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CIVIL SERVANTS

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2011



**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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Unless otherwise noted, throughout the Bulletin the term "AFICS" is used to refer to AFICS (New York).

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Welcome to 2011, the 66th year of AFICS's service to former international civil servants. This year the UN commemorates an important milestone: the 50th anniversary of the tragic death of UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld in a plane crash in Ndola, Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia). We are working with the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation on commemorative activities and presently seek recollections and memorabilia you may have concerning this towering UN figure (see page 20).



At the end of last year AFICS suffered the loss of two stalwart members of our Association – Helen Geffen Roht at the age of 93, and Paul D. McCusker at the age of 89. Helen, a long-time Governing Board and Honorary Governing Board member, who earned a degree in Gerontology after her retirement, put it to use organizing many, much-appreciated informative and entertaining seminars on topics affecting older persons. These ranged from finances and care-giving to coping with clutter, fashions and staying fit. Paul, who was also a Governing Board member and Chair of our Legal Committee, was among the founders of the AFICS (NY) Charities Foundation. The enduring achievements of both remain to inspire our current members.

As the year begins, AFICS (NY)'s total membership has reached some 3500 and is still growing. While we are delighted with the increase in our numbers, and continue to seek and welcome newcomers, more members mean more work for our busy volunteers and office staff – more membership applications to process... phone calls to answer... flyers, notices and Bulletins to send out... and questions to which to respond with regard to pensions, insurance, and other matters – not the least of which is the announcement of ASHI on Medicare Part B (see page 12).

To cope with increased responsibilities we need more volunteer assistance for:

- **Basic office work.** Anyone who can spare some time to help answer routine correspondence, do some filing, etc. at peak periods would be most welcome.
- **Graphic design.** We need additional skilled help in preparing flyers, posters and other materials to let you know about important happenings and upcoming activities.
- **Photography.** Are you good with a camera? Please help us document our luncheons, receptions and other events.
- **Proofreading.** An additional pair of sharp eyes is always welcome for proof reading publications such as our Membership Directory, as well as flyers, circulars and our Quarterly Bulletin.
- **Committees.** More members are needed in particular for the following committees:
 - Ageing** – to help plan and organize seminars on topics of interest;
 - Social** – to plan and set up luncheons, receptions and other events;
 - Membership** – to suggest and carry out means of increasing our numbers and assist in processing membership applications;
 - NGO Liaison and Information** – to attend and report on meetings on UN issues;

Outreach – to help fellow AFICS members needing temporary assistance (accompanying to medical appointments; settling in at home after surgery; attending to mail, shopping; etc.)

satisfaction of knowing that you've made a difference! For the advocates among us, there will be numerous opportunities to make the UN's work better known this year. (See page 22 for a list of international days to be celebrated.)

If you can spare some time to volunteer for any of the above, please let us know. Your assistance will help to make our Association more responsive and effective. And you'll have the

So let's make 2011 a year to remember by seizing the opportunity to honour the legacy of those who came before us by continuing our support for AFICS and the United Nations.

UNITED NATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S LETTER TO STAFF

31 December 2010

Dear Colleagues,



I am writing to share with you some of the key human resources outcomes of the recently concluded General Assembly session.

As you know, the General Assembly approved contractual streamlining two years ago. Since then, we have worked hard on continuing contracts and harmonization of conditions of service as central elements of our human resource management reform efforts.

I am very pleased that, after considering our proposals, the General Assembly has approved the granting of continuing appointments as of 1 January 2011. The Assembly also approved the Young Professionals Programme (YPP), which replaces the National Competitive Recruitment Examination. The new programme will enable us to re-energize entry level recruitment and to invest in junior professional staff joining the Organization.

I had also recommended to Member States that in order to expedite recruitment, the circulation time of a vacancy announcement be reduced from 60 to 45 days. Member States decided to revert to the issue at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly when they will have an opportunity to review and have a deeper appreciation of the improvements the Organization will have made in the recruitment system.

I am heartened that the General Assembly has approved the International Civil Service Commission's recommendations

on a harmonized approach to the compensation, allowances and benefits of staff of the UN common system assigned to non-family duty stations effective 1 July 2011. This includes the designation of duty stations as family or non-family duty stations based on security criteria, payment of an additional hardship allowance for staff serving in non-family locations, and paid travel for rest and recuperation purposes. Member States will further review the payment of a lump-sum towards accommodation at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

It is my strong belief that the recent decisions of the General Assembly will help to create a workforce that is better equipped to meet the challenges of carrying out our many important mandates in an accountable, efficient and effective manner while promoting coherence across the United Nations system.

Let me take this opportunity to recognize and extend my appreciation to all staff members of the UN common system for their dedication and commitment to furthering the principles and ideals of the United Nations under difficult and often dangerous circumstances. I know that I can continue to count on all of you to work together, shoulder to shoulder, in all corners of the world, despite the hardships so many of you endure in demanding environments, to carry out our lifesaving work on behalf of the peoples of the world.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the members of the General Assembly for their ongoing commitment and support for our reform efforts.

With my best wishes to you and your families for a happy New Year,

Ban Ki-moon

UN OFFICIALS HAIL CLIMATE CHANGE DEAL REACHED AT CANCÚN CONFERENCE

The United Nations climate change talks in Cancún concluded on Saturday, 11 December, with a package of decisions to help countries advance towards a low-emissions future, delivering what the world body's top officials have hailed as a victory in the battle against one of today's biggest challenges.

The outcome is an “important success for a world much in need of it,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement issued following the conclusion of the two-week meeting. “Governments came together in common cause, for the common good, and agreed on a way forward to meet the defining challenge of our time.”

Dubbed the “Cancún Agreements,” the decisions include formalizing mitigation pledges and ensuring increased accountability for them, as well as taking concrete action to protect the world's forests, which account for nearly one-fifth of global carbon emissions.

Delegates meeting at the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) also agreed to ensure no gap between the first and second commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol, an addition to the Convention that contains legally binding measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and whose first commitment period is due to expire in 2012.

Agreement was also reached on establishing a fund for long-term climate financing to support developing countries, and bolstering technology cooperation and enhancing vulnerable populations' ability to adapt to the changing climate.

“The outcomes in Cancun have given us important tools. Now we must use them, and strengthen our efforts in line with the scientific imperative for action,” stated Mr. Ban.

Welcoming the agreements reached, UN climate change chief Christiana Figueres said nations have shown that they can work together to reach consensus on a common cause. “Cancún has done its job. The beacon of hope has been reignited and faith in the multilateral climate change process to deliver results has been restored,” said Ms. Figueres, who is the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC. “Governments have given a clear signal that they are headed towards a low-emissions future together, they have agreed to be accountable to each other for the actions they take to get there, and they have set it out in a way that encourages countries to be more ambitious over time.”

The next Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC is scheduled to be held in South Africa from 28 November to 9 December 2011.

Adapted from UN Website
UN Daily News

UN OFFICIALS WELCOME RELEASE OF MYANMAR'S AUNG SAN SUU KYI

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the United Nations human rights chief, Navi Pillay, on 3 November, welcomed the freeing of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and urged the authorities in Myanmar to release all remaining political prisoners.

Ms. Suu Kyi, the head of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, had been under house arrest for much of the past two decades. Her release came one week after the South-east Asian nation held its first elections in 20 years.

“Her dignity and courage in the face of injustice have been an inspiration to many people around the world, including the Secretary-General, who has long advocated her freedom,” Mr. Ban's spokesperson said in a statement. “The Secretary-General expects that no further restrictions will be placed on her, and he urges the Myanmar authorities to build on today's action by releasing all remaining political prisoners.”

The statement also noted that it was “deeply regrettable” that Ms. Suu Kyi was effectively excluded from participating in the recent elections. “Democracy and national reconciliation require that all citizens of Myanmar are free to participate as they wish in the political life of their country.”

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay called Ms. Suu Kyi's release a “positive signal” that the Myanmar authorities are willing to move forward with the serious challenge of democratic transition. “Clearly, Aung San Suu Kyi can make a major contribution to this process,” Ms. Pillay stated, adding that she remained “extremely disappointed” that the pro-democracy leader was not released before the elections. The High Commissioner urged the authorities to now release the other 2,200 political prisoners as “a clear sign that the new Government intends to respect human rights and forge a new future for the country.”

Adapted from UN Website

2010 HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT: 40-YEAR TRENDS ANALYSIS SHOWS POOR COUNTRIES MAKING FASTER DEVELOPMENT GAINS

20th anniversary UNDP-commissioned report finds long-term progress in health, education not determined by income; introduces new indices for gender, poverty, inequality

Most developing countries made dramatic yet often underestimated progress in health, education and basic living standards in recent decades, with many of the poorest countries posting the greatest gains, reveals a detailed new analysis of long-term Human Development Index (HDI) trends in the *2010 Human Development Report*, released at the United Nations on 4 November 2010.

Yet patterns of achievement vary greatly, with some countries losing ground since 1970, the *2010 Human Development Report* shows. Introducing three new indices, the 20th anniversary edition of the Report documents wide inequalities within and among countries, deep disparities between women and men on a wide range of development indicators, and the prevalence of extreme multidimensional poverty in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

The *Human Development Reports*, commissioned annually by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 1990, are editorially independent from UNDP.

The 2001 Report – *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development* – was launched in New York by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, who helped devise the HDI for the first *Human Development Report* in 1990 with the late economist Mahbub ul Haq, the series founder. The Human Development Reports and the HDI challenged purely economic measures of national achievement and helped lay the conceptual foundation for the UN’s Millennium Development Goals, calling for consistent global tracking of progress in health, education and overall living standards.

“*The Human Development Reports* have changed the way we see the world,” Ban Ki-moon said at the launch. “We have learned that while economic growth is very important, what ultimately matters is using national income to give all people a chance at a longer, healthier and more productive life.”

The first *Human Development Report* introduced its pioneering HDI and analyzed previous decades of development indicators, concluding that “there is no automatic link between economic growth and human progress.” The 2010 Report’s rigorous review of longer-term trends – looking back at HDI

indicators for most countries from 1970 – shows there is no consistent correlation between national economic performance and achievement in the non-income HDI areas of health and education.

Helen Clark said, “The Report shows that people today are healthier, wealthier and better educated than before. While not all trends are positive, there is much that countries can do to improve people’s lives, even in adverse conditions. This requires courageous local leadership as well as the continuing commitment of the international community.”

Overall, as shown in the Report’s analysis of all countries for which complete HDI data are available for the past 40 years, life expectancy climbed from 59 years in 1970 to 70 in 2010, school enrolment rose from just 55 per cent of all primary and secondary school-age children to 70 per cent, and per capita GDP doubled to more than US\$10,000. People in all regions shared in this progress, though to varying degrees. Life expectancy, for example, rose by 18 years in the Arab states between 1970 and 2010, compared to eight years in sub-Saharan Africa. The 135 countries studied include 92 per cent of the world’s population.

“Our results confirm, with new data and analysis, two central contentions of the *Human Development Report* from the outset: human development is different from economic growth, and substantial achievements are possible even without fast growth,” said Jeni Klugman, the lead author. “We also gained new insights about the countries that performed best, and the varying patterns of progress.”

The “Top 10 Movers” highlighted in the 2010 Report – those countries among the 135 that improved most in HDI terms over the past 40 years – were led by Oman, which invested energy earnings over the decades in education and public health.

The other nine “Top Movers” are China, Nepal, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Lao PDR, Tunisia, Republic of Korea, Algeria and Morocco. Remarkably, China was the only country that made the “Top 10” list due solely to income performance; the main drivers of HDI achievement were in health and education. The next 10 leaders in HDI improvement over the past 40 years include several low-income but high HDI-achieving

countries “not typically described as success stories,” the Report notes, among them Ethiopia (#11), Cambodia (#15) and Benin (#18) – all of which made big gains in education and public health.

Within the pattern of overall global progress, the variation among countries is striking. Over the past 40 years, the lowest-performing 25 per cent experienced less than a 20 per cent improvement in HDI performance, while the top-performing group averaged gains of 54 per cent. Yet as a group, the quartile of countries at the bottom of the HDI scale in 1970 improved even faster than those then at the top, with an average gain of 61 per cent. The diverse national pathways to development documented in the Report show that there is no single formula for sustainable progress, the authors stress.

The region with the fastest HDI progress since 1970 was East Asia, led by China and Indonesia. The Arab countries also posted major gains, with 8 of the 20 world leaders in HDI improvement over the past 40 years. Many countries from sub-Saharan Africa and the former Soviet Union lagged behind, however, due to the impact of AIDS, conflict, economic upheaval and other factors. Life expectancy actually declined over the past 40 years in three countries of the former Soviet Union – Belarus, Ukraine and the Russian Federation – and six in sub-Saharan Africa: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The dominant trend in life expectancy globally is convergence, with average life spans in most poor countries getting increasingly close to those in developed countries. In income, though, the pattern remains one of divergence, with most rich countries getting steadily richer, while sustained growth eludes many poor countries.

“We see great advances, but changes over the past few decades have by no means been wholly positive,” the authors write. “Some countries have suffered serious setbacks, particularly in health, sometimes erasing in a few years the gains accumulated over several decades. Economic growth has been extremely unequal, both in countries experiencing fast growth and in groups benefiting from national progress. And the gaps in human development across the world, while narrowing, remain huge.”

2010 HDI plus new Indices for Inequality, Gender and Poverty

The Report this year includes new 2010 HDI rankings, with modifications to several key indicators. The top 10 countries in the 2010 HDI are Norway, Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Ireland, Lichtenstein, the Netherlands, Canada, Sweden and Germany. At the bottom of the 2010 HDI rank-

ings of 169 countries are, in order: Mali, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Burundi, Niger, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe.

Country ranking changes in the HDI are now reported over a five-year comparative period, rather than on a year-to-year basis, to better reflect long-term development trends. Due to methodological refinements of the HDI formula, the 2010 rankings are not directly comparable to those in earlier Reports.

The 2010 *Human Development Report* continues the HDI tradition of measurement innovation by introducing new indices that address crucial development factors not directly reflected in the HDI:

- **The Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI)**

For the first time, this year’s Report examines HDI data through the lens of inequality, adjusting HDI achievements to reflect disparities in income, health and education. “The HDI alone, as a composite of national averages, hides disparities within countries, so these adjustments for inequality provide a fuller picture of people’s well-being,” says Jeni Klugman.

- **The Gender Inequality Index (GII)**

The 2010 Report introduces a new measure of gender inequities, including maternal mortality rates and women’s representation in parliaments. “The Gender Inequality Index is designed to measure the negative human development impact of deep social and economic disparities between men and women,” says Klugman. The GII calculates national HDI losses from gender inequities, from the Netherlands (the most equal in GII terms) to Yemen (the least).

- **The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**

The Report features a new multidimensional poverty measure that complements income-based poverty assessments by looking at multiple factors at the household level, from basic living standards to access to schooling, clean water and health care. About 1.7 billion people – fully a third of the population in the 104 countries included in the MPI – are estimated to live in multidimensional poverty, more than the estimated 1.3 billion who live on \$1.25 a day or less.

The 2010 Report calls for further research and better data to assess challenges in other critical aspects of human development, including political empowerment and environmental sustainability.

To encourage continuing innovation for the 20th anniversary of the Report, the Human Development Report Office relaunched its website (<http://hdr.undp.org>) with extensive new

resources, revised statistical country profiles for all UN member states and interactive tools, including a “build your own index” option for visitors.

Amartya Sen writes in his introduction to the new Report: “Twenty years after the appearance of the first *Human Development Report*, there is much to celebrate in what has been achieved. But we also have to be alive to ways and means of improving the assessment of old adversities and of recognizing – and responding to – new threats that endanger human well-being and freedom.”

The 2010 Human Development Report is translated into more than a dozen languages and has been launched in more than 100 countries. It is published in English by Palgrave Macmillan. Complete texts of the 2010 Report and all previous Reports since 1990 are available for free downloading in major UN languages on the Report website: <<http://hdr.undp.org/>>. Regional highlights from the 2010 HDR, a complete press kit and additional information are also available on that website.

From HDR/UNDP Website

UNITED NATIONS LAUNCHES NEW FUND TO AID HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

On 4 November 2010, Hollywood celebrities Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher joined with senior officials of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to appeal for support to a new Fund to aid victims of human trafficking.

“Human trafficking destroys the lives of women and children all over the world,” Yuri Fedotov, Executive Director of (UNODC), said at a Headquarters press briefing immediately before the launch of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children. “They need our support; they need our solidarity,” he said, urging contributions to the Fund, which will provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims, under the management of UNODC and with the advice of a Board of Trustees appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General. Mr. Fedotov stressed the need for global cooperation to eradicate a “despicable crime.” The Fund, he said, would help people escape their captors, return to their homes and rebuild their lives.

Joined by Simone Monasebian, Chief of the UNODC New York Office, Mr. Fedotov introduced Ms. Moore and Mr. Kutcher as “deeply committed to the struggle against human trafficking,” having created the Demi and Ashton Foundation, which aims to raise awareness of child sex slavery, fight stereotypes of victims and rehabilitate them.

In a brief statement, Ms. Moore said, “I prefer to call [human trafficking] what it is, which is modern slavery,” stressing the magnitude of the scourge, which afflicts some 27 million people worldwide. Speaking of her acquaintance with victims in the course of her work, she said that the average age of a young girl sold into such slavery was 13 and the average profit made by a pimp from one girl’s repeated “rape for profit” was \$200,000, making it a “seriously lucrative business.”

Only one out of a hundred victims was rescued, she said, and

of that number only a few had been provided rehabilitation services. She stressed, however, that those who had been rehabilitated became “powerful forces” in fighting trafficking in persons and advocating for victims’ rights.

She encouraged all governments, as well as the private sector, to contribute to the Trust Fund, calling on correspondents to shed a spotlight on what she called an atrocious problem, to help make it a priority on the international agenda. “Freedom is a basic human right,” she said.

Mr. Kutcher said he was appalled that, today, 62 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that strongly condemned slavery, there were more slaves than at any previous era of human history. “Something has to be done,” he maintained. “We are failing optionless victims.”

Ascribing the continuation of the scourge to greed and convenience, he said it was time to change the long neglect of the problem, not only for the sake of human rights but also for the sake of national security, since the illicit trades in persons, drugs and arms together supported organized crime and terrorism. Victims who were rescued, he stressed, became great assets in fighting all those threats, since they had detailed knowledge of the international criminal underworld.

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, is an element of the new United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the General Assembly in July 2010, according to UNODC. Pledges for the Fund were being directed to Ms. Monasebian’s office, tel: +1 212 963 5631, or e-mail: <monasebian@un.org>.

Adapted from UN Website
Department of Public Information
News and Media Division, New York

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY: UN SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON ROLE OF RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The United Nations marked Human Rights Day on 10 December 2010 by shining the spotlight on the hundreds of thousands of “largely unsung heroes,” the human rights defenders who risk dismissal, harassment, torture, jail and even death for their activities.

“Laws to protect and promote human rights are indispensable,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a message. “But quite often, progress comes down to people, courageous women and men striving to protect their own rights and the rights of others, determined to make rights real in people’s lives. Diverse in background, sometimes part of a civil society organization, or a journalist or a lone citizen, they all share a commitment to expose wrongdoing and stand up, speak, and today tweet, in the name of freedom and human dignity, he added.

“Far too often, their work entails tremendous risk. Defenders are harassed, stripped of their jobs and wrongfully imprisoned. In many countries, they are tortured, beaten and murdered. Their friends and family members are also subjected to harassment and intimidation,” he said, calling on all States to ensure the freedom of expression and freedom of assembly that makes their work possible. “Let us remember that everyone – no matter their background, training or education – can be a human rights champion. So let us use that power. Let us each be a human rights defender.”

It was a plea echoed by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay. “We can all be human rights defenders, and – given how much we owe to others for the rights many of us now take for granted – we all should be human rights defenders,” she said in a message. “At the very least, we should do our utmost to support those who do defend human rights.”

She, too, noted that human rights defenders come from all walks of life, “ranging from princesses and politicians, to professionals such as journalists, teachers and doctors, to people with little or no formal education. “There are no special qualifications. All it takes is commitment, and courage,” she said, underscoring the risks they run and citing Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, who was murdered outside her apart-

ment in 2006, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) human rights defender Floribert Chebeya Bahizire, who was found dead in his car earlier this year.

“But many of those less well-known defenders who are murdered for their belief in human rights remain unknown to the wider world,” she stressed. “On this Human Rights Day, I call on governments to acknowledge that criticism is not a crime, and to release all those people who have been detained for peacefully exercising their fundamental freedoms to defend democratic principles and human rights.”

General Assembly President Joseph Deiss noted in his message that the 192-member body “strongly benefits” from the work of human rights defenders. “They bring a grassroots perspective to our debates, they galvanize action, they advance issues and they play a pioneering role; they thus lay the ground for the intergovernmental processes that take place at the General Assembly,” he stated.

A group of 55 independent UN independent human rights experts used the Day to call on States to recognize and respond to the continued targeting of rights defenders by non-State actors, which have led to the deaths of community leaders, lawyers, journalists, women defenders, social activists and many others working to stop discrimination and injustice. “They do not bear arms, they do not use violence, defenders use only their voices and persistence to challenge injustice peacefully,” said Najat Maalla M’jid, Chair of the Committee representing the UN experts. “However, too often it is human rights defenders themselves who require protection from human rights abuses.”

In a joint statement to mark the Day, the experts – who report to the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council in an independent and unpaid capacity – praised all those individuals and organizations that reveal injustice, discrimination and human rights violations that would otherwise remain hidden, stating: “We could not function without them.”

Adapted from the UN Website
UN Daily News

S-G LAUDS MILLIONS OF VOLUNTEERS HELPING TO BUILD BETTER WORLD

From working in their own communities on climate change adaptation and poverty reduction to supporting global causes of peace, justice and development, the millions of volunteers around the world play a vital role in building a better future, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on 5 December 2010,

International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.

“Together, let us strengthen the institutional frameworks that support volunteerism,” he added, citing the strong growth in

recent years of online volunteering connecting people – professionals, students, homemakers and people with disabilities around the globe – and providing them with opportunities to contribute to development and the work of the United Nations. “Still relatively new, online volunteering has great potential and I encourage all partners to explore what more can be done to harness the power of the Internet in this way,” he said in a message marking the day.

The General Assembly called for the establishment of the UN Volunteer (UNV) programme 40 years ago, and since then tens of thousands of UN volunteers have contributed to the

world body's global mission, from peacekeeping and special political missions to humanitarian aid and development.

“It [volunteerism] is a powerful means of mobilizing all segments of society as active partners in building a better world,” Mr. Ban declared. “Let us honour volunteering as an expression of our common humanity and a way to promote mutual respect, solidarity and reciprocity.”

Adapted from the UN Website
UN Daily News

EMPOWERING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WILL HELP BATTLE AGAINST POVERTY SAY UN OFFICIALS

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the United Nations UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, have called on governments to do more to support people with disabilities, stressing that they play a vital role in efforts to reach the globally agreed anti-poverty targets by their 2015 deadline.

In a message marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2010, Mr. Ban urged governments to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to integrate the needs of this group with their pursuit of their anti-poverty targets, i.e., the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

“People with disabilities account for roughly 20 per cent of those living in poverty in developing countries,” the S-G noted. “Worldwide, they suffer high rates of unemployment and often lack access to adequate education and health care. In many societies, there are simply no provisions made for this group and they end up living in isolation, disconnected from their own communities.”

The 2010 theme for the Day was “Keeping the promise: mainstreaming disability in the Millennium Development Goals.” Mr. Ban recalled that among the promises made by world leaders at the high-level MDG Summit in September was a commitment to improve the lives of persons with disabilities. “On this International Day, let us recognize that the battles against poverty, disease and discrimination will not be won without targeted laws, policies and programmes that empower this group,” he said. “Let us pledge to keep the promise of the goals alive in the community of persons with disabilities. And let us include them not only as beneficiaries, but as valued agents of change in our five-year push to reach the Goals by the internationally agreed deadline of 2015.”

The Secretary-General’s call for governments to give more support to the 650 million people with disabilities worldwide

was echoed by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, who said it made no sense that governments did not do more to bring such a large, potentially productive group in from the sidelines. “Efforts to reduce poverty – and to achieve that Millennium Development Goals, which include halving poverty – will be severely hampered if efforts to improve the situation of hundreds of millions of people living with disabilities are not pursued with vigour,” she said.

Ms. Pillay praised the fast adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, saying it had been signed and ratified faster than any other treaty in history. “The Convention makes it clear that persons with disabilities have the same rights as everyone else. This is not a matter of charity, or choice. They are entitled to the same rights to key services such as health and education, the same right to earn a living and not to be discriminated against in any way,” she said.

The Convention came into force in May 2008, as the first new human rights convention of the 21st Century. It has so far been signed by 147 States and ratified by 96. This has allowed the formation of a broad, 18-member committee to monitor States’ records against their obligations under the Convention.

The annual observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December was established in 1981 during the International Year for Disabled Persons. The Day aims to promote a better understanding of disability issues with a focus on the rights of people with disabilities and the gains that could be derived from integrating them better in every aspect of the political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities.

Adapted from the UN Website
UN Daily News

WELCOMING RESULTS IN GLOBAL AIDS FIGHT, UN URGES WORLD NOT TO RELENT

Significant progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS has been achieved over the past three decades, but the world must not relent in its efforts to roll back the pandemic, United Nations officials said on World AIDS Day, stressing the importance of preventing new infections and deaths.

“Our common goal is clear: universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support. We must also work to make the AIDS response sustainable,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his message to mark the day, observed annually on 1 December. “Three decades into this crisis, let us set our sights on achieving the “three zeros” – zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths. On this World AIDS Day, let us pledge to work together to realize this vision for all of the world’s people,” he said.

Mr. Ban pointed out that despite the untold suffering and death that AIDS had visited upon mankind, the global community had united with passion to take action and save lives. “Fewer people are becoming infected with HIV. Millions of people have gained access to HIV treatment. More women are now able to prevent their babies from becoming infected with HIV. Travel restrictions for people living with HIV are being lifted by many countries, as stigma gives way – still too slowly – to compassion and recognition of human rights,” the Secretary-General said.

He called for stronger commitment to efforts that enabled the world to reach the first part of Millennium Development Goal 6 – halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV. “We must continue to chart a new and bold path ahead,” Mr. Ban said.

The President of the General Assembly, Joseph Deiss, cautioned that gains in fighting the spread of the disease are fragile, recalling the millions of people who need anti-retroviral treatment, yet have no access to the drugs. “There is no room for complacency, and we must do more and better to ultimately reverse the epidemic,” he said. “This is a clear message for the United Nations General Assembly, when world leaders will gather in June 2011 to review progress made in fighting the epidemic and in achieving universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010.” He urged governments, civil society, people living with HIV, the private sector and the UN as a whole to engage constructively to make the 2011 high-level meeting a success. “People living with HIV and affected by the epidemic deserve no less,” Mr. Deiss said.

Michel Sidibé, the Executive Director of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), noted that the number of

new HIV infections and deaths had been reduced by nearly 20 per cent, but lamented that some 30 million people had lost their lives to AIDS-related illnesses over the past three decades, while an estimated 10 million people are currently awaiting treatment. “Our hard-won gains are fragile – so our commitment to the AIDS response must remain strong,” Mr. Sidibé said in his message. “With your commitment and that of UNAIDS and the UN family, we are changing the course of the AIDS epidemic. I have called for the virtual elimination of mother-to-child transmission by 2015.” An “AIDS-free generation is possible in our lifetime.”

The latest UNAIDS report, released the previous week, shows that an estimated 2.6 million people became newly infected with HIV, nearly 20 per cent fewer than the 3.1 million people infected in 1999. In 2009, 1.8 million people died from AIDS-related illnesses, nearly one-fifth lower than the 2.1 million people who died in 2004.

According to the report, from 2001 to 2009, the rate of new HIV infections stabilized or decreased by more than 25 per cent in at least 56 countries around the world, including 34 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Of the five countries with the largest epidemics in the region, four countries – Ethiopia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe – have reduced rates of new HIV infections by more than 25 per cent, while Nigeria’s epidemic has stabilized.

Margaret Chan, the Director-General of the UN World Health Organization (WHO), called in her message for the protection of the human rights of those living with HIV/AIDS and urged all sectors to combat discrimination against those infected. “Working with people living with HIV is critical for an effective HIV response and Member States need to be mindful of the commitments made in the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS to promote better legal and social environments for people to access HIV testing, prevention and treatment,” Ms. Chan said.

She stressed that those affected by the disease are entitled to social services, including education, housing, social security and even asylum. “Ensuring the rights of people living with HIV is good public health practice, by improving the health and well-being of those affected and by making prevention efforts more effective.

“A wide range of countries have enacted legislation to prevent discrimination against people living with HIV. However, in many cases, there is poor enforcement of such laws and stigmatization of people living with HIV and most-at-risk populations persist,” she added.

Meanwhile, new WHO guidelines released on World Aids Day show that children and adults living with HIV can be protected from tuberculosis (TB) infection with a regular, low-cost preventive medication. Of the nearly two million AIDS-related deaths each year, a quarter of them are associated with TB.

Due to their weakened immune system, people living with HIV are less able to fight TB infection and are more likely to develop active TB, which can be deadly and can spread to others. In some communities, up to 80 per cent of people with TB test positive for HIV. Taking medicine containing the anti-TB drug isoniazid is a simple and cost-effective measure that prevents the TB bacteria from becoming active if it is present. Known as Isoniazid Preventive Therapy (IPT), the treatment

approach is not new, but has been underused. Only 85,000 people, or 0.2 per cent of all those living with HIV, received isoniazid for TB prevention in 2009.

“As we commemorate World AIDS Day, it is clear that managing HIV must include addressing TB,” said Gottfried Hirnschall, the Director of WHO’s HIV/AIDS Department. “We need to fully implement the WHO Three I’s for HIV/TB strategy in collaboration with all partners. The Three I’s are Isoniazid Preventive Therapy, Intensified TB screening and Infection control for TB,” he said.

Adapted from the UN Website
UN Daily News

AFICS (NY) IN ACTION

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Insurance Committee

UN INCORPORATES USA MEDICARE PART B INTO ITS AFTER SERVICE HEALTH INSURANCE (ASHI)

Attention: ASHI Participants who are Citizens or Lawful Residents of the USA

Effective 1 January 2011, the United Nations now requires ASHI participants enrolled in a Headquarters US-based Plan to participate in the USA national health insurance scheme called Medicare Part B, if they are aged 65-75 and lawfully resident in the USA. It is not necessary to have contributed to U.S. Social Security to be eligible for Medicare Part B. The new requirement applies to eligible dependents as well.

It should be recognized that the importance of a United Nations after-service health insurance scheme for retiring employees relates in large part to the fact that many of them may not be able to benefit from the national social security schemes of Member States owing to their service with the United Nations. On the other hand, many former staff members, not just USA residents, are, in fact, eligible to participate in national schemes. For example, many European countries enrol their citizen residents in national health programmes. Appropriate arrangements to do so should be encouraged when there is a benefit to all in controlling the cost of health insurance premiums.

Background. Everyone who is age 65 and either a USA citizen or lawfully resident in the USA for the last five years is eligible to join Medicare. Medicare Part A covers hospitalization costs and is free for anyone who has paid into the U.S. Social Security system for 40 quarters (10 years). Part B covers the cost of visits to a doctor and everyone has to pay for it by means of a monthly premium (\$115.40 and up for 2011). As a result of the convergence of two concerns, one originating in the Governing Board of AFICS (NY), and the other in the United Nations, AFICS (NY) developed a position on incorporating United States Medicare Part B into the range of insurance options available to retirees under the After-Service Health Insurance programme (ASHI).

Some five years ago, an AFICS (NY) delegation visited the United Nations Controller to ask for a subsidy of the cost of Medicare Part B premiums. At the time, there was a concern about significant increases in premiums for retirees participating in Medicare Part B. Though voluntary at that time, such participation was “encouraged” by the UN because it significantly reduces the cost of its health insurance plans.

Many retirees had voluntarily joined Medicare Part B after first becoming eligible at age 65. The United Nations and all participants in its health insurance plans were thus benefitting from the unreimbursed premiums some members were paying for Medicare Part B.

Upon reaching the age of 65, many retirees voluntarily joined Medicare Part B. They did so having been persuaded that it was in their best interest, as well as that of the Organization and ASHI – and to avoid penalties which accrue if enrolment is at a later date. Among the reasons that may have influenced their decision are the advantages of participating in a national scheme with which health care providers are accustomed. A large number of doctors participate. More importantly, consumers cannot be overcharged for health services, because the rates and conditions are set by the U.S. Government.

Also, some five years ago, the General Assembly, reacting to a recommendation of the Secretary General, decided in section III of its resolution 60/255 to recognize the accrued end-of-service liabilities reported by the Secretary-General and requested that the necessary steps be taken to disclose those liabilities in the United Nations financial statements. The Secretary-General, in documents A/60/450 and Corr.1 and A/61/730, had recommended approval, *inter alia*, to begin to recognize the liability of the United Nations for after-service health benefits, and to begin funding the liabilities related to the benefits. The recommendation was a logical consequence of an earlier decision by the General Assembly to adopt the International Public Sector Accounting Standards promulgated a few years earlier.

As of end December 2007, the latest year for which figures are readily available, the unfunded present value of future after-service health benefits amounts to some \$3.1 billion, comprised of \$2.4 billion in United Nations obligations and \$0.7 billion in retiree contributions. These unfunded liabilities are likely to be reduced somewhat this year by a General Assembly decision to transfer \$135 million of reserve funds into an independent segregated after-service health insurance reserve fund to meet long-term funding goals. At the time of this writing, official documentation on this matter is not yet available on the un.org website, although the General Assembly has concluded its work.

At its 67th session in 2012, the General Assembly expects to receive a further report on steps to be taken to deal with the financing of future after-service health benefits. In the meantime, the administrative leadership of the United Nations, in order to cut costs, wants all U.S.-based ASHI participants between the ages of 65 and 75 to participate in Medicare Part B. The proposal is detailed below.

Description of the Proposal (Source: document ST/IC/2011/3, dated 4 January 2011). Effective 1 January 2011, the United Nations requires ASHI participants enrolled in U.S.-based plans, aged 65-75 and lawfully resident in the USA, to participate in the USA Medical Outpatient Services Plan, “Medicare Part B,” if they qualify. Most former staff members and their dependents (including surviving spouses and eligible dependent children) are eligible to enrol in Medicare Part B, which relates to the cost of visits to a doctor. Upon confirmation of enrolment, the United Nations will reimburse the premium costs for all eligible participants, together with any penalties for late enrolment. Premiums consist of three elements: the base premium; a late penalty, if applicable; and a means test which adjusts the premium upward for those with higher income. ASHI participants who join Medicare Part B during the January-March 2011 enrolment period would obtain coverage from 1 July 2011, on which date premiums and entitlement to reimbursement would also begin. There are some 2430 retirees in this category. During the next five years it is estimated that another 1340 retirees who are not yet 65 will become eligible to participate.

Some 1470 ASHI participants are already enrolled in Medicare Part B, covering the premiums at their own expense. They would be reimbursed premium costs in arrears, with effect from 1 January. For this category of participant, current waivers of deductibles and co-pays under the United Nations schemes would continue to 30 June 2011, but from 1 July 2011 the normal ASHI deductible and co-pays would apply.

Retirees enrolled in Medicare Part B will continue to choose their doctors, whether or not those doctors participate in Medicare. Retirees will be encouraged to use doctors who participate in Medicare, but will not be required to do so. For those who do, Medicare will become the primary insurer; the current United Nations insurance schemes will pay any uncovered balance, subject to the current provisions of those plans. Those retirees in the 65-75 age group who are eligible to participate in Part B but decline to do so would have their ASHI claims adjudicated after 1 July 2011 as if they were participants in Part B. That will mean that their carriers (for the most part, Aetna and Blue Cross) may reimburse them as little as 20% instead of 80%.

The United Nations administration assumes that retirees will continue to use the doctors they use now. It also assumes the number of doctors who accept Medicare patients and those who opt out of Medicare will remain in the same proportion as previously. If these assumptions are realized in future, they calculate that their initial investment in Medicare Part B premiums will be recouped in two years, after which a signifi-

cant portion of the projected unfunded costs of retiree health insurance will be avoided.

Retirees aged 75 and over, if not already enrolled in Medicare Part B, may decline to do so and will not incur a penalty under their present ASHI carrier. Those who wish to join will require pre-approval from the United Nations Health and Life Insurance Section, which would need to know the level of the expected premium and would have a say in determining how much it would pay. For example, a high premium due to high income and the late enrolment penalties attaching thereto would likely be turned down.

Reimbursement Procedures. Medicare premiums will be reimbursed by reducing the ASHI deduction from the monthly UNJSPF benefit payment. Where the after service health insurance contribution deduction is less than the Medicare premium, the balance will be paid by cheque or electronic fund transfer quarterly in arrears, unless the balance is less than \$100 a month, in which case the balance will be paid once a year in arrears. In order to receive the subsidy, participants will have to provide a copy of their annual Medicare statement to the Insurance and Disbursement Service of the UN Accounts Division.

AFICS Views. AFICS welcomes the proposal as a means to compensate current Part B participants, a development which is long overdue. It also supports the intention of the proposal to achieve a measurable and significant control over the costs of future health insurance premiums for all participants. Although we would have liked earlier notice and more data, we appreciate the opportunity afforded by the several consultation sessions with representatives of the UN administration. We also appreciate the comprehensive documentation provided to ASHI participants, and the two Town Hall meetings, scheduled for 1 and 8 February 2011.

To illustrate the impact of the proposal, the United Nations has provided the illustrative table below showing the average

AETNA Staff (2,100)	AETNA Retirees w/o Part B (2,300)	AETNA Retirees with Part B (1,000)
\$12,500 (100%)	\$15,300 (122.4%)	\$8,750 (70%)

NOTE: It is likely that the United Nations will provide a similar premium re-imbusement scheme to retirees resident outside the USA, if participation in a national health insurance scheme is optional. If participation is mandatory, the

value of AETNA claims per subscriber per year during 2008 and 2009, with the approximate number of subscribers in parenthesis.

As noted above, the United Nations expects to recoup the cost of subsidizing Part B premiums within two years.

When informed of the procedure outlined above, the AFICS (NY) Governing Board discussed the following issues, noting that lack of data from the United Nations prevented the Board from ascertaining any of the related financial implications.

(a) AFICS (NY) would prefer that ASHI participants aged 65 to 74 who are eligible to enrol in Medicare B be strongly encouraged to do so, but not be penalized with reduced ASHI coverage if they decline.

(b) AFICS (NY) asked if, as a minimum under the proposed 100% reimbursement procedure, the waiver for drugs be continued.

The United Nations could not immediately accept the issues stated above, but agreed to revisit the conditions of the reimbursement procedure in light of the experience gained by 30 June 2012.

AFICS (NY) also considered whether retirees who already participate in Medicare Part B and receive a 100% premium reimbursement should also continue to receive the present waivers of ASHI plan co-pays and deductibles indefinitely and in any event beyond 30 June 2011. Information subsequently provided by the United Nations revealed that a sampling of data on the value of co-pay and deductible waivers for those already participating in Medicare Part B has entirely offset the cost of their premiums. For this group of participants, the co-pay and deductible waivers have essentially paid for their Part B premiums.

United Nations has no incentive to subsidize premium costs. AFICS (NY) would appreciate receiving authoritative information on such optional participation schemes, and will forward it to the appropriate United Nations officials.

Denis G. Beissel

Membership Committee

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members, who joined AFICS (NY) between 1 July and 31 December, 2010. (* Designates Life Member)

Mrs. Ira ABEYASEKERA
UNICEF, Procurement Assistant

Mrs. Ellen ABRENICA
UNHQ/OIOS, Chief of Division

Ms. Doris AEBERLI
UNEP/cites, Admin. Assist.

Ms. Karen ALBERT
UN, Research Assistant

Mr. Carlito R. ALETA
IAEA, RCA Coordinator

Ms. Deanna AKO-ASARE
UN, Procurement (Buyer)

Mr. Carlos ALZAMORA
UNCC, ASG

*Ms. Jean ANDO
UNICEF, Ref. Librarian

*Mr. Alain ARCHAMBAULT
UNHQ, Senior Reviser (French)

Ms. Carmencita S. ARCIWALS
UNDP/OHR, Assist. to Dir.

Ms. Netta R. AVEDON
UNHQ, Chief, HR Services

Mr. Alonso AZNAR
Communications Advisor (Africa)

*Mr. Philip BALARAM
Widower of UN retiree

*Mr. Keith BEAVAN
UN/DPI, Dir. Press & Pub.

Mr. Matewos BERAKI
UN, Prgm. Admin. Officer

Ms. Ellen C. BOKDE
UNDP, Expert

Mrs. Consuelo BRANNON
UN, Sen. Admin. Assist.

Mrs. Maria T. BROWN

Mr. James CALLAHAN
UNODC, Reg. Rep.

Mr. Peter CAMERON
UNDP, Assist. Res. Rep.

*Ms. Katie CANGELOSI
UNHQ, English Editor

Ms. Beverley CARLSON
UNHQ/DESA, Economist

Ms. Barbara A. CATANESE
UNICEF, Info. Assist.

Mr. Abdur Rahman CHOWDHURY
WFP, Rep./Country Dir.

Mr. Lloyd CLAYTON
UNICEF, Supply Officer

Mr. Gerald CLARK
UNICEF, Proj. Officer

*Ms. Gloria A. COE
PAHO/WHO, Communication

Mr. Leslie CUTHBERT
UNHQ, Library Assistant

Mr. Eugene DAKIN II

Mr. Julio D'ARCY
UNHQ/DESA, Interreg. Adviser

Ms. Gertrudes DE GUZMAN
UNMI (Nepal), OIC, Info. Maint.

Mr. Michel DOOKINGUE
UNITAR, USG

Mr. Francis DUBOIS
UNDP, Dir.

*Mr. Paul DYSENCHUK
UN, Fifth Com. Secretariat

Mrs. Celia Antiga ECHEVERRIA
UNESCO, Secretary

Mr. Aster EDOKPAYI

Mr. Francisco J. FERNANDEZ-PAZ
UNON (Nairobi), Chf., Sp. Lang. Unit

Ms. Suzanne FRIED
UNHQ

Mr. Frank FROST
UNHQ/DIESA, Acting Ex. Off.

Mr. Abdelshafy A. FUDL ALLAH
FAO, Plant Protection Expert

*Mr. Mark GILPIN
UNHQ/ACABQ, Ex. Sec.

Mr. Fred GOLLING
UN, Security (Lt.)

Ms. Gail GROSSMAN
UN, Conf. Officer

Mr. Franciscus Hartvelt
Director, Water Management

Mr. Barry HERMAN
UNHQ/DESA, Sen. Advisor, FFD

Mr. Lawrence HIRT
UNICEF, Supervisor, Maint.

Mrs. Nell S. HITE
Widow of FAO retiree

Mrs. Teresa HOWTON
IMO, Secretary

Ms. Anna HUTTMANN

Ms. Anne-Marie IBANEZ
UNHQ, Political Affairs Officer

*Mr. Mahmoud S. ISSA
UNFPA/ILO, Reg. Adviser

Mrs. Vivienne IVERSEN

Ms. Marie Andrée JOSEPH
Widow of retiree, Felex Joseph

*Mr. Momtazul KARIM
UNICEF, Chief, Supply & Logistics

*Mrs. Darida JUNEJA
UNHQ/IMIS/HR/OHRM/DM,
Supervisor

*Dr. Peer JUST
UN, Chief

Mr. George KASSIS
UNICEF, Dy. Director
Private Sector Fundraising

*Mrs. Anjali KHADSE
UNHQ, Human Resources Assist.

Mr. Albert H. KHAZOOM
UN, Director

Ms. Hannah LAUFER-ROTTMAN
WFP, Senior Partnership Officer

Mr. Ju-Mu Lee

Ms. Karen LEE
ILO, Marketing

Mr. Mauno LEIKAS
UN/DPKO, Transport Officer

Mr. Clinton A. LEWIS
ICSC, Statistician

Ms. Veronica LUARD
Ombudsman, Funds & Progrms.

*Ms. Zenna MAMMO
UN/MONUC, Admin. Officer

Ms. Peluso MANDELL
UN, Executive Officer

Ms. Judy MARTIALAY
UNHQ, Translator

Mr. Eduardo MASON
UNHQ, Supervisor

Dr. Melvin J. MASON
UNESCO, General Educator

*Ms. Jean MATTHEWS
UN, Chief, English Interpretation

Mrs. Mina MAUERSTEIN-BAIL
UNDP, Director

Mrs. Yolaine MICHAUD
UNDP, Programme Associate

Ms. Jean A. MOORHEAD-FERUZI
WHO, IEC Advisor for HIV/AIDS

*Mr. Anatolio NDONG
FAO (Angola), Representative

Mrs. Tsedale B. NEGASSA
UNDP, Assist. Admin.

Mr. Klaus NIETZSCH
UNHQ, Editorial Research Assist.

Ms. Isolda OCA
UNHQ/DPI, Public Info. Officer

*Mr. Toe OUNG
WFP, Finance Admin. Officer

*Mr. James T.M. PAN
UNFPA, First Officer

Mr. Paul PARYSKI
UNDP/UNOPS, C.T.A.

Mr. Charles L. PERRY
UNDP, Res.Coord./Res.Rep.

Ms. Carole PINA
ILO (Geneva), P-4

Mrs. Chantal REITER-BURNS
UNHQ, Editor

*Ms. Margaret RIDDLE
UNHQ, Chief, TV News Unit

Mr. Barry RIGBY
UNHCR (Bosnia Mission), Chief

Ms. Rosa RIVERA
UNHQ, Radio Producer

Ms. Maria ROCCO
UNICEF, Travel Assistant

Ms. Lettie ROSE
UNFPA, Research Assistant

Dr. Berol ROBINSON
UNESCO, Principal Science Officer

Ms. Mary C. ROTH
UNDOF (Damascus), C.M.S.

Ms. Constance SAMUEL
UNHQ, Admin. Assistant

Mr. Benedict SATIA
FAO, Chief

Mrs. Angelina SAVARESE
Widow of Louis J. Savarese

Mrs. Eve SEGAL
UNDP, Princ. Prog. Officer, RBA

Mr. Mahmood SHAHRBABA
UNDP (Tehran), Admin. Asst.

Mrs. Tessa SMITH
UNJSPF, Benefits Assistant

*Mr. Triumfo SORIANO
UNICEF, Network Officer

*Ms. Elsa STAMATOPOULOU
UN, Chief, Indigenous Issues Forum

Mrs. Ana-Maia STRUCKMEYER
ECLA, Admin. Assist.

Ms. Karen SULLIVAN

*Mrs. Chinyee SUNG
Widow of Hsi-Yuan Sung

Mr. Jeffrey TAFT-DICK
WFP, Representative (Niger)

Ms. Sheila TAHARALLY
UNICEF, Personnel Assistant

*Ms. Mya THAN
UNHQ, Contribution Officer

*Mr. Saung THAN
UNICEF, Chief Quality Assurance Centre

Mrs. Florence TINKER
PAHO, Widow of Milton E. Tinker

*Mr. Van Tran TU
WHO (Manila), Technical Officer

Ms. Angela VAN RYNBACH
WFP (Indonesia), Representative

Ms. Lilia VAZQUEZ
UNHQ, Chief, Spanish Language Unit

Ms. Catherine VOLZ
UNODC, Chief, Human Security Branch

*Mr. Wayne WITTIG
ICT (Geneva), Senior Public Pros. Adviser

Ms. Christine WOODWORTH-BATHO
WHO (Geneva), Secretary

Mr. Abdoul F. YASSIN
UNHQ, Reference Clerk, Translation

Mr. Tsun-Cheng YEH
UNHQ, Translator

Mr. Yoshinobu YONEKAWA
UNHQ/DESA/DPADM
Sen. Govern. & Pub. Admin. Officer

Ms. Joyce L. YU
UNDP/UNV, Deputy Exec. Coord.

Mr. Ralph ZACKLIN
UN, ASG/OLA

Mr. Firdu ZAWIDE
WHO, Reg. Adviser

Mr. Ahmed ZOUARI
UNHQ, Senior Reviser

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

PLEASE don't forget to update us with your latest e-mail and postal addresses because we still continue to get significant returns of both. We use your information only to communicate with you and would not share them without your permission.

Social Committee

FALL LUNCHEON

On 18 November 2010, The Annual Fall Luncheon at Ben & Jack's Steakhouse, East 44th Street, was attended by 136 AFICS members and their guests. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food (which included fish and vegetarian options) and the opportunity to catch up with colleagues.

THE CHARITIES FOUNDATION OF AFICS (NY)

Report of the Assistance Review Committee for the Year 2010

As in years past, the Charities Foundation of AFICS (NY) made grants of money to former international civil servants facing crises and needing monetary rescue in response to unforeseen emergencies. Again as in years past, the requests we received from former international staff members petitioning the Foundation were to cover medical expenditures and education needs.

During 2010, the Assistance Review Committee, which reports to the Board of the Charities Foundation, dealt with seven requests. Two appealed for funds to defray medical costs and came from places as far away as Kosovo and Myanmar. While the Foundation cannot supplement pensions, the cost of medicines and medical facilities in both places merited grants.

In addition, the Committee dealt with a request for funds to help reinstate a former international staff member's enrolment in ASHI.

A grant was given to enable a former international staff member to continue his daughter's education. The family was facing economic hardship and foreclosure on their home. The Committee also decided to help a former international staff member stave off legal bank proceedings over her overdrawn account. She, in turn, was helping her daughter, who had lost her job and was facing difficult times.

Finally, the Charities Foundation made grants to UNICEF on two occasions. One was in response to the disastrous earth-

quake in Haiti; the second was for relief to Pakistan in the aftermath of the devastating floods.

As you can see from the above, given its limited resources, the Charities Foundation tries to respond to the most urgent requests it receives from retired international servants. Therefore, it would be greatly appreciated if the membership-at-large could continue its financial support to enable the Foundation to respond to a greater number of deserving cases. Your (tax deductible) checks should be made payable to "The Charities Foundation of AFICS (NY)" and sent to: AFICS (NY), Room DC-580, United Nations, New York, NY 10017.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

WHAT'S NEW FOR TAXES IN 2010

1. The standard deduction for married filing jointly remains at \$11,400 for 2010; for singles, at \$5,700.
2. For 2010, each personal exemption you claim will be \$3,650, the same as 2009.
3. The standard mileage rate for the cost of operating a vehicle for charitable purposes remains at 14 cents per mile.
4. Long-term care premium deductions will be \$3,290 for persons age 61-70; and, \$4,110 for those ages 71 and over.
5. For 2010, you can give any individual up to \$13,000 without them owing a gift tax.
6. A tax credit for the cost of energy-saving home improvements is 30% in 2010 up to a combined maximum of \$1,500 in both 2009 and 2010.
7. Beginning in 2010, buyers of new vehicles will no longer get a tax benefit for sales tax paid on new vehicles unless they itemize and elect to deduct sales taxes instead of state income taxes.
8. The alternative minimum tax exemption for 2010 and 2011 will be \$47,450 for single filers and \$72,450 for married couples.
9. Looking ahead, Congress set the estate tax at 35% for two years on assets of \$5 million or more. This will begin in 2011

Dede Emerson

YOU AND YOUR TAXES

AFICS members who are residents of the USA are reminded that the AFICS web site contains the U.S. Taxation Booklet, prepared by the late Robert L. Smith, which includes invaluable information on the partial exemption of taxation of United Nations pensions under American tax law. If a tax professional prepares your tax return, you will want to make sure that he or she is well aware of this booklet.

You should also bring to the attention of your spouse, who may be entitled to a survivor's benefit, and to your heirs, who will be responsible for administering your estate and prepar-

ing your final tax return, that they will need a copy of this taxation booklet since it will be relevant to them also. For example, survivors continue to be entitled to the full monetary amount of the exemption even though they get a reduced pension. Furthermore, on the final tax return of the last survivor to be paid a pension any UN-remaining contributions that have not been recovered tax-free can be deducted on the final return, often reducing the tax due on it to nothing.

It has been learned that some UN retirees residing in the USA who are not members of AFICS are not aware of partial ex-

emption of taxation. If you encounter former colleagues who are not members of AFICS, you might wish to mention to them that AFICS provides a valuable resource in this regard, of which they are perhaps not aware. Encourage them to become AFICS members, since any changes in tax law affecting how UN pensions are taxed will more than likely be communicated to all members by AFICS. The UNJSPF does not communicate such information.

AFICS members residing in Canada should also note that UN pensions in Canada enjoy the same partial exemption

from taxation as in the USA due to provisions of the Canada-USA Tax Treaty regarding how cross-border pensions are taxed. Since the UN pension is a “qualified plan” under U.S. tax law, it qualifies for treatment as per the provision of the tax treaty. AFICS members residing in Canada who need further information regarding this can contact the author of this article for more details:

<john.northcut@gmail.com>.

John D. Northcut

MEMBERS' FORUM

NEEDED: YOUR MEMORIES OF DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD

The year 2011 marks the 50th anniversary of the death of former UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld in an airplane crash in Ndola, Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), on 18 September 1961.

Commemorative activities are planned, among others, by AFICS (NY) and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF) (<www.dhf.uu.se>), headquartered in Uppsala, Sweden, with an office in New York opened late last year.

The DHF recently contacted AFICS for help in locating any staff who worked directly with Hammarskjöld or who had personal contact with him as part of their UN service. They are interested in gathering anecdotes and/or memorabilia, and possibly organizing a reunion, either a virtual one on the internet or a gathering in New York.

For a start, we have offered to share with the Foundation our September 2001 publication, *Memories of Dag Hammarskjöld by Members of AFICS (NY)*. As some of you may recall, this 53-page booklet included recollections from John A. Olver, Alice Smith, Philippe Lecomte du Nouy, Bruce Stedman, Sean Finn, Donald R. Hanson, Omneya Tewfik-Foz, Cecil T.J. Redman, H.B.M., Norma Globerman and Yvette Ripplinger. (Please see sample on page 21.)

Now we are searching for additional material to add to a reissue of this publication. In addition, we will contact FAFICS

in the hope that some members of its Associations will also have recollections to contribute.

Please let us know right away if you have memories related to Dag Hammarskjöld that you would like to have included and indicate that you grant AFICS (NY) permission to publish them as noted above, and in the AFICS (NY) *Bulletin* during 2011. To ensure time for preparation of the publication, which will be issued in September 2011, we are setting the deadline for receipt of material as 4 April, 2011.

Depending on the number and types of submissions, the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and AFICS may issue a more formal joint anniversary publication, subject to the permission of the authors.

Regarding material for the AFICS publication, please reply directly to the Editor of the AFICS (NY) *Quarterly Bulletin* as follows: e-mail: <mlhanley11@aol.com> with a copy to the AFICS office: <afics@un.org>; or mail: AFICS (New York), Room DC1-580, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, Attn: Mary Lynn Hanley, Editor.

If you have memorabilia (photographs, letters, etc.) to contribute or wish to contact the DHF in New York, please address communications to Ms. Diane Jumet at <diane.jumet@dhf.uu.se>, or call 917-680-9169.

COFFEE DIPLOMACY

By Bruce Stedman

From Memories of Dag Hammarskjöld by Members of AFICS (NY)

Dag Hammarskjöld paid his first visit to the United Nations Emergency Force in the Gaza Strip at Christmas time in 1957. He flew in from Beirut in the UNEF Dakota, landing at "Gaza International," a grass strip that dissected the Israel-Gaza border. We (I was Chief Administrative Officer of UNEF) thought it a good thing if the S-G's first experience of UNEF would involve exposure to military field operations, so we took him directly from the plane to the headquarters of the Brazilian Company that was responsible for that sector of the demarcation line.

Surrounded by local press and television reporters, the S-G was led to the company headquarters tent, where he was greeted by the Brazilian Captain in command and given a little talk about the Company, its duties, and how it fitted into the big UNEF picture, illustrated with a few maps and overlay charts. The Captain's English was all the more effective because it wasn't perfect but it was very clear, delivered with modesty but pride, and the S-G was quite touched. When the Captain finished his little lecture, he said, "Sir. As you know,

we're from Brazil, and we think we have pretty good coffee. May I offer you a cup of Brazilian coffee?" Hammarskjöld nodded his thanks while one Major Forrero, a brash fellow of small stature and liaison officer for the Colombian Battalion said, "Yes sir, Mr. Secretary-General. This is the second best coffee in the world, and when you visit the Colombian Battalion, I'm sure you will have the opportunity to taste our coffee, and see how it compares!" Hammarskjöld nodded.

And then one of the local newsmen spoke up. "Well, Mr Secretary-General, you are certainly familiar with the world-famous 'Arabic coffee' which is what we normally serve in these parts." Hammarskjöld again smiled and nodded but said nothing. Then another representative of the media spoke: "May we ask, Mr. Secretary-General, which type of coffee you personally prefer?" After the slightest pause, the S-G replied, with a stronger than normal Swedish accent: "Vell, in my opinion, good coffee is like fine wines, each one suited to its own occasion." The sighs of pleasure and relief from the UNEF staff present were barely audible!

PAUL HUYGELEN COMMENDED FOR HISTORICAL NOVEL BY NEW YORK UNIVERSITY/ABU DHABI

Paul Huygelen reports that on 27 October 2010 he gave a talk on his historical novel *Equator Crossings - Travelogue Extraordinary* on the campus of New York University/Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) that was created in 2009 and started its first academic year in Sept. 2010 with students from some 39 countries – a United Nations in miniature.

The talk was attended by students and Faculty, including Professor of Comparative History David Levering Lewis and Professor of Economics, NYU/New York, Yaw Nyanko, originally an Ashanti, whose questions regarding Henry Morton Stanley's reports on Britain's war against the Ashantis in the 1880s were interesting and to the point.

Mr. Huygelen concluded his talk by stating that he thought the subtitle should have read Achievements Extraordinary in honour of its main actor, Henry Morton Stanley.

A book signing ceremony followed in the NYUAD bookstore, "decorated" with enlarged framed illustrations and maps from the book originally used for the ceremonial launch

in Muscat, Oman, in May 2009, and brought specially to Abu Dhabi for the occasion.

Subsequently, Mr. Huygelen received a note from NYUAD Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Al Bloom, which read, in part as follows:

"The privilege was ours to be able to welcome both of you (Mr. Huygelen and his wife) to NYUAD and to be inspired by your amazing experience and accomplishment. Thank you for your terrific impact on our students and community."

*As you may recall, **Equator Crossings** is available to AFICS (NY) members on loan from the AFICS (NY) Library, to which Mr. Huygelen has kindly donated a copy. See review on page 30 of **AFICS Bulletin**, Vol. 40, No. 4, October 2009. For information on purchasing a copy, kindly contact Motivate Publishing's online bookstore at: <www.booksarabia.com>.*

ADVOCATES' CORNER

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WORKING IN YOUR COMMUNITY TO PROMOTE THE IMAGE AND IDEALS OF THE UN?

Un International Days may give you the opportunity. One AFICS members did just that in her village of Mt. Kisko on UN Day (see October 2010 Bulletin, pgs.19-20). Find your own way of publicizing UN days – be innovative. For example, when a community club or board to which you belong considers raising funds for a cause (e.g. cancer or autism) suggest they hold an event in conjunction with a UN Day (e.g. World Cancer Day/World Autism Awareness Day). In

the long list below you're sure to find a Day to celebrate. For instance, some of us have loved ones in nursing homes. Why not use "International Day of Older Persons" to join with hospice care to organize an event to enrich their day? Write an article for your local paper, organize a fair/workshop or come up with other creative ways to keep the UN in the news. Tell us how you have promoted the UN. Let your experience inspire other retirees.

27 January	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
4 February	World Cancer Day (WHO)
20 February	World Day of Social Justice
21 February	International Mother Language Day
8 March	International Women's Day
21 March	World Poetry Day (UNESCO)
22 March	World Water Day
23 March	World Meteorological Day
24 March	World Tuberculosis Day (WHO)
25 March	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day
4 April	International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
22 April	International Mother Earth Day
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day
25 April	World Malaria Day (WHO)
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day (WIPO)
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work (ILO)
3 May	World Press Freedom Day
8-9 May	Time of Remembrance & Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during WWII
9-10 May	World Migratory Bird Day (UNEP)
15 May	International Day of Families
17 May	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
21 May	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity
29 May	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers
31 May	World No-Tobacco Day
4 June	International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
5 June	World Environment Day
8 June	World Oceans Day
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour
14 June	World Blood Donor Day
17 June	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
20 June	World Refugee Day
23 June	United Nations Public Service Day
26 June	International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
26 June	United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

3 July	International Day of Cooperatives (1st Saturday)
11 July	World Population Day
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
12 August	International Youth Day
19 August	World Humanitarian Day
8 September	International Literacy Day
10 September	World Suicide Prevention Day (WHO)
15 September	International Day of Democracy
16 September	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
21 September	International Day of Peace
27 September	World Tourism Day (WTO)
28 September	World Rabies Day (WTO)
September	World Maritime Day (during last week of September)
1 October	International Day of Older Persons
2 October	International Day of Non-Violence
4 October	World Habitat Day (1st Monday)
5 October	World Teachers' Day
9 October	World Post Day
13 October	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (2nd Wednesday)
14 October	World Sight Day (WHO) (2nd Thursday)
15 October	International Day of Rural Women
16 October	World Food Day
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day
24 October	World Development Information Day
27 October	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (UNESCO)
6 November	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
10 November	World Science Day for Peace and Development (UNESCO)
14 November	World Diabetes Day
16 November	International Day for Tolerance
18 November	World Philosophy Day (UNESCO) (3rd Thursday)
19 November	World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day (WHO)
20 November	Africa Industrialization Day
20 November	Universal Children's Day
21 November	World Television Day
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
29 November	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
1 December	World AIDS Day
2 December	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
5 December	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
7 December	International Civil Aviation Day
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day
10 December	Human Rights Day
11 December	International Mountain Day
18 December	International Migrants Day
19 December	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day

UN AT WORK WORLDWIDE

UN PEACEKEEPING EFFECTIVE IN LIBERIA

What is striking in interviews with dozens of Liberians from various walks of life - students, politicians, journalists, peace activists, even former child soldiers - is the level of appreciation for the role of the international force in bringing calm to the West African nation after 14 years of civil war. If there is any trepidation about the UN forces, it is about what might happen after their planned departure at the end of 2011.

Ellen Margrethe Loj, former Danish ambassador to the United Nations who now heads the UN mission in Liberia, noted that no outside force can impose peace on a country. But the UN effort has given Liberia a few years to catch its breath. When Loj arrived in 2006, she was struck by how "everything was destroyed by the civil war" - electricity, roads, schools, health clinics. The national army was disbanded.

Liberia's rebound is measured in baby steps. One sign of progress is that the Peace Corps has again declared the nation suitable for its volunteers.

A UN force that once topped 12,000 troops and 1,100 police officers has been drawn down to 8,000 troops and 1,300 police officers - still a considerable presence in a nation of 3.5 million.

The next key benchmark, Loj said, will be the 2011 elections. Will they be free, fair and conflict-free? "There's peace in Liberia, but peace is fragile," Loj said during a recent briefing with U.S. journalists.

In Monrovia, convoys of the United Nation's white, four-wheel-drive vehicles roll through the capital city with an air of authority on streets that were once overrun by violence and chaos. Monrovia go about their business with little more than a passing glance at the vehicles.

More than a hundred miles from the capital, a contingent of UN peacekeepers works to win the "hearts and minds" of Liberians, said Brig. Gen. Mozammel Hossain of Bangladesh. He called the situation "mostly peaceful."

One of the few outbreaks of violence that merited a response from UN forces (in 2010) came in February in the far north-

ern hills town of Voinjama, where two families accused each other of applying witchcraft on their communities. Three people died before the UN troops helped restore calm. The peacekeepers in that outpost, while armed and ready, seem most proud of their roles in nonmilitary projects: first aid, school restoration, agriculture, road repair.

Back in the United Nation's Monrovia headquarters, Loj said the civilian staff has been trying to resolve land disputes and other issues that could reignite the conflict. "I want to underline very much that you can keep the peace, but if you don't build the peace, then history has shown us from so many other theaters that the moment you then withdraw the peacekeeping mission ... if the underlying issues for the conflict have not been addressed ... the risk of the conflict erupting again is very high," Loj said.

It's much too early for the United Nations to declare victory in Liberia. The post-election turmoil in Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), which occurred after the Loj interview, has intensified the wariness in a region where conflict has often spilled across borders. Within Liberia, ethnic tensions continue to simmer, and public confidence in the nation's systems of law and justice remains low - and justifiably so.

But for seven years, the presence of UN peacekeepers has helped stop the slaughter in a nation that lost more than 200,000 lives in 14 years of civil war. It is no small accomplishment and is a reminder of the value and power of international intervention.

Skeptics of the ability of United Nations peacekeeping missions should consider the relative calm in Liberia, where the presence of blue-helmeted troops has effectively tamped down conflicts and provided a semblance of stability since a 2003 cease-fire.

Adapted from the SF (San Francisco) *Chronicle*,
12 December 2010
(With thanks to Edward Omotoso for sending it
for the *Bulletin*)

(NB: The current President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, is a former UN/UNDP Official)

ONLINE SEED SELECTION TOOL TO HELP FIGHT HUNGER IN AFRICA

NAIROBI, KENYA (AlertNet), 15 November 2010. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) has launched an online cropping calendar to guide the aid community in giving appropriate seeds in the wake of floods, droughts and other natural disasters. Seed aid is a growing business, with private companies and donors ramping up their donations to developing countries in recent years.

"Where there is an emergency they need to know quickly when the next planting season is and what crops will be grown," an FAO spokeswoman told *AlertNet*. Users can go online to select a country, the specific agro-ecological zone, and the crops they are interested in planting. The tool then tells them when the crop needs to be planted and harvested.

"Seeds are critical for addressing the dual challenges of food insecurity and climate change," Shivaji Pandey, director of FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division, said in a statement to mark the launch of the tool in mid-November. "The right choice of crops and seeds is crucial both for improving the livelihoods of the rural poor and hungry and for dealing with climate change. The crop calendar database covers 43 African countries and contains information on more than 130 crops, located in 283 "agro-ecological" zones. These zones represent Africa's varied ecology as well as challenges such as land degradation, sand encroachment and floods. It is based on inputs from member countries.

In the wake of the 2008 food aid crisis – when prices soared beyond the reach of many poor people – billions of dollars of seeds and fertilizers were pledged to help developing country farmers increase production. But their donations are not always welcome. There were protests when the biotechnology multinational, Monsanto, and USAID donated hybrid seeds to earthquake-devastated Haiti in 2010. Critics labelled the hybrid seeds a "poison pill" because they were treated with toxic chemicals.

A recent study by the University of East Anglia found that poorly-designed seed aid can hamper recovery from emergencies. "Delivering seed aid that is mal-adapted or does not germinate makes stressed farmers even more vulnerable," the report concluded.

Hunger is an enduring problem on the African continent and many argue that it needs a 'green revolution' like the one that occurred in India in the 1960s and 1970s. Africa is the developing region with the highest proportion – just under a third – of people suffering from chronic hunger. According to FAO, the number of undernourished people in sub-Saharan Africa increased from 169 million people in the 1990-1992 period to 265 million in 2009.

Katy Migiro
AlertNet Correspondent, Nairobi

UNHCR COMPLETES SHELTER PROJECT FOR KYRGYZ LEFT HOMELESS BY ETHNIC VIOLENCE

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on 3 December 2010 announced the completion of its emergency shelter programme in southern Kyrgyzstan, which provides temporary housing for over 13,400 people whose homes were damaged or destroyed during ethnic clashes last June.

"Getting people into proper accommodation before winter has been an important goal," said UNHCR spokesperson Adrian Edwards. "Early completion of this programme has been important, and in our view owes much to the commitment and coordination there has been with our partner organizations, as well as the support of the Kyrgyz President, Government and authorities."

A total of around 2,000 homes were damaged, with nearly 1,700 being completely destroyed, in the deadly violence that rocked the southern region of the country in June. In all, the violence cost the lives of over 400 people and displaced some

375,000 more, with 75,000 briefly crossing the border into Uzbekistan.

Mr. Edwards said UNHCR was directly responsible for the construction of four out of every five of the transitional homes, which are built on the foundations of damaged and destroyed property. "All of the transitional homes are warm and seismically safe," he said.

The construction of the shelters was completed just ahead of the winter, allowing people to occupy the homes just a few days before night-time temperatures were forecast to start hitting minus 10 degrees Celsius and allowing UNHCR to concentrate on other forms of aid.

"Now that this emergency shelter work is completed, our focus will shift to reconciliation, in particular promoting rule of law and human rights. The situation in this part of Kyrgyzstan remains fragile," said Mr. Edwards.

UNHCR expects that in 2011 it will continue to help provide better access to rights, basic and essential services, the replacing of personal documents and promoting livelihoods of

Kyrgyz people, at a cost of around \$11.4 million.

Adapted from *I Seek Story* United Nations

HEALTHY LIVING

THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT YOUR DENTAL INSURANCE

The hardest substance in the human body is the white enamel of the teeth. With age it wears away nonetheless. In the course of a normal lifetime, the muscles of the jaw lose 40 per cent of their mass and the bones of the jaws also get smaller, porous, and weak. By the age of 60, the average American is missing one third of their teeth. Bone is lost much faster where teeth are missing.

Before dental implants, replacing missing teeth was limited to removable dentures and non-removable bridges. Dentures accelerate bone loss and both can overwork the remaining anchor teeth. Loss of bone in the lower half of the face contributes to looking old. One primary reason to consider dental implants to replace missing teeth is the maintenance of valuable facial bone. Implants serve not only as an anchor for new teeth, they transmit chewing forces to the bone, which stimulates and maintains bone growth and density. Delaying reconstruction with implants can require bone grafting. Preventing bone loss can improve facial aesthetics, maintain muscles of chewing and facial expression, and improve speech, better digestion, absorption of nutrients, and enjoyment of eating.

A dental implant is a new root made of titanium alloy, the same material used for artificial hips and knees. These root shaped bio-compatible cylinders are placed in the bone. After

a few months, microscopic bone growth cells attach to the new root surface resulting in stronger than natural anchors.

The other major cause of bone and tooth loss is periodontal disease. This chronic inflammation destroys bone and is the leading cause of tooth loss. The bacteria that cause this are linked to many other medical problems including heart problems. Preventable medical problems due to dental origins are now being recognized by medical-dental insurance carriers. Since 1 July, 2010, the United Nations dental insurance has covered dental implants. This and the existing benefits for treatment of periodontal disease have been shown to decrease medical costs in the long run.

Dr. Nolan Krinick

Dr. Nolan Krinick, Director and Owner of The United Nations Plaza Dental Center at 765 First Avenue, has been serving the United Nations community for over 30 years. He has a Post-Doctoral Degree in Dental Implantology from New York University. Dr. Krinick will be pleased to discuss any questions you may have regarding your oral health. He can be reached by phone at (212) 949-6105. For additional information, go to <unteeth.com> on the internet through <google>.

SAVE THE DATE

AFICS (NY) ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AND RECEPTION

2 June 2011

Labouisse Hall, UNICEF

Further details will follow.

THE LATEST WRINKLE

A VIEW FROM THE TOP

*(Helen Geffen Roht, who passed away on 1 December 2010 at the age of 93 (see page 33), submitted the following for the **Bulletin** a few years ago. It was prepared by Helen with the help of some of her Internet correspondents.)*

We senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. As we know, we take responsibility for all that we have done and do not blame others for our shortcomings. HOWEVER, upon reflection, we would like to point out we senior citizens were NOT the ones who took:

The melody out of music,
The pride out of appearance,
The courtesy out of driving,
The romance out of love,
The commitment out of marriage,
The responsibility out of parenthood,
The togetherness out of the family,
The learning out of education,
The service out of patriotism,
The Golden Rule from rulers,
The nativity scene out of cities,
The civility out of behaviour,
The refinement out of language,
The dedication out of employment,
The prudence out of spending,
The ambition out of achievement, or
God out of government and school.

And we certainly are not the ones who eliminated patience and tolerance from personal relationships and interactions with others!

We understand the meaning of patriotism and remember those who have fought and died for our country too. Does anyone under the age of 50 know the lyrics to The Star Spangled Banner? Just look at the seniors with tears in their eyes and pride in their hearts as they stand at attention with their hands over their hearts!

Yes, I'm a Senior Citizen! That means:

I'm the life of the party ... even if it lasts until 8:00 p.m.
I'm very good at opening childproof caps – with a hammer.
I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I am going.
I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.
I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.
I'm very good at telling stories, over and over and over and over ...
I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not nearly as cute as mine.

And I'm not really grouchy. I just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds, lawyers, loud music, unruly kids, Toyota commercials, Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather, barking dogs, politicians and a few other things I can't seem to remember right now.
I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe, secure place, somewhere.
I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.
I'm having trouble remembering simple words like... uh ... what was that word?
I'm beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.

I'm sure they are making adults much younger these days, and when did they let kids become policemen?
I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 150?
And, sometimes, how can my kids be older than I feel?

I'm a walking storeroom of facts ... I've just lost the key to the storeroom door.

Yes, I'm a SENIOR CITIZEN! Longevity is increasing ... so someday you'll probably understand what that means!

OUR AMAZING WORLD

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

What a difference a century makes! Here are some U.S. statistics from the year 1910, one hundred years before the year to which we've just bid goodbye:

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.

Fuel for the Model R Ford automobile was sold only in drugstores.

Only 14 per cent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 per cent of the homes had a telephone.

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!

The average U.S. wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour. The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 per cent of all births took place at home.

Ninety per cent of all doctors had no college education! Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into the country for any reason.

The Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhoea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6 per cent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local corner drugstores. Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

Eighteen per cent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic helper.

There were about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.A.!

What will the world be like in 2110???

IT STAGGERS THE MIND!!!

Reprinted from Internet
Sent by: Anna <j_anna@bellsouth.net>

WORLDWIDE REUNIONS

FLORIDA CHAPTER OF AFICS (NY) HOLDS THIRD QUARTER MEETING AT CANTINA LAREDO, 11 SEPT. 2010

Eighteen members attended the 11 Sept. reunion of the Florida Chapter of AFICS (NY). The meeting started by observing one minute silence in memory of Ms. Carmen Castro-Martinez, who left for her heavenly abode on 26 August, 2010, as well as for all the departed souls who were affected on 09-11.

Madan Arora briefed the members about the status of the appeal to UNJSPF initiated by the retirees from India. Though UNAT had rejected the appeal, the retirees had applied to UNAT for a review of that decision. All members present applauded the efforts of the colleagues in India, who spent a lot of time and incurred considerable expense to represent us personally in New York, making the long trip just to present the case to UNAT.

Concerns were raised by everyone about the high cost of living. Even though there have been modest increases in our pensions, these have been negated by the increases in our health insurance premiums.

After a general discussion about the several increases in health insurance premiums, as well as in our co-payments, it was unanimously proposed that we should take up these and other issues related to After Service Health Insurance with AFICS (NY) for further follow-up action. Dr. Arumugam Thavarajah was requested to study this subject in greater detail and prepare a paper on the subject for members' consideration.

Everyone agreed that our Anniversary event should be held on 4 December 2010 at the Universal Studio (with its Hawaii dinner show). In case that venue is not available, the Pirate's Dinner Adventure was indicated as a second preference. The Planning Group will review this matter and finalize the details in due course.

Plans for the cruise to be undertaken on 14 May 2011 to the Western Caribbean have been finalized. Interested members

should make individual bookings with Royal Caribbean (Tel: 1-800-465-3595) as, surprisingly, room rates will be cheaper than they would have been with a group booking. An initial deposit of US\$250 per person will confirm your reservation.

Before lunch, everyone in the group was requested to share their recent experiences or family news. Marian Awaad spoke about her trip to Jordan, where she celebrated her 70th Birthday in a grand manner. Valerie and Jack mentioned their trips to Ashville and Baltimore. Nubia Soto had been to Puerto Rico and Mary Mclean had undertaken several day trips to neighbouring places like Butterfly Museum, the Flower Show at Gainesville, and Cedar Key. Terry Taylor advised that he had become a grandfather, and told us about his various trips to New York as well as the discovery of new Red Coach bus service to Atlanta for just \$23 each way. Madan and Kiron had also become grandparents and had undertaken several trips to Tampa in this connection. Sharing such interesting family information brings our whole UN "family" closer together.



Everyone enjoyed Cantina Laredo's gourmet Mexican Food, served from the à la carte menu. After the meal, we all went outside to enjoy the scenic view from the restaurant's back yard – little Italy (a huge fountain) and the canal-like Venice, which was a very refreshing experience.

Please do not forget to make your reservations ASAP for the cruise leaving on 14 May 2011. For more information please contact Madan Arora by email: marora.afics@yahoo.com or telephone: 407-971-9259.

Madan Arora
Photo by Marie McLean

UNICEF

FORMER UNICEF STAFF MEET IN THE "AMERICAN PARADISE"

"Meeting in Paradise?" Unheard of, yet here we were on St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands, commonly referred to as the "American Paradise," from 20 to 25 October 2010.

Nine UNICEF colleagues (including two spouses) were comfortably accommodated at the Caravelle Hotel at the boardwalk with views of Christiansted harbour, and they joined Isabel and Horst Cerni who hosted the reunion. Everyone was happy to renew friendships and exchange news.

The reunion started at the Cerni family home, "Casita Rosada," high on a hill overlooking the town and the Caribbean Sea. The family provided hospitality and entertainment, beginning with a song by the grandchildren Daniel (10) and Nadia (9). A walk down and up through the hillside garden, landscaped with memories of New York (along 'Broadway' to 'Columbus Circle' and 'Times Square'), gave an extra appetite for Happy Hour refreshments and a delicious home-cooked Caribbean dinner on the deck, under the full moon and the starry sky.

The next day was spent at the beach and in the clear Caribbean Sea, across from historic Christiansted on the Protestant Cay, a short boat ride from the hotel. Lunch was served under the palm trees with a marvellous view of sailboats gliding in the distance. That afternoon, we had a tour of the 18th century Government House. The Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, John de Jongh, chatted with us for a while, and then flew off to St. Thomas for a re-election rally. The Virgin Islands have a long and colourful history, in part revealed in the architecture and artefacts of Government House. St. Croix had been populated since the 4th century by various Indian tribes, and when Columbus discovered the island – the only American possession where he actually landed – on his second voyage in 1493, he was driven off by the Carib Indians. Since then, the Virgin Islands were occupied by seven different nations, and belonged to Denmark until 1917, when the United States purchased them.

On Saturday, 23 October, a Safari open bus took us around the Western part of the island, starting with a tour of the new Diageo Captain Morgan distillery, then a visit to the Univer-

sity of the Virgin Islands, a stop at famous Armstrong ice cream, and on to Frederiksted and its beautiful waterfront and a visit to the Caribbean Museum Center for the Arts. We had a delicious lunch at Sandcastle on the Beach, with the blue



and green Sea in front of us, and gentle breezes making us wish for a hammock in which to relax. But on we went to see the Butler Sugar Estate ruins. (St. Croix was the world leader in sugar production in the 18th and 19th century, and produced sugar until the mid- 20th century; now, the molasses for the rum produc-

tion are imported from other Caribbean islands and Central America.) We drove through the rainforest and had a drink at the Carambola Renaissance Beach Resort, where a wedding ceremony was being set up on the beach right near the crashing waves – not a good omen, we thought!

Sunday morning was worship time, and at the Lutheran Church, the first established by the Danes in 1734, tribute was paid to the 65th Anniversary commemoration of the founding of the United Nations with the singing of "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me...." In the afternoon, we went to the Easternmost point of the United States, Point Udall, named after Stewart Udall, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, for his efforts to protect the environment and for making Christiansted, St. Croix, a National Historic site.

We continued to the South Shore, near the Divi Carina Bay Resort and Casino, and were treated to smoothies and snacks at the amazing house of friends of the Cernis, Mr. & Mrs. Larry and Peggy Meyer. Some of us relaxed in the pool, and everyone 'chilled out' and enjoyed the breeze.

The farewell dinner took place at Tamarind Reef Hotel, unfortunately too late to enjoy the beautiful Palm-lined beach and to catch a glimpse of the iguanas living at the marina. The UN flag, framed by the U.S. and the V.I. flags, added to the festive atmosphere of the evening, waving in the breeze.

Besides some serious moments – reflecting on the late Merrill Cassell and his legacy of "Merrill's Law" to require motorists to pass cyclists at a safe distance – and remembering former UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Charles Egger, who had just passed away, we also talked about our retirement experiences and expressed a strong interest in meeting again next

year. (An earlier xUNICEF Reunion had taken place in Sri Lanka, and last year reunions took place in Italy and Florida.) Where and when we will meet in 2011 remained undecided.

Horst Cerni

CANADA

REPORT ON THE 14TH UN/CAFICS LUNCHEON

The passage of time is a strange thing; it just makes the heart grow fonder. Six months have passed and it is as though no time has passed at all.

On 7 December 2010, everyone came in to the Gatsby Mansion in Victoria, British Columbia with a hearty smile, ready to socialize. The warm atmosphere of the foyer, the charming Victorian décor and the friendly staff set the tone for the luncheon.

After the first half hour of social interaction, with a drink of choice in hand, everyone was seated in the drawing room where the tables were beautifully laid and decorated with the season's festive colours.

This place is characterized as an "award-winning restaurant where the style is West Coast cuisine" and it lived up to its description. The food was beautifully served and delicious.

For those who may be contemplating starting a group similar to ours in their community we would like to share a little of what we do at our luncheons:

All of our guests are given a badge with their name on it. But we purposely do not include their affiliation to a particular international organization to encourage interaction with one another. This has proven highly successful.

- On all tables there is a list of those attending, not by name, but by affiliation, which encourages further discussion amongst the guests. The various agencies are only shown by their acronym, which is some times puzzling, so we have a binder with the mission statement of each agency, represented by guests past and present. Over the years this feature has proven to be very informative for everyone and it is expanding quite rapidly. For this luncheon guests were from ESA/ IAEA/ ICAO/ ILO/ UN-HABITAT/ UNCOP UOS/ UNDP/ UNESCO/ UNHCR/ UNRWA. Do you know them all?
- We have taken photographs since the inception of our luncheons, about 10 or so per each, and created an album so everyone can see who has joined us; sometimes guests even recognize former colleagues. The album has proven to be highly popular.

So here we are, looking to celebrate our 8th year of luncheons with our special 15th anniversary UN/CAFICS luncheon on June 14, 2011 at the Gatsby Mansion once again.

Thank you to all our guests for making this event so successful.

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

PAUL DONALD McCUSKER LAWYER-DIPLOMAT DIES AT 89



Paul Donald McCusker, age 89, born September 23, 1921, passed away at home in Durham, North Carolina, on 23 November 2010 after a long illness and less than three months after the death of his wife of 62 years, Joan.

Born in Niagara Falls, NY, Paul grew up with one foot on each side of

the U.S.-Canadian border, especially since his father Alexander had come from Canada, and his mother, Catherine Barron, from Ardsley in Westchester County, NY.

Beginning life as an internationalist, he earned early prominence by winning a number of spelling bees, culminating in second place ("Boy Champion Speller of the United States") in the National Spelling Contest of 1935, sponsored by his regional newspaper, *The Buffalo Evening News*. A girl won first.

He went on to the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, and was "accelerated" to graduate with a B.A. in Economics after three years because World War II had already begun and the U.S. Army was eager to have him. Selected for the Army Specialized Training Program, he was assigned to Stanford University to study the Italian language and the European area.

While at Stanford, Paul met his future wife, Joan Gross from Denver, Colorado, who was studying at Mills College in Oakland. He became fluent in Italian but the Army did not choose to send him to Italy during the War; he was instead sent to India, his first foreign assignment and first round-the-world trip.

Honourably discharged in 1946, Mr. McCusker decided against a Foreign Service career, although he had passed the

written examinations, in favour of a law degree from Cornell Law School. Admitted to practice in 1949, he and his wife sailed off to Rome, Italy, as he had won a Fulbright Fellowship to do research in the Italian legal system for a year.

Towards the end of his Fulbright studies of Italian law, the American Embassy in Rome, aware of Paul's background in both Italian and American law, arranged to offer him a post as a Legal Officer to assist American citizens claiming against Italy under the Peace Treaty of 1946 for property losses resulting from World War II. After a year as Deputy Agent of the U.S. before the Italian-United States Conciliation Commission set up under the Peace Treaty, he was named Secretary of the Commission and legal consultant to the American member of the Commission.

During his six-year sojourn in Rome, Paul became a career Foreign Service Officer, earned a doctoral degree in Italian law from the University of Rome and lectured in Italian extensively throughout Italy on comparative political-legal topics. The McCusker's first two children, Karen and Mary, were born in Rome.

Transferred to the Department of State in Washington in 1955, Paul found that he was to become a bureaucrat rather than a diplomat but nonetheless became an expert in international judicial assistance and the functions of consular officers.

In 1959 he and his family were sent to Hamburg, Germany, where he was Number Two in a large Consulate General, first as Chief of the Consular Section and then as Chief of the Economic/Commercial Section. As it takes two Americans to make a good Hamburger, Paul's and Joan's first son, Paul Alexander, was born there, just as the first post war American naval visit (of the USS Essex aircraft carrier) was taking place in 1962. In 1963 Paul was named to the U.S. Delegation to the Vienna UN Conference on the multilateral Consular Relations Convention, which was duly adopted that same year.

From chilly Hamburg Paul was transferred in 1964 to tropical Jakarta, Indonesia, where he served as Commercial Attaché, then Counsellor of Embassy for Economic Affairs during a period that included the 1965-66 political upheaval there when the Embassy families were evacuated and President

Sukarno was eased out while President Suharto came to power. The family's fourth child, Ian Francis, was born in 1967 at Penang, Malaysia.

After five years in Indonesia, Paul had an opportunity to leave the U.S. Foreign Service and become an international civil servant with the Secretariat of the United Nations, first at its Headquarters in New York, then for three years in Vienna, and finally back in New York, residing with the family in the suburb of Pelham.

Retired from the UN in 1982 at the level of Director, Paul joined the midtown law firm of Garrity, Connolly, Lewis, Lowry & Grimes as counsel and, 33 years after admission to the New York bar, undertook the private practice of law. Following occasional consulting assignments with the United Nations at Headquarters and in Rome, Italy, he withdrew from active law practice with the firm of Garrity & McCusker at the end of 1993 but continued to do pro bono legal work. He also translated a book on the popes (*The Popes: Histories and Secrets* by Claudio Rendina) from the Italian.

Beginning in 1982, Paul taught graduate students a course in Public International Law and was, at his death, still Adjunct Professor at Long Island University.

Paul McCusker was a member of the American Society of International Law, the Fulbright Association and the Rotary Club of the Pelhams, as well as of the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS {NY}), where he served on the Governing Board, as Chair of the Legal Committee, and was one of the founders of the AFICS (NY) Charities Foundation.

Paul was predeceased by both his wife, Joan, and their youngest son, Ian Francis, who died at age 18 on the Georgetown University campus as the result of a fall while playing Frisbee. He leaves three children, Karen McCusker of Chevy, France, Mary McCusker McLoughney of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and Paul Alexander McCusker of Maccannex, France; five grand-children, Claire McCusker, Tessa and Rory McLoughney and Daniel and Samuel McCusker Alvarez; and two step-grandchildren, Daragh and Niamh McLoughney of Dublin, Ireland.

Anyone wishing to remember Paul with a contribution in his name, may make a donation to the scholarship fund set up for Ian (to be sent to Georgetown University Office of Advancement, Attn. Jessica Perlman, 2115 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20007).

Karen McCusker

HELEN GEFFEN ROHT

LONG-TIME AFICS ACTIVIST ("GEFF") DIES AT 93

Helen Geffen Roht, a long-time member of AFICS and head of its Committee on Aging for over a decade, died at home on 1 December. She was 93 years old.

Helen was one of the few remaining original employees of the United Nations, where she started work in 1946. She was a true New Yorker, with a great spirit of adventure and a flair for drama. Helen grew up in the Bronx, and graduated from Hunter College with a degree in French literature. She developed a love of all things French early in life, which led to her first job as the manager of a French-language theatre company in Manhattan.

In 1941, she joined the war effort, crossing from New York to London on the last civilian ship to make it through the U-Boat blockade. In London, she



worked for the U.S. Government broadcasting war-related information to France. She survived the bombing of her office and apartment, and collaborated with the French resistance. She moved to Paris upon its liberation, and there spent time with photographers and painters before returning home.

Soon after returning to New York, Helen moved abroad again, to Mexico, where she worked on literacy programs and enjoyed the bohemian life. In 1946 she returned to New York after receiving an offer to work for the newly formed United Nations. She worked as a translator, editor and précis writer for the UN until her retirement. Through her UN post, she lived in Chile in 1967-68, and

travelled all over the world together with her husband, George. She was known around the UN as “Geff.”

In her sixties, Helen became interested in the then-emerging field of gerontology, and obtained a Master’s degree from Columbia University on the subject. She was a long-time member, Honorary Board Member and active participant in the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS), for which she organized seminars on topics related to graceful ageing for over a decade. Her seminars at times attracted over a hundred participants, on topics ranging from retirement planning to remaining physically fit in retirement. The last of these included ballroom dancing and tai-chi demonstrations! Helen was herself a marvel of graceful aging. Her dedication to AFICS and her hard work on behalf of the organization will be greatly missed.

Helen was married for over 40 years to George Roht, who died in 1999. She is survived by her daughter Naomi Roht-Arriaza, a professor of law at the University of California, Hastings in San Francisco, and by her grandchildren Laura and Rafael.

A memorial service for Helen was held at 3 pm on Sunday, 12 December at the RIVAA Art Gallery, which she helped to found on Roosevelt Island, where she lived. Despite inclement weather, the auditorium was packed! True to her meticulous attention to detail, a booklet on Helen’s life was distributed, complete with photos of her through the various stages of her long life. A reading copy is available in the AFICS office.

Naomi Roht-Arriaza

EITHNE SAX

Eithne Golden Sax, a retired member of the English Translation Service, an outstanding linguist and one of the most interesting and colourful employees of the early United Nations, died peacefully in Maplewood, New Jersey on 5 October 2010 at the age of 91.

Her United Nations career began in 1949, when the Organization was still at Lake Success. After working for two years in the Trusteeship Typing Pool she left to join the Voice of America, where she produced music programmes in Tatar and Uzbek, and where she met her husband, Ernie Sax. Together they gave memorable parties where United Nations staff mingled with musicians, artists and broadcasters.

In 1956 she returned to the United Nations as a translator, producing elegant English translations from French, Russian and Spanish. She could also translate from Catalan, Portuguese, Tatar and Turkish, and learned Irish after retirement. She became a Reviser in 1969 and a Senior Reviser in 1976 and retired in 1979. The many missions to which she was assigned took her to such countries as Germany, India, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela, and as a freelance retiree, Malaysia and Cameroon. After retiring Eithne served for many years as a volunteer with Planned Parenthood and received an award for her work.



Eithne was born in New York but grew up in Taos, New Mexico, an art colony, where her family was friendly with such local luminaries as D. H. Lawrence's widow Frieda, their friend the painter Lady Dorothy Brett, and Mabel Dodge Luhan, the automobile heiress and patron of the arts. There Eithne began her linguistic studies, learning Spanish from the prominent Irish Republican Ernie O'Malley and Russian from a Russian neighbour.

At the age of 17 she came to New York, where she studied singing and classical guitar and learned Portuguese. In 1940 she was recruited by the United States Foreign Service and from that year until 1942 worked at the American Legation in Lisbon, where she became something of a celebrity after a local newspaper

published a long article about the pretty American girl who spoke fluent Portuguese, played the Portuguese guitar and sang fado. Returning to New York in 1943, she worked for the Catalan government-in-exile, adding Catalan to her list of languages. She also joined the New York Society for the Classical Guitar and in 1946 became a founder of Guitar Review magazine.

In addition to being a gifted linguist and an accomplished musician, Eithne was also an intrepid traveller, often traveling alone and devising unusual itineraries that took her to interesting, out-of-the-way places. In 1993 she went to central

Asia with a travel group and celebrated her seventy-fourth birthday in Kyrgyzstan with a barbecue party organized in their camp by her fellow travellers and attended also by some local Kyrgyz shepherds. In 1995 she returned to Kyrgyzstan, traveling solo, to attend the "Festival of a Thousand Yurts." She described this as "the most exciting thing" she had ever done, and it formed a fittingly exotic finale to her travels.

Eithne was predeceased by her brother Terence Golden, who died in 2008, and by her twin sister Deidre Katz, who died in

May 2010. She is survived by her nephews and niece, Peter, Roland, David and Dorcas, and by her 10 grandnieces and grandnephews.

All of the many friends she made during her long and colourful career sincerely mourn her passing. We shall not look upon her like again.

JRB, AMH

IN MEMORIAM

The United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund has furnished AFICS (NY) with the following information, covering the period 1 September 2010 to 30 November 2010, 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

Arditi, Nessim	11.10.201
*Arevalo, J.	26.08.2010
Cantillana, Manuel Jesus	31.08.2010
Cohen, Ernesto	27.10.2010
Ewer, L.	13.09.2010
Power Aliberti, Alejandro	02.04.2010

UNECA

Brown, Milward Berganza	02.09.2010
Thisen, Jean Kashala	05.10.2010

UNESCAP

Begum, Razia	16.10.2010
Chinnavaso, Amnuay	06.09.2010
Komkai, Sodsri	26.10.2010
*Manalac, A.S.	25.09.2010
Thassondhes, S.	26.07.2010

UNESCWA

Motlek Ramadan, Sobha F.	18.08.2010
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ICJ

Jansen (Maronier), Petronella	13.10.2010
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UN/HQ

Ahmad, Mohiuddin	19.07.2010
*Balleza, Santiago	10.11.2010
*Bateson, Yvonne	29.10.2010

* Bergas, Thérèse S.	19.11.2010
Bhagwat, Singh	03.09.2010
* Boeglin, B.	26.07.2010
Carballude, A.	24.10.2010
* Carlstrom, Joan	24.06.2010
* Castelet, Suzanne	20.08.2010
* Christ, V.M.	21.06.2010
Daroussos, Peter	28.08.2010
Davis, Alice L.	30.07.2010
De Busscher, Cecile	09.09.2010
De La Torriente	03.10.2010
Dube, K.	02.07.2010
Elmenshawy, Hosnia	12.10.2010
Fernando, Eulalie Lilah	11.09.2010
* Ferrara, Florence Joan	16.09.2010
Gaca-Costa, José Francis	24.09.2010
* Gueye, Ousmane	13.11.2010
Halper, Robert	10.11.2010
Hebrard, Lucille	20.10.2010
Hriso, Omiros	29.08.2010
* Hoer, Stefana	23.10.2010
Ibrahim, Fattia	23.09.2010
Jacobson, Firoza	11.09.2010
Kamara, Fode Sorie	10.10.2010
Katz, Marion	14.10.2010
* LeBlanc, O.R.	13.10.2010
* Lister, Frederick	12.02.2010
Lu, Jin Qiu	14.10.2010
* Lukas, Ellen	26.08.2010
* Lutz, Edward	27.07.2010
* Majkowski, Francis Anthony	22.09.2010

Makovsky, G.	09.10.2010	UNDP – H/Q & INT	
Massah, Mohamadou A.	27.07.2010	* Castro Martinez, Carmen	26.08.2010
* Muller, R.G.	20.09.2010	Davidson, Alexander	19.09.2010
* Mykolyn, Anne	13.09.2010	Eriksen, Erik B.	25.10.2010
Noel, A.T.	24.09.2010	Mouchabek, Elias-Henry Michael	06.09.2010
Ojeda, Francisco J.	04.11.2010	Subias, P.	19.08.2010
Ruefli, Werner	12.09.2010		
Perez-Arribas, Ildefonso	27.09.2010	UNDP – LOCAL	
* Petigura, P.P.	03.09.2010	Abdillahi, Abdi Ali	22.04.2010
Piccione, Frank	17.09.2010	Ali, S. Mazhar	09.09.2010
* Sax, Eithne G.	05.10.2010	Ambrois, Martha	31.10.2010
Scaturro, Nancy	26.10.2010	Belawuti, Abdul Aziz	Unknown
Shimizu, Atsuko	11.08.2010	Choudhuri, Eela	06.10.2010
Siddiq, Abdul Wahab	05.09.2010	Crocker Pinto, Manuel Fernando	23.09.2010
Soldati, Giuseppe V	10.09.2010	Danguere, Germaine	08.09.2010
* Stanford, L.V.	15.09.2010	Dass, Arul	02.07.2010
Tadesse, Negash	05.06.2010	De La Rosa, G.	21.01.2010
* Thompson, Janice	26.09.2010	Gonzalez, Judith M.	04.09.2010
* Tigera, Emila	17.09.2010	Khamidjanova, Muattar	01.07.2009
Tomas, C. Sandra	07.08.2010	Megherdichians, Alec Aram	10.09.2010
* Yellen, Robert	09.04.2010	Mohammed, Multan	13.08.2010
		Rashid, Rokeya	30.09.2010
UN/GENEVA		Samba, Alexis	27.12.2008
Bertrand, Albert	09.10.2010	Sarbar, Fatima	12.09.2010
Buraas, Anders	07.05.2010	Sibazuri, Machozi	Unknown
Caballero-Marsal, Gloria	22.09.2010	Zoughlami, Younes	30.05.2010
Djordjevitch, Adrienne	18.10.2010		
Dupuy, Gisele	31.08.2010	UNEP	
Dusoulier, Nathalie	29.08.2010	Golubev, Genady Nikolaevi	11.08.2010
Guy, Christiane M.	30.09.2010	Sarma, K. Madhava	30.09.2010
Kuenstler, P.H.	16.11.2010		
Le Coultre, Marianne	25.08.2010	UNHCR	
Matringe, Gerard	26.10.2010	Kinani, Jean-Marie	01.10.2010
Michaux, M. Cedric R.A.	25.09.2010	Looi, Hwee Choo	22.11.2010
Nebrasov, T.	28.09.2010	Mahmoud, Moursal Ahmed A.	07.10.2010
Pearse, Grace	06.06.2010	Mollard, Jean-Bernard	04.10.2010
Pitteloud, M. Georges	27.09.2010		
Powers, Alida	11.09.2010	UNIC	
Riviere, Jean-Paul	07.10.2010	Tuvi, Michael	Unknown
Rothman, Beatrice	25.09.2010		
Roulet, Suzanne-Margu	27.07.2010	UNICEF – HQ/INTL	
Sailly Ratry, Marcelle Marie Maria	20.09.2010	Egger, C.A.	12.10.2010
Simon, Irene Elaine Marie	20.10.2010	Smithwick, Francis F.	01.09.2010
Stone, Peter Bennet	10.11.2010		
Wallen, Carl Axel Christian	29.08.2010	UNICEF/LOCAL	
Wigginton, Marianne Winifred	02.08.2010	Abdel Majid, Abdel Majid	23.08.2010
		Natanagara, Daradjat Achmad	01.09.2010
UNCHS			
Muench, Louis H.	25.10.2010	UNMIBH	
Solis, Cesar A.	16.10.2010	Tripkovic, Slavka	Unknown
UNDOF			
Ghazaleh, Elias	23.10.2010	UNON	
		Wambugu, David Godfrey	28.06.2010

UNOV				
Fortin Maradiaga, Marianela	31.10.2010		Bojadziewski, E.	01.09.2010
Hoegh, Hans	31.10.2010		Bougle, Bernard R.	15.10.2010
Wolfschlag, Marie H.	19.09.2010		Brookson, Shiela	27.08.2010
			Canard, Pierre Felix	11.09.2010
UNRWA			Chiarappa, Luigi Renato	30.09.2010
Breitfeld, Harald I.E.	Unknown		Conde, Ramon	02.10.2010
Nichols, Derek	29.10.2010		Corbert, Florence	25.08.2010
			Corona, Bruno	30.08.2010
UNTSO			* Dalton, John H.	09.09.2010
Adwan, Fatmi	08.07.2010		De Angelis, Franco	24.09.2010
Asfour, Nasif Ayyoub	04.10.2010		De Salcedo, Amparo	01.11.2010
El-Liddawi, Amina	12.10.2010		Di Lernia, Flavio B.	11.11.2010
			Donati, Claudio	21.10.2010
			El-Shorabagy, Mostafa Ahmed	06.05.2010
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES			Ferri, Franco	05.10.2010
			*Fong, Rosetta	15.09.2010
ILO			Garrick, Marguerite	11.10.2010
Artimana, Yvonne	15.09.2010		Golding, Robert Manuel	29.09.2010
Aziz, Abdul Majid	17.09.2010		Goswami, Geeta	31.07.2010
Bailey, Clive	02.10.2010		Habito, C.	20.09.2010
Brunetti, M. Roland	05.10.2010		Hallebeek-Fugli, Johanna	19.09.2010
Burns (Smith), Eileen	27.10.2010		Hamid, Ismat	30.10.2010
Codina-Giralt, Francisco	03.09.2010		Harada, K.	25.10.2010
Debray, P.V.A.	21.10.2010		Jasinski, Amalia	02.10.2010
Diop Diallo, Astou	14.09.2910		Kackley, John Baile	15.11.2010
Dumoulin, Gilbert Jean	02.11.2010		Lagana, A.	13.09.2010
Fatigati, Danielle	23.08.2010		Lenti Coccarelli, Teresa	17.11.2010
Francis, Kathleen	01.09.2010		Martin De La Paz, Dolores	09.04.2010
Hennis, Marjorie	06.09.2010		Matteucci, Annalisa	10.10.2010
Herrero Garcia, Lucas	02.09.2010		Moscatelli, Giuliana	04.10.2010
Hodsdon, Dennis	28.09.2010		Mwanza, Austin	14.10.2010
Ismail, Mary A.	27.09.2010		Pettracchi, G.	02.09.2010
Jesse, Andreas	09.11.2010		Quaye, Dorothy	01.08.2010
Kiriloff, Marie	27.08.2010		Reichardt, H.J.	01.10.2010
Malo, Juan Alfredo	27.09.2010		Ryan, B.P.	22.10.2010
Moran, Mary Scott Allan	26.07.2010		Swaminath, Mathilakath	Unknown
Ner, Violette Julia	23.09.2010		Sevar, Josip	10.09.2010
Perera, Walgampelage	20.09.2010		Thrower, Margaret Rosamunde	30.10.2010
Pickett, Liam	02.09.2010		Torrence, Avis	05.11.2010
Samson, K.T.	04.10.2010		Vaccari, Giuseppe	17.09.2010
Scastiglia, Francesco	11.11.2010		Van Der Meeren, Evelyn Rachel	13.10.2010
Scherer, Laura	08.11.2010		Yriart, Riley Collette Moore	09.09.2010
Tampe, Birke Alfredo	04.10.2010			
Tofino-Orejuela, Jorge	27.08.2010		UNESCO	
Villaseca, M.R.	17.09.2010		Ahmed, Zaki M.M.	09.10.2010
Ypsilantis, J.N.	12.09.2010		Alvarez Fernandez, Ceferino	26.08.2010
			Araneda Gonzalez, Maria Ines	17.09.2010
FAO			Balyejusa, Paul	11.07.2010
Alujevic, Milka	07.09.2010		Bekri, C.	03.08.2010
Archer, Anthony Clifford	14.09.2010		*Brada, Ruzena	04.05.2010
Arigoni, E.	10.08.2010		Bryzgalova, Lilie	18.10.2010
Basu, Satyasunder	31.08.2010		Chopelet, Claude	23.08.2010
Beaugendre, Gustave André	27.10.2010		Cisse, Mamadou	17.10.2010
			Coste, Paul	11.08.2010

De La Cruz, Celia	22.10.2010	Sanson De Peltant, Maria	28.10.2010
Diamand, Gisele	28.10.2010	Souchkevitch, Guennadi	06.07.2010
Hermans De Heel, Eugene M.	22.10.2010	Sundaresan, Thripurasundari	31.08.2010
Imbert, Gloriane	06.09.2010	Walton, Elmira Jeanne	27.10.2010
Joel, Nahum	07.08.2010	Ward-Brew, Kweku	07.03.2010
Mysliwicz, F.	27.10.2010	* Yakowitz, Maryvee	11.09.2010
Pautrat, Jean Jacques	21.09.2010	Yen, Wang Pei	Unknown
Picasso De Oyague, Alfredo	27.10.2010		
Pierce, Josephine	24.09.2010	ICAO	
Sireau, Albert	02.10.2010	Bourgeois, M.	05.07.2010
Souriau, Micheline	17.10.2010	Frass, Anton John	14.09.2010
Sundriyal, Jagdish	01.08.2010	Funnell, E.	16.09.2010
Williams, Thesol M.	14.08.2010	Gagnon, Jacqueline	26.09.2010
		Gagnon, Rejane	01.09.2010
		Ndiaye, Mamadou	10.08.2010
		Oghanessian, Aghavni Haig	09.09.2010
WHO		* Ramos, Lilia	28.10.2010
Baker, William G.	17.08.2010	Rath, Ulric	18.10.2010
Bardos, Elizabeth	14.10.2010	Sen, Kalyani	Unknown
Belli (Delaspre), Anne Marie	11.11.2010	Ulloa, Emilio	27.11.2010
Bernadat, Hubert G.V.	04.11.2010	Zay, Emilia F.	08.01.2010
Bertrand, Albert J.C.	09.10.2010		
Chauhan, Muneshwar Ram	14.08.2010	WMO	
Cohen, Nicholas	15.09.2010	Apollon, Rose-Thérèse	17.11.2010
Davis, Rona A.	23.09.2010	Nemec, Jaromir	03.10.2010
Dimix, Etienne Benjami	20.10.2010	Steffen, Agnes	25.04.2010
Drexler, Leopold H.	04.10.2010		
Duckworth-Barker, Kathleen Mary	04.11.2010	GATT	
Dumoulin, Jacques A.	06.10.2010	Pataky, O.	31.10.2010
Edwards, Brian J.	23.10.2010	Ryman, Virginia Anne	09.10.2010
Favre, Robert F.L.	04.11.2010		
Fernandez, Isabel	11.08.2010	IAEA	
Friberg, Ruth	16.08.2010	Brunovsky, Karl	14.08.2010
Funes Martin, Maria L.	31.12.2009	Edminster, S.A.	09.09.2010
* Gerald, Alfred	06.11.2010	Clark, Mary Kay	08.11.2010
Green, Barbara Mary	19.08.2010	Fedoreeva, Lyudmilla	11.08.2010
Gupta, Jeoti Prakash	23.08.2010	La Vallee, C.F.	11.10.2005
Jeje, Francis R.	09.09.2010	Pell, Eva Maria	16.09.2010
* Karefa-Smart, John	26.08.2010	Rubinstein, Georges	26.08.2010
Kjolbye, Elsebet	10.11.2010	White, David Keith	20.10.2010
Lawson, Faustin	07.11.2010	Yuan, Sylvia	17.11.2009
Mahadev, Tulsi	04.11.2010		
Makuto, Daniel Gwinyai	23.09.2010	IMO	
Mbaloula, Dominique	08.11.2010	Busha, Thomas S.	17.10.2010
McMahon, Rosemary	05.10.2010	Stewart, C.A.R.	25.08.2010
Morgan, John E.	18.06.2010		
Natarajan, Odaiyakulam V.	Unknown	ITU	
Njai, Sheku C.	28.04.2009	Chollet, Fernande	21.08.2010
O'Regan, Michael J.	Unknown	Da Riva, F.	07.09.2010
Ornstedt, Synnove	07.08.2010	Francis, John	18.09.2010
Porta Y Ceballo, Maria Josefa	30.09.2010	Metayer, Suzanne	04.10.2010
Pronczuk De Garbino, Jenny	20.09.2010	Sidibe, Mamadou	09.09.2010
Purcallas, Elsa	20.09.2010	Schuli, Nora	15.10.2010
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Rovatti, Alfredo	21.07.2010		

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Bouchez, Daniel 25.09.2010
 Collet, Clemence 21.09.2010

Falcke, Tarja-Liisa 22.09.2010
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 Miklovicz, Andras 17.10.2010
 Moll, John-Peter 30.08.2010
 Shawkat, Luay Rafat 31.07.2010
 Stosic, Ljubinka 18.08.2010
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Ali, Hussein 13.10.2010
 Finocchiaro, Salvatore 23.09.2010

UNIDO

Alli, Meer Hassan 25.08.2010
 Balano, Elsie Gage 04.11.2010
 Cobanov, Blagoj 24.10.2010
 Dowell, John Cameron 24.09.2010

* **Member of AFICS (NY)**

UTILIZING THE VIRGINIA HAZZARD LEGACY FUND

The Sub-Committee on Ageing-NY (CoA) of the Conference of NGOS (CoNGO) received a legacy from Virginia Hazzard, who passed away in October 2008 at the age of 89. A tireless advocate for older persons and other UN causes, Virginia was a much-admired member of AFICS (NY), as well as the CoA. Devising ways to utilize her legacy is the task of the Sub-Committee, headed by former CoA President Helen Hamlin.

Having met to discuss the subject, the Sub-Committee:

- proposes to make an annual award to a person or group instrumental in addressing the issue of older persons. It is anticipated that the first such award will be bestowed during the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons, on 1 October 2011;
- is developing criteria for an “impact grant” to be awarded to an organization or group whose work involves and benefits older persons. For the year 2011 the focus is on microfinance; recognition will be given to efforts in this area by an organization in a developing or least developed country.

Suggestions on deserving recipients for either award are welcome, as are contributions to the Virginia Hazzard Legacy Fund. Please send name, address and a brief description of what the person or group you suggest has done or is doing for older persons to the Editor of the AFICS (NY) Bulletin: Ms. Mary Lynn Hanley, via e-mail at <Mlhanley11@aol.com> or mail c/o AFICS, (NY), Room DC1-580, United Nations, New York, NY 10017.

Cheques should be made out to the Virginia Hazzard Legacy Fund and mailed to the CoA Treasurer, Dr. Richard Velayo, Professor of Psychology, Pace University, 41 Park Row, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10038. Contributions are tax deductible.



Luciana Marulli
 AFICS/CNRI

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**We need Correspondents for other areas of the U.S., as well as other countries of the world not presently covered where AFICS(NY) members reside. Volunteers would be most welcome!*

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