIONS

Having trouble with your computer? You're not alone! Here are some actual customer/technician transactions, reported on the Internet.

Customer: I've been calling 700-1000 for two days and can't get through! Can you help?

Operator: Where did you get that number, sir?

Customer: It's on the door of your business.

Operator: Sir, those are the hours that we are open!

* * *

Customer: Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?

Operator: I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about.

Customer: On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?

Operator: I think it means the telephone plug on the wall.

* * *

Customer: Does your European Breakdown Policy cover me when I am travelling in Australia?

Operator: Does the product name give you a clue?

Tech Support: I need you to right-click on the Open Desktop.

Customer: OK.

Tech Support: Did you get a pop-up menu?

Customer: No.

Tech Support: OK. Right-Click again. Do you see a pop-up menu?

Customer: No.

Tech Support: OK, sir. Can you tell me what you have done up until this point?

Customer: Sure. You told me to write 'click' and I wrote 'click.'

Tech Support: OK. At the bottom left hand side of your screen, can you see the 'OK' button displayed?

Customer: Wow! How can you see my screen from there?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UN AFTER-SERVICE HEALTH INSURANCE

(The following exchange may be of interest to our members):

4 December 2009

To the Editor:

I am surprised that none of my colleagues has yet spoken up. Like myself, they will have been living in retirement and the chances are that they, too, have been exploited by the UN insurance system.

To give one example: since leaving my last post in Tokyo, I have been living in London and as a British national, I am entitled to the full benefit of the British Health Insurance. It covers all my needs.

However, an amount of £119 is deducted every month from my pay cheque (pension) for the "United Nations After-Service Health Insurance premium." Presumably this payment goes to Van Breda in Belgium. As far as I can remember, while living in England I have never had any reason to make use of the Van Breda insurance. I might benefit from it, while travelling abroad, but at age 99 and for many years before, I have been sitting pat; and even if I had wanted to travel, the British have some mutual arrangements with other countries that would cover me during a journey abroad.

Another example: I have been using hearing aids since 1989, always paying for them myself since I understood that an insurance claim would not be recognized. But recently this has changed. The British Health Service offers even digital hearing aids, and as I notice from a UN publication by ICCS (p.11), Room S-2755, the UN, too, would recognize claims, though "only up to US\$150 per apparatus in any period of three years." I dare say my hearing aids were vastly more expensive.

With the end of the year soon coming round, may I wish you and your colleagues all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Sincere greetings,
Bill Tanzer
(United Kingdom)

Comments were requested by the Bulletin from the Chairman of our AFICS (NY) Insurance Committee. He replied as follows:

15 December 2009

Dear Bill,

Participation in any UN After-Service Health Insurance scheme is entirely voluntary but once applied for, it continues unless the retiree asks for a change to be made, which can be done at any time after the retiree has been in a plan for at least two years. Normally, such changes are from one plan to another but nothing stands in the way of the retiree deciding not to participate further. To do so would only require informing the Health & Life Insurance Section (HLIS) accordingly. I am copying this to the Chief of the HLIS in case there are formalities such as a signature and appropriate identification.

If you are sure you do not need Van Breda any more, let the HLIS know; but you have to note that once you cease to participate in a UN scheme, you can not rejoin.

I do not think you have been exploited by the UN Insurance system but you may no longer need it. They cannot be faulted if you never told them. They would be in trouble if they stopped a retiree's coverage on their own initiative.

Greetings,
Richard Nottidge

BOOK REVIEWS

A DIFFERENT KIND OF STREETWALKER ...MANHATTAN BY FOOT, ONE BLOCK AT A TIME by Dede Emerson. Available for sale at <Amazon.com> and <Booksurge.com>.

Dede Emerson, known by many as a long-time UNDP Economic Development Officer & Deputy Res. Rep. in Trinidad and Tobago, a talented jazz pianist and an active AFICS (NY) Governing Board Member, has added a new credit to her resume: author/photographer! Her new book, *A Different Kind of Streetwalker ... Manhattan by Foot, One Block at a Time*, was published in December 2009.

Retired, but a frequent visitor to New York City, one day in 2005 Dede realized how little attention she had ever paid to signs indicative of daily life in Manhattan's many neighbourhoods and resolved then and there to walk every street in the borough, bringing along her camera. "I thought it would be an interesting adventure," says Dede, "and it was, and so much more."

This is no ordinary travel book showing the city's tourist attractions. "I knew from the pictures I took on my first walk that I was focusing on the unusual, offbeat, and ordinary things that are part of the essence of New York but seldom photographed," she says.

Dede's approach to what seemed a monumental task was thorough and methodical. "I didn't skip any streets because I learned from my first few walks that you never knew what was around the corner," she says. "Some of my best shots were in very non-descript neighbourhoods. Furthermore, I didn't read up on any of the areas I was going to walk because I wanted to be surprised by what I'd see ... that was one of the allures of this odyssey."

The results are evident in her Introduction and intriguing photos with captions in this 80-page book. These

range from a sign on Stanton Street urging passersby to "Beware of Pickpockets and Loose Women," to 10 pairs of shoes and boots carefully lined up outside a school on 19th Street, to ice-skaters in Bryant Park, to chickens walking loose in Harlem, to a "Peace Place Mural" painted on the whole side of a building on 124th Street.

The project turned out to be a huge physical as well as artistic challenge. "I was determined to finish it, not only for the sheer adventure of it all but also to demonstrate that you can undertake a huge, physically challenging effort like this even in your 70s," says Dede.

After two years, nine months and two days, the author/photographer completed her journey on 26 January 2008 – with a total of 2,200 photographs. Altogether she walked 6,718 blocks, or 504.3 miles – the equivalent of hiking from Manhattan to Philadelphia five times – in all kinds of weather. The dedication reads: "Dedicated to my feet. They never let me down."

What is Dede's overall impression of the city, having completed this unique personal journey? "After walking all of Manhattan I can say with conviction that it is a cleaner, safer, prettier city than the one I came to in the fifties," she says. "Its people are incredibly friendly, helpful, kind, fun, and extraordinary on many different levels."

A quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson best describes how Dede feels about her achievement: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

MLH

ADDENDUM

In the October 2009 edition of the *Bulletin*, on page 28, in the second column of the review of the book, *United Nations International Civil Service: Perceptions and Realities*, the text says: "The International Civil Service was established over three decades ago through the outstanding initiative of the first UN Secretary-General, Trygve Lie." It should read, "The International Civil Service is the product of the Committee of Experts of 1949 appointed by Secretary-General Trygve Lie."

WORLDWIDE REUNIONS

AFICS (NY) - Florida Chapter

The third quarterly meeting of the Florida Chapter of AFICS (NY), held on 12 September, 2009, was a big success.

The venue was TAVERNA OPA of Orlando, which is famous for its Greek cuisine. All of the 27 members who attended had to go an extra mile to find this popular location; though the postal address is '9101 International Drive,' no one initially noted that the addresses also indicated 'Pointe Orlando, Second Level.' But despite the fact that the RAIN GODS were showering the site with their blessings, only one member gave up. All the rest reached the assigned destination after getting directions from the locals at Pointe Orlando!

After enjoying the Greek ambiance and excellent food, chosen from an à la carte menu, everyone agreed that the hunt for the restaurant had been well worth the effort.

Members were reminded to contact neighbours in their area, listed in the city-wide directory of the Florida Chapter of AFICS (NY) that had been sent to them. They were also urged to request these neighbours to forward their latest e-mail address to the Florida Chapter, all of whose communications are handled by **e-mail only**.

Regarding the appeal to UNJSPF, members were informed that a further appeal had been lodged with UNAT and everyone wishing to endorse that appeal was requested to do so. If granted, the appeal could result in higher pensions to those who had opted for a 1/3rd lump sum, after the annuity period.

Everyone was requested to provide suggestions for the forthcoming Anniversary event, planned for 5 December, for consideration by the Planning Group.

The idea of hosting out-of-town AFICS colleagues who wished to attend meetings of the Chapter in Central Florida received a generally positive response. However, arrangements would have to be made on a "one-to-one" basis and at an individual's own risk and responsibility. Neither AFICS (NY) nor its Florida Chapter will be held accountable in any way.

Requests from out-of-town members to hold Zone-wide events were considered in detail. However, the majority of members present voted to continue holding meetings in Central Florida, which enables most members to attend more conveniently.

However, on an experimental basis, it was mentioned that we may try to hold one meeting outside Central Florida in any area where at least 10 to 15 local members of the area will definitely attend. It was suggested that members outside Central Florida come up with a concrete proposal for such an event.

Everyone enjoyed interaction with one another and indicated that they were looking forward to meeting at the December anniversary event. For further information, please e-mail Madan Arora

(<marora.afics@yahoo.com>).

THE FLORIDA CHAPTER OF AFICS (NY) WISHES EVERYONE HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A HEALTHY, PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



FORMER UNICEF STAFF MEET IN ITALY

By Horst Cerni

Viareggio – “the Royal Road” – in Tuscany was the venue for the 22nd Reunion (in 20 years) of Former UNICEF Staff, from 3 to 6 October 2009. It was the first time the group had ever met in Italy, and more participants came from more countries than ever before. Some 90 former UNICEF staff and spouses travelled from 30 countries, including Australia and Bangladesh, Canada and Chile, Japan and Nepal, Europe and the United States and the Virgin Islands.

As in past reunions, the main objective was to renew friendships and to establish new ones, to exchange ideas about actions to improve the life of children and mothers, and to enjoy the cultural and scenic variety of the host country. An excellent program was prepared by the hosts, Gianni Murzi and Franziska von Vietinghoff with the assistance of all-around talent Jim Mohan.

The opening event on Saturday, 3 October, was a dramatic multi-media musical presentation by *Divine Experience*, a group of artists under the direction of Professor Sean de Courcy Williams and a reading by Professor Williams of “**Dante in Dark Woods.**” Dante’s first ‘canto’ of *The Divine Comedy* is symbolic of our tasks to lead those living in poverty and distress out of the darkness into a better life.

We, of course, could already enjoy such a life ‘of plenty’ because of a sumptuous opening reception followed by delicious Italian treats and wine. Most important, though, was the opportunity to greet, hug and kiss those many friends we hadn’t seen for many years (for most it was the first time to attend such a reunion).

On the second day, Sunday, 4 October, we were off to tour Pisa. What a sight, what marvellous architecture – considering the building of the leaning tower was planned that way. And yes, the tower is no longer leaning dangerously, because the strengthening and re-balancing of the foundation, done during the last years of the 20th century, have made it steady and safer. Modern engineering sure has ways to preserve historic structures, so there is good hope that the reconstruction of the UN building in New York will also succeed.

Time did not allow us to actually climb the stairs and test the tower, but we visited the ‘Duomo,’ built on Roman temples in the second and third centuries. We were in awe of the craftsmanship and artistry of the construction and decoration and designs, the incredible acoustics in the Baptistery chapel where one sound evolves into a cantata, and the elaborate sarcophagi and murals in the cemetery hall.

We had excellent guides, learned a lot, and were surprised that despite hundreds of tourists everything went very smoothly and each group kept its own rhythm. With so many beautiful buildings to see and history to learn, the morning passed quickly, and so we headed for the historic Ristorante Poldino founded in 1929 for a two-hour, five-course Italian lunch. This was followed by a bus tour of the royal Estate of San Rossore. We enjoyed the wonderful forest and the information provided concerning the breeding of cows and race horses, and the planting and harvesting of trees. Former PM Tony Blair spent vacations here in the secluded mansion of the former Italian king.

On Monday, 5 October, the tour took us to the walled city of Lucca. Overlooked by most tourists, who only make it to Pisa and Florence, Lucca is a gem, which Forbes magazine recently listed as the second best place to live in Europe. Mighty walls surround the city as a defence against unwanted visitors – mostly Florentines, but of course, that was long ago. Now the walls and the many historic churches (Lucca used to have 99, but many are no longer used for religious services) are attracting visitors from all over the world. The narrow streets are meant for walking, but locals use bicycles and, on and off, a car has to fight its way through the tourist groups – and does it very smoothly as never a horn is blown nor shouting heard. Church towers and independent watch towers rise over the city and were used to alert the population to any dangers. The former Roman arena is now an oval “square,” and on another square a statue of Giacomo Puccini honours the famous composer whose birth house is at the corner.

We continued to Torre del Lago where Puccini worked and composed for 30 plus years. We were able to visit

his house, which was built around a fortified tower. A guide showed us Puccini's piano and many photos, as well as two models of his yachts. In the background, music from his opera *La Boheme* played while we reflected on Puccini's creativity in his memorial chapel where he, his wife and only son are entombed. Puccini was a heavy smoker – 80 cigarettes a day – and he died of throat cancer at the age of 66.

While we enjoyed wonderful, almost summerly weather, we also were reminded of the natural disasters in Indonesia, Samoa, India and the Philippines. Several colleagues had received calls or text messages from friends and relatives who had suffered in these disasters, and of all names, an Italian one was chosen for the typhoon that drenched the Northern Philippines with heavy rains: "Parma."

The FUS reunion included not only UNICEF, but also former staff from WHO, UNHCR, UNDP and FAO and we had much FUN together.

On the last day, Tuesday, 6 October, we were able to explore Viareggio and its surroundings on our own. Some biked or chilled out along the "Passeggiata" (sea-side pedestrian boulevard). One group drove up to Carrara and visited the marble quarries, from where the beautiful white marble of the Duomo di Pisa came, and another visited nearby Cinque Terre.

In the evening, the reunion concluded with a Gala

Dinner at the Hotel Plaza et de Russie. Tributes were given to those who passed away recently, such as Louis Gendron, Ms. Nuhad Kanawati and Dr Herman Stein.

Kul Gautam, former Deputy Executive Director, who had come all the way from Kathmandu, mentioned that he had visited Tuscany before, as his father had translated Dante's *Divine Comedy* into Nepalese.

David Haxton, who together with Bob Walker initiated the idea of regular reunions, reminded the participants that because of their work, millions of children are living a better life.

Gianni Murzi reported that a Former UNICEF Staff website will soon be launched and that the name selected for it is **XUNICEF!**

Then, the question was raised, "where next?" There was no "Olympic balloting," but several invitations were issued by friends in Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Bruges in Belgium, Washington, D.C., and St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Most participants voted for Sri Lanka, but a parallel meeting in St. Croix might be considered.

Sincerest thanks and appreciation go to Gianni and Franziska who so lovingly and expertly organized this excellent reunion in Viareggio.

Grazie e arrividerci!



UNICEF: WAWIG HOLDS 20TH REUNION IN MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

(Adapted from report by Joan Lassalle)

In 1989, a group of UNICEF retirees, that later became known by the acronym WAWIG (We Are Worth It Group), met in Washington, D.C. for the first time, for the purpose of fellowship. Dorothy Schleimer, coordinator of the group since its inception, offered to host its 20th Reunion in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, her home town, from 22 – 26 October 2009.

Participants were: Dorothy Schleimer, Elizabeth Grant, Annie Matias, Merida Torresola, Joan Lassalle, P.B. Rajguru, David Haxton, Robert & Kay Walker, Thomas & Vivian Wulff, Alex & Letty Monforte, Ralph & Margot Torino, Monica Stetcher & Jake Jacobsen. We stayed at the Best Western Carolinian Beach Resort, located along the beautiful Myrtle Beach coastline.

On the first night of the reunion, the group met in the penthouse for cocktails and a buffet dinner. It was lovely to meet former colleagues and their spouses, and to renew acquaintances and friendships

The next morning we set out at 9:00 a.m. to visit historic Georgetown, the third oldest city in the State of South Carolina, located on Winyah Bay where the Great Pee Dee River, Waccamaw River, and Sampit River all converge. The city is also the second largest seaport in South Carolina, handling over 960,000 tons of cargo a year. A tour guide regaled us with stories of old Georgetown history, including tales of Francis Marion (1732 -1795), the legendary colonial American soldier in the U.S. War of Independence, nicknamed “the Swamp Fox” for his elusive war tactics, and ghost stories about some of the mansions we saw.

After lunch at the famous Thomas Café, a casual and cozy landmark since 1929 offering specialties like Cajun Omelette, blueberry pancakes, crawfish, crab cakes and fried green tomatoes, we visited Kaminski House in the heart of Georgetown's Historic district. Now a museum, the house was built around 1769 and contains an outstanding collection of American and English antiques from the 18th and 19th centuries. The Museum Store carries a variety of books about Georgetown and local crafts.

Then it was on to Hopseewee Plantation, its grounds full of huge oak trees covered with Spanish moss and an

early eighteenth century National Historic Landmark house built of black cypress. This is basically the same house built over 250 years ago by Thomas Lynch, whose son, Thomas Jr., was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Only four families have owned it since it was built and it has been well preserved. There are four rooms opening into a wide centre hall on each floor, a full brick cellar and attic rooms reached by a lovely staircase. Each room has hand-carved moulding and heart pine floors that are almost 1 1/2 inches thick.

We also had an elegant Afternoon Tea at Hopseewee, complete with 13 different English teas, beautiful English teapots and classic hand embroidered table cloths and napkins, not to mention an array of savoury delights, including freshly baked biscuits, clotted cream and homemade jellies.

On day three we visited Brookgreen Gardens, founded by Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington in 1931 to preserve the native flora and fauna and display objects of art within that natural setting. Today, this National Historic Landmark has the most significant collection of figurative sculpture in an outdoor setting by American artists, as well as the only zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums on the coast of the Carolinas.

At 5:00 p.m the Fantastic Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Dinner and Show made for an exciting evening! The show, a fun-filled, action-packed extravaganza with spectacular special effects and amazing stunts by talented young performers is essentially a modern-day Wild West revue, pitting sections of the audience against each other in a good-natured way as ‘the South’ and ‘the North’ battle to win various horse riding competitions. On stage were horses, cattle (Longhorns), pigs, miniature ponies, and dozens of cast members and songs. Sit close enough, we were told, and dirt will fly into your plate!

Dinner, cooked fresh daily and usually served without dining utensils, featured typical American dishes: rotisserie chicken, hickory smoked barbecue pork loin, creamy vegetable soup, biscuits, corn on the cob, herb-basted baked potato, and iced apple turnover, with unlimited Pepsi, tea, or coffee, served in a glass jar.

For our last day, a visit was arranged to the House of Blues, dedicated to educating and celebrating the history of Southern Culture and African American artistic contributions to music and art. The Sunday morning visit was apt, as we heard, sang and moved to well-known songs sung by three talented Gospel Singers who provided their own accompaniment with organ, saxophone, flute and tambourine.

House of Blues at Myrtle Beach opened in 1997, situated along the White Pointe Swash stretch of ocean that is thought to have been a favourite hiding spot for famous pirates such as Edward 'Blackbeard' Teach and Anne Bonney. Home to unique pieces of folk art by Jimmy Lee Sudduth and Ruth Mae McCrane, it was built to resemble a Southern farmhouse with an adjoining tobacco warehouse. The music hall is sheathed in

authentic tin from an old tobacco barn from Jackson Mississippi and it is said that a metal box of mud from the Delta Mississippi is kept underneath its stage.

Our last banquet dinner was at the Magnolia Restaurant, after which we gathered for some final chit chat with fun and laughter! Then Dorothy Schleimer presented participants with a souvenir plaque commemorating the 20th WAWIG Reunion event.

After a brief discussion and speeches, unanimous appreciation to Dorothy Schleimer for the excellent arrangements and good time had by all, we agreed to continue with the WAWIG Group; and with our 21st WAWIG Reunion, to be held in 2010 at a location to be communicated later.

CANADA

12TH UN/CAFICS LUNCHEON

8 December 2009

www.marinarestaurant.com

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Our report starts with a hearty 'thank you' to all our wonderful guests who made this a very successful luncheon. Participants come from far and wide and we are very appreciative of their effort to be with us. The temperature was almost at the freezing point but the sunshine was brilliant, highlighting a very beautiful marina – an idyllic setting.

We welcomed many new guests this time around and there was no shortage of interesting conversation at all the tables. This is now our 6th year hosting these luncheons and as our guests get to better know one another the engaging discussions are livelier each time we get together. More and more of our guests recognize one another, exchange numbers and meet outside of our luncheons. It has always been our goal to bring our mini

international community closer together and this is happening thanks to everyone's generosity of spirit. Conversations continue to stimulate, jokes to entertain and field stories to intrigue us with life in far away places.

Our guests – totalling 27 this time around – were from ESA, ESCWA, FAO, IAEA, IATA, ICAO, ILO, NATO, UN, UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNRWA, and WORLD BANK. We look forward to meeting again on Tuesday, 8 June 2010. Time and place will be announced with the invitations, to be sent out in May 2010.

Evelyn and Gerry Nye

Invitation

UN/CAFICS/AFICS luncheons are held in June and December of each year. Anyone wishing to attend is invited to contact us for details:

Evelyn & Gerry Nye, 201-1501 Richmond Avenue, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8R 4P7
1-250-370-2108 ~ ~ gerrynye@shaw.ca

We look forward to meeting you here in the Victoria region,
Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada

OBITUARIES

EDITH ADAMS

Edith Adams passed away in early November 2009. The news was very painful. I lost a very special and dear friend as did a number of her closest friends, to many of whom she was like family. Edith Adams was this exceptional and rare person who managed to make a difference in other people's lives.

My own life would certainly have been different had I not known her. When I joined the UN Population Division, she was the first to welcome me, teach me the ropes, help me with my English documents and speech (my mother tongue is French) and introduce me to her own friends: Chandra, Martha and Rose, with whom we enjoyed meals and discussions. Her acts of kindness and generosity remain countless.

Edith was a giving person, always prompt at devoting herself to help others. She was high-spirited and sometimes intense, especially about her views and beliefs, which was a large part of her charm. She also was a prankster. Once, at the hamburger joint near the UN (with at least 20 varieties of hamburgers on the menu) where we often had lunch, she made me order a "blunder burger." When it was served, there was only salad and a sliced tomato inside the bun. I was about to complain about the missing patty when she told me that the order was fine. When I made her notice that there was no meat, she pointedly observed, "That's why it is called

a "blunder burger!" And she had a really good laugh.

When Edith joined my wife and me on a trip to New Mexico, we discovered even more what a kind and warm personality she had. She became our guide and adviser in discovering Native American culture and thus made our journey a truly enriching and unforgettable experience. We owe her so much.

Edith and I always kept in touch by phone or e-mail. Her news was forever entertaining, interesting and to the point. We discussed a variety of topics as well as personal issues and thus, despite the distance, had a continuous conversation as old friends who had never parted.

I want to believe that the affection of the people who had the privilege of knowing Edith was a great source of joy and happiness to her. Maybe she was too modest to recognize the impact of her actions on others. But I am sure that she could not avoid feeling the affection that bounced back to her from those to whom she had dispensed so much. Her passing is a great loss for me and the people who knew and loved her and I have no doubt that she will remain forever in the hearts of those whose lives she touched.

Maurice Szykman

VIJAYA (CATHERINE) CLAXTON



Vijaya (Catherine) Claxton passed away on 23 December 2009 after courageously battling illness for several months.

Vijaya joined the UN in 1974, serving as Legal Liaison on Visa Matters between the United Nations Personnel Office and the United States Mission to the

United Nations, and also recruiting Tour Guides for the UN Tour Guide Unit. In 1989 she became Coordinator of the UN Panel of Counsel, serving as public defender for UN staff in the UN's internal justice system, a position which she held until her retirement. She oversaw

thousands of cases, guiding and supporting staff with her wide-ranging legal knowledge, energy, concern and compassion. One of her dreams was to eventually reform the UN's internal system of justice, and this became another of her high aspirations that finally bore fruit.

Indeed, Vijaya's contract was extended three times beyond her official UN retirement age to enable her to continue as part of the team working to reform the justice system. It was only when the new system took effect on 1 July 2009 that Vijaya was finally able to retire after over 35 years at the UN – again, with the satisfaction of a job well done that few would have had the vision and dynamism to complete.

Towards the end of her UN career, Vijaya invested much time and energy in obtaining certification as a mediator from Cornell University, with additional courses at Columbia University, for a second career. She had already started mediating in the New York Civil Courts in lower Manhattan, was serving on several Boards of Directors of mediation organizations, and had received an offer to work in the UN's newly created Mediation Division as a consultant.

Vijaya was one of the main Programme Coordinators of Peace Meditation at the United Nations and also served as President of the UNSRC Film Society and Vice President and later President of the UNSRC Society of Writers. In September 2007 she swam the English Channel, a few months before her 60th birthday, and thus became the oldest American woman ever to have accomplished that feat.

DAVID J. EXLEY (1927 – 2009)

For almost half a century I have known, admired and respected David J. Exley, both, as a colleague at the United Nations and as a great human being, whose selfless dedication to duty and complete commitment to the ideals of international coexistence and co-operation made him a paradigm for international civil servants.

Various posts followed in the field of public relations, promotion of international understanding through the work of non-governmental organizations and later as the Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo, Japan, where he served for more than 11 years until his retirement in 1987.

Having been severely stricken by polio in the service of the United Nations, while serving in the United Nations Emergency Force in the Middle East in 1958, he made a heroic recovery in the course of two years of intense rehabilitation therapy and resumed service in the Press Section of the New York Headquarters in 1961.

Throughout his career, David J. Exley gave of himself unstintingly to foster international understanding, to promote the ideals of a world without hatred and prejudice and for respect of human rights at their every aspect.

His journalistic background, his positive and warm personality and general understanding of public communication contributed to an improved and rewarding relationship with the press corps attached to the Organization.

It was an honour and a privilege to have known him and to have counted him as a dear friend.

Gilberto Rizzo
Director, Press and Publications (Retired)
United Nations, New York, NY

TONY PATTEN



It is with a mixture of sadness and pride that I write of the passing of Tony Patten on 28 November 2009 at the age of 69.

Sadness, obviously, as Tony was a great friend. We became friends soon after I arrived at UNDP Headquarters (Africa Bureau) in February 1972 and we remained good friends

although our UNDP assignments nearly always kept us half a world apart. At the time of his death from cancer that just wouldn't go away, we were as close friends as we had ever been.

Pride, less obviously, but I am really proud to write about Tony. He was someone of high principle and commitment to the UN and what it stands for. I admired Tony especially for being so thoughtful, fair-minded and non-judgmental: I don't think I ever heard him say anything harsh about anyone.

Raised in Johannesburg during the dark days of apartheid, Tony became acutely conscious of the injustice around him. He left South Africa to study at the London School of Economics, and then spent his whole life working for social justice, human rights and development.

Above all he sought to further the cause of justice through his 33-year career with UNDP. His career began

as a UK United Nations Association volunteer in Congo Brazzaville in 1965. In June 1966, Tony married Sallie Lee at a civil ceremony in the Town Hall, officiated by the Mayor of Brazzaville. Tony's career took him to New York (twice), Tanzania, Thailand, Cyprus, Indonesia and Samoa. In Samoa, his final posting, he was the UNDP Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator, responsible for UN cooperation with Samoa, the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau.

Although Tony joined the UN at a time when 'development' seemed to many like a quick fix involving technology and finance, I doubt that he ever held such simplistic views. I believe he always saw development as a complex process, involving political forces and the social fabric as much as technical factors. At least his career suggests as much, as is perfectly illustrated by the contribution from Roger Guarda (see below), talking about reconciliation between the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus.

After he retired, Tony continued to support the work of the UN, through consultancy assignments, and through the British Association of Former UN Civil Servants (BAFUNCS). Even in the last months of his life he was playing a key role in organizing the BAFUNCS annual conference, due to take place in Exeter in June 2010.

In short, Tony embodied all the qualities of an exemplary international civil servant: a deep sense of justice, a sincere respect for the worth of all people and a dedication to help improve people's lives. However, it was his absolute integrity and an unusual degree of modesty that made him exceptional.

Tony leaves his wife Sallie, son Graham, daughter Jane, and two grandchildren, Samu and Bayu. He will be very sorely missed by his family and friends.

Chris Ronald, December 2009

* * *

Tony and I worked together in Cyprus for almost three years in the early 1980s, when UNDP still had an office there.

Those were challenging years. The island had been divided in two since 1974 and the UN-sponsored talks between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots to resolve the Cyprus problem were not getting anywhere.

In fact, since 1974 no Greek Cypriot had been allowed to visit the part of the island controlled by the Turkish Cypriots and vice versa. In this very negative and tense atmosphere, the UN had instructed UNDP to share its assistance between the two sides according to a formula that satisfied no one.

When I took up my assignment, I expected to get entangled in a nightmare of never ending recriminations and without any good will on either side.

Well, I was in for a surprise because I had not been counting with Tony! Indeed, before my arrival, during the period that he had been in charge of the office, Tony had been quietly trying to get the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot mayors of the divided city of Nicosia to cross the Green Line that divided the city and to visit each other's part of that city. In the very tense political and military situation prevailing at the time, to any outside observer this would have looked like pie in the sky. However, just before my arrival Tony had succeeded! Not only had he convinced the mayors themselves but he had also obtained the clearance of their respective central authorities which, at the time, were adamantly opposed to any "rapprochement." How Tony achieved this I still do not know. But he did!

So, only a few days after my arrival, Tony, UNFYCIP military officers and I shared the honour of accompanying across the Green Line the first two Cypriot political personalities allowed beyond it since 1974. Together we visited the two parts of the city under the surprised gaze of unbelieving bystanders. All knew the mayors but nobody knew that the young and smiling British fellow accompanying them was the person who, single handedly, had managed this diplomatic feat.

These reciprocal visits and the friendly relationship between the two mayors that resulted from them would contribute in a major way to the successful design and implementation of several large joint projects between Nicosia's two municipalities, sponsored by UNDP.

Tony's non-assuming and gentle personality, his sense of justice and fairness, as well as his political acumen and dedication to the cause of peace and development, had allowed UNDP to break the political ice that had blocked any progress towards a better understanding between the two Cypriot communities.

Roger Guarda, December 2009

IN MEMORIAM

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund has furnished AFICS (NY) with the following information, covering the period 1 September to 30 November 2009, concerning the passing of former staff members and their surviving spouses. We extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of the deceased.

UNITED NATIONS FAMILY

ECLAC

Ahumada, I.	05.07.2009
Garcia Cabruja, Eduardo	21.08.2009
Zepeda, Elba	18.08.2009

UNECA

Afrasse, Tesfaye S.	05.09.2009
Endeshaw, Arega B.	27.03.2008
Iwuji, Dorothy C.	26.10.2009
Medani, A.	11.08.2009
Shifarrow, Bizuneh	26.12.2008

UNECWA

Mardini, Adnan	10.10.2009
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UNESCAP

* Carter, Ralf C.	22.08.2009
Rosales, Francisco M.	24.09.2009
Smith, Clarence Roy	08.09.2009
Sudhamasapa, Amphorn	22.10.2009
* Torok, Steven J.	23.07.2009

UN/HQ

Abdel-Wahab, Samya Ahmed	28.08.2009
Bassil, Maged R.	26.09.2009
Baster, Nancy	07.10.2009
* Bowe, Peggy Ellen	16.10.2009
Chang, Tse-Chun	13.09.2009
Clemens-Tesle	14.06.2009
Clements, A.M.	05.09.2009
Connor, Imogen	12.09.2009
* Douek, Sarah	28.09.2009
* Exley, D.J.	06.10.2009
Fernandez-Nilo, Luis A.	14.10.2009
* Gaynor, D.R.	30.06.2009
Gochenour, Joel G.	26.08.2009
Guerreros, Gildo	13.11.2009
* Hafgren, Bjorn	06.09.2009
Hallenberg, Eileen	15.08.2009
* Hardjowirogo, Siti	20.09.2009
Hooyveld, Noreen	??.03.2009
* Hussain, S.	13.10.2009

* Johnson, Betty	11.09.2009
Joseph, Kenzie A.	Unknown
Kluska, T.W.	26.11.2009
Krcmery, K.	04.09.2009
Marquez, Eloisa	04.09.2009
Maung, Hla Khin Than	15.09.2009
Mensah, Lewis Mike	Unknown
Mohamed A., Habiba Hassan	Unknown
Murthy, Srinivas	22.09.2009
* Neblett, Rae S.L.	05.10.2009
* Paquette, G.	22.10.2009
* Parisi, G.S.	01.09.2009
* Pfeuffer, Julius	Unknown
* Portugal, Othmel	Unknown
Raman, M. Sundara	09.10.2009
Rao, S.	19.09.2009
* Solomon, Bernard	05.10.2009
Straumann, Rubella	24.09.2009
Tagaya, Y.	Unknown
* Teslenko, Betty	14.06.2009
Timar, Sandor	02.10.2009
Toro, Robert	31.08.2009
Trusk, Ellen Margaret	08.10.2009
Tuan, Saymah	25.11.2009
Vikar, Georges	18.11.2009
Villanueva, Ma Lourdes	26.07.2009
* Ward-Smith, H.	02.11.2009
Zoughlami, Younes	30.05.2008

UN/GENEVA

Amatti, F.	29.10.2008
* Benoit, Pierre	24.09.2009
Berard, Juliette	27.09.2009
Bessire, Jean-Jacques	15.06.2009
Brissaud, M.M.	11.11.2009
Chevallier, G.	07.06.2009
Cooper, Aln W.	10.11.2009
Diara, Lansana	13.03.2009
Dorley, Femore Malekee	18.11.2009
Duconseille, Jean Auguste	06.09.2009
Fischer De Laub, Eva Carlota	27.09.2009
Gitta, Adrien M.	26.09.2009
Hermin, Anne-Marie	16.08.2009
Hunkeler, M.T.	20.10.2009

Janczak, Jacek	09.11.2009	UNICEF – HQ/INTL	
Lasan, Dolores Baja	17.10.2009	Abotsi, Leonard D.	02.09.2009
Lehmann, Liselotte Emily	04.11.2009	Aslam, Sukker	Unknown
Mangan, Margaret E.	13.10.2009	* Cassell, Merrill	06.11.2009
Martin, G.M.	14.08.2009	Collins, Claire	23.07.2009
Mathur, S.N.	23.08.2009	Donaldson, Lloyd	27.07.2009
Mila, Giovanni B.	16.09.2009	Singleton, Margaret	25.01.2009
Miolioubova, Alla	31.08.2009		
Neath, Frances G.	18.08.2009	UNICEF/LOCAL	
Neri, Daphne Margaret	16.10.2009	Kyin-Shwe	11.09.2009
Patruco, Esther	15.10.2009	Sumitra, Dera	28.09.2009
Petiot, Monique	29.09.2009	Tamang, Kamala	Unknown
Quijano-Caballero, Santiago	20.10.2009		
Sailly, Michel	14.11.2009	UNOV	
Schwab, Johann Moritz	31.08.2009	Ellis, Una Gwendoline	Unknown
Siegrist, Vreneli	03.10.2009	Felsbach, Erich	08.10.2009
Toure, Cheick Ahmed Tidiane	21.11.2009		
Zuloaga, José Guillermo	29.08.2009	UNRWA	
		Iltis, Elizabeth	13.09.2009
UNCHS		Tanner, John W.	19.09.2009
Row, Anne S.	21.08.2009		
		UNTSO	
UNDP - HQ/INTL/LOCAL		Hamdan, Ahmed Mandour Mou	28.08.2009
Ahluwalia, Harbhajan	Unknown	Ilayan, Mohammed Abed Rabbo	15.07.2009
Bastani, Allahabadi	27/07/2009	Mizher, Naimat	20.09.2009
Birkett, R.A.	08.08.2009		
Bissainthe, Ruth W.	21.06.2009		
Borthwick, Robert Andrew	06.10.2009	SPECIALIZED AGENCIES	
D’Alva, Rosa Teixeira	08.09.2009	ILO	
Daw, Than Nwe	12.02.2009	Basaza Mpyisi,	
Diawara, Djibril	08.09.2009	Anne Nyirahabimana	29.10.2009
Douek, Sarah	28.09.2009	Besga-Follana, Isabel	Unknown
Fougou, Lakoname Monipin	12.08.2009	Bosson, Arlette	12.09.2009
Gafur, Abdul	14.06.2009	Butterfield, Dorothy	10.10.2009
Gebre Menfes, Tsehai	10.08.2008	Calderon, Ciceron	Unknown
Kaka, Son Allah	29.08.2009	Coradinho, Shelagh Anne	23.09.2009
Keita, Bakary Diogo	18.11.2009	Crabbe, L.J.	Unknown
Kone, Karamoko	18.01.2009	Di Mauro, Mario	17.10.2009
Miganhi, Chishamiso	Unknown	Diarra, O.B.	03.09.2009
Mohammad, Amir	Unknown	Doss, Rafik	22.09.2009
Nouaiti, Mohamed	13.10.2009	Fjord, Ruth	14.07.2009
Piaka, François	21.06.2009	Floch, Gilberte M.L.	14.10.2009
Raeen, Victoria	22.10.2009	Gherardi, Marguerite	26.06.2009
Rezek, Shehadeh Khalil	06.09.2009	Gordon Donaldson, Clarice Merle	12.10.2009
Sithideth, Chantha	01.10.2009	Graziani, Sara Enea	31.10.2009
* Ward-Smith, Herbert K.	02.11.2009	Grossen, Jacqueline	31.10.2009
		Hayes, Kathryn	15.10.2009
UNHCR		Higelin-Lazzero	22.09.2009
Berglund, Tor-Stefan	26.09.2009	Howenstine, Emanuel Jay	06.09.2009
		Hull, Eileen Maria	30.09.2009

Kaech, J.	24.09.2009	* Reddy, Vidyavathi	31.07.2009
Kennedy, Eileen June	08.11.2009	Riccardi-Candiani, Camillo	30.06.2009
Komiyama, A.	Unknown	Romagnoli, Giovanna	10.09.2009
Lisse, Marcelle	12.10.2009	Ronchi, Martinelli Maria	14.10.2009
Marcourt, Fernande	08.09.2009	Saada, Colette Anne-Marie	07.04.2009
M'Bizi, E.	12.11.2009	Smith, Esposito Ruth	15.10.2009
Moore, Charles C.	20.10.2009	Takagi, Zennosuke	09.10.2009
Mooser, Andrée Rose Marie	17.11.2009	Tomlinson, Tekle A.K.	21.08.2009
Morel, Cecile	14.09.2009	Trump, Eric Charles	07.09.2009
Perez, B.	21.11.2009	Tsutsui, H.	15.09.2009
Ruiz-Lopez, Andrés	19.08.2009	Unwin, Sheila, M.F.	22.10.2009
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Petter, Irene	24.08.2009



* Member of AFICS (NY)

CORRESPONDENTS

USA	
Connecticut	Mr. Somar Wijayadasa, 84 Dundee Road, Stamford, CT 06903
Florida	Mr. Madan Arora, Orlando, Florida; marora. <marora.afics@yahoo.com>
Mid-West	Mr. James B. Chandler, 7449 Rupert Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63117 <jchandlr@aol.com>
Nevada (Las Vegas)	Mr. Leocadio (Leo) F. Dioso, 4126 Cascada Piazza Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89135;<leodioso@aol.com>
Texas (Dallas)	Mr. Rudy Moras, 3410 Dartmouth, Dallas, TX 75205-3235;
Washington, D.C	Mr. David Waugh, 5225 Pooks Hill Road, Drop #701N, Bethesda, MD 20814-2039 <drdwaugh@aol.com>
Washington (State)	Mr. Sher Agrawal, 9647 NE 25th Street, Clyde Hill King, WA 98004 <agrasen@hotmail.com>
U.S. Virgin Islands	Mr. Horst Cerni, P.O. Box 223483, Christiansted, St. Croix, US VI 00822. <horst.cerni@gmail.com>
Argentina	Dr. Eduardo K. Centeno, Arcos 1757, 4P A, 1426 Buenos Aires
Belgium	Mrs. Josephine Lerew, Residentie Hertogenpark, Desguinlei, 90-9G, 2018 Antwerp, Belgium <lerew@skynet.be>
Brazil	Sr. Eduardo Albertal, Rua José Linhares, 57 Apt. 201, 22430-100 Rio de Janeiro <edalbertal@terra.com.br>
Canada	Mrs. Rose Marie Troniak, 3716 208th Street, Langley, BC V3A 4X7
Congo (Kinshasa)	M. Antoine Kabwasa Nsang-O'Khan, c/o PNUD, B.P. 7248, Righnini
Cuba	Ana Maria Gudz, c/o UNDP, calle 18 No. 110, Miramar, La Habana, Cuba; e-mail: anamaria580@yahoo.com
Cyprus	Dr. C. A. Theodoulou, P.O. Box 40965, 6308 Larnaca; Fax: +357-24 623215; <c.a.theodoulou@cytanet.com.cy>
France	M. Marcel Gabbay, 5 Ave. Frederic Mistral, La Nartelle, 83120 Ste., Maxime <mgabbay@wanadoo.fr>
Germany	Dr. agr. Friedrich von Mallinckrodt, Wolfgang-Klausner-Str.11, D-83339 Chieming; <sard.mallinckrodt@t-online.de>
Ghana	Opatrafo Osei Boakye Yiadom II, Chief of Adamorabe-Aburi, Ghana (Ms. E.M. Apeadu), P.O. Box 179, ABURI-Akuapen E/R;
México	Mr. Guido Gomez de Silva, Xola 314-E, 03100 México, DF
Nepal	Mr. Kumar S. Maharjan, SUNRISE TOWERS, Unit B-20, Dhobi Ghat, Lalitpur, Nepal; <kumar-maharjan@hotmail.com>
New Zealand	Mr. Ed Dowding, 16A Moore St., Birkenhead, Auckland 1310
Spain (Madrid)	Mr. José M. Aguilar, President, The North-South Institute, Apartado 2371, 28080 Madrid; Fax: 34-91-5636302; <institute@north-southglobal.org> and <aguilar.josemanuel@hotmail.com>
Yemen	Fuad K. Mohammed, P.O. Box 16334 Hadda, Sana'a; Fax: 967 1 448405; <alyaran@yahoo.com>

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