



UNA New York's

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Newsletter
December 2006

Welcome to UNA–NY YPIC's quarterly newsletter, which is jam-packed with information, articles and events for internationally savvy and UN policy curious professionals. Read along.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chairman's Shout-Out	1
Refugees: 33 Million Unknown Faces	1
Ban Ki-Moon: Inside the 'Outsider'	3
Why is America Ambivalent about Ban Ki- Moon?	4
UNA-NY YPIC Event: Film Festival Portraits of Courage and Hope	5
Dear Diary: New Year's Resolutions	6
Latin American Leaders: Dissenters from Status Quo	6
UNA-NY YPIC Profile: Patricia Sacristan	7
UNA-NY YPIC Event: Fair Trade Bazaar	9
Taking YPIC Global: UNA Global Young Professionals	10
World Press Photo Review	11
UNA-NY YPIC Event: Global Leadership Skills in the 21st Century	12
Diplomatic Corner: Interview with Anika Rahman, President of Americans for UNFPA	13
UNA-NY YPIC Corner: Economic Development Committee	15
Word on the Street	15

YPIC CHAIRMAN'S SHOUT-OUT

The end of the year is a normal time of reflection for many people. As I look back over our second full year since I founded UNA–NY YPIC in May 2004, there are so many things of which to be proud. First and foremost, we have talented and enthusiastic Committee Directors and members. The quantity and quality of events they organized this year continued to highlight the number of issues the world faces today. In addition to issue-related events, we continued our highly successful Career Panels, hosting three this year, as well as our third Film Festival.

This year also brought about a number of firsts, one of which you are currently reading. In January we kicked off our quarterly newsletter that is "packed with information and events for the internationally savvy and UN policy curious professionals." Hopefully you enjoy reading it as much as I do. In May, we held our first annual Global Festival, which raised funds and awareness for the fight against HIV/AIDS. In October, we held our first annual Fair Trade Bazaar that you will read about in this newsletter. Lastly, in November, we had two members who were part of UNA–USA National YPIC's delegation to the WFUNA Plenary Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Read about their trip in this edition.

I look forward to another successful year and hope to see you soon.

–Kevin Jefferson
UNA-NY YPIC Founder & Chairman

REFUGEES: 33 MILLION UNKNOWN FACES

In 1959, when Chinese troops invaded Tibet, destroyed monasteries, suppressed Tibetan religion, and imprisoned or killed many of Tibet's people, the Dalai Lama, Tibet's spiritual and secular leader, was forced to seek political exile in India. In 1933, when Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany, Germany passed "The Law of the Restoration of the Civil Service," which forced all Jewish university professors out of their jobs. Thus, the inventor of the Theory of Relativity, Albert Einstein, forfeited his German citizenship and emigrated to America. The famous UK footballer Lomana Tresor LuaLua was originally born in Zaire, now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo; when he was 8 years old, Lomana was forced to move to the UK because his father's life was in danger. These examples of refugees are atypical; these are refugees with now famous names, faces, talents, acclaim, and heart, though they were once stigmatized as refugees, rejected from their homes, forced to relocate and rebuild their livelihoods.

But what of the majority of refugees and internally displaced persons who have no names, no faces? Today, 33 million people in the world live in temporary homes, and their faces are anonymous. The cause of their displacement always differs: a home washed away by natural disaster: a fire, a flood, a hurricane, a tsunami; national or international conflict, persecution or violence has made their homes unlivable. They are left with nothing but to ponder the cruelty of their fate and the uncertainty of their future. The poorest and

(continued on page 2)

REFUGEES: 33 MILLION UNKNOWN FACES (cont...)

weakest suffer most.

These people are forced to live in temporary homes, often not knowing the fate of their friends and loved ones. The average stay in a refugee camp is 17 years; for many young refugees, the camps are the only homes they have ever known. Refugees are trapped in the cycle of dependence on humanitarian aid. They are not permitted to stray far from the confines of the camps, and they cannot hold jobs. They are completely dependent on external aid for their livelihood.

Thus, humanitarian aid of food, shelter, medicine and psychological support from international organizations such as FilmAid International, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are tantamount to the betterment of these refugees. Under these aid programs, these desperate human beings are given the opportunity of psychological and physical recovery.

In order to expose this growing issue, the Humanitarian Affairs Committee of UNA-NY YPIC hosted an event, *The Refugee Situation: How Different Aid Organizations Address the Needs of the World's Most Vulnerable* at the Turkish Consulate on September 13, 2006. The event, which was attended by over 85 people, began with a cocktail networking hour, sponsored by the Amish Market, followed by a panel of representatives from FilmAid International, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and a Question-and-Answer session.



A group of gatherers in front of the film van at Kakuma Camp in Kenya.
(Photo courtesy filmaid.org)

In the panel, Elizabeth Silkes, Executive Director of FilmAid International, spoke about FilmAid's use of film to educate and inspire refugees in Kakuma and Dadaab Camps in Kenya and the Kibondo district refugee camps in Tanzania. These camps host outdoor evening screenings, which attract thousands of refugees, providing them with both life-saving information as well as a few hours of relief from their past, and the bleakness of their future. More intimate screenings held in classrooms give the refugees the opportunity to discuss topics such as peaceful conflict resolution and HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention.

Allan Jury, Director of External Relations for the World Food Programme, discussed the refugee situation and WFP's work to meet the Millennium Development Goal to reduce by half the number of hungry people in the world. Through its innovative programs, WFP uses food aid to help the world's poorest break out of the poverty cycle.

Gonzalo Vargas Llosa, Senior Policy Advisor for UNHCR-New York, discussed the effect of political situations in different countries on the refugee situation as well as UNHCR's position on the refugee situation. According to the 1951 *UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, a refugee is a person who "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country..." These are the people the UNHCR is charged with protecting.

Meanwhile, this problem is as much America's issue as it is a global issue. Refugees International states that the displacement of Iraqis from Iraq is now the fastest growing refugee crisis in the world. The UN has approximated that 2.3 million Iraqis have escaped the violence in their country, 1.8 million relocating to surrounding countries, while another 500,000 are displaced within their own country, seeking safer places to call home. Approximately 40,000 people leave Iraq every month for Syria alone. In the Central African Republic, there are one million refugees in need of humanitarian aid (Refugees International).

Organizations such as FilmAid International (www.filmaid.org), WFP (www.wfp.org) and UNHCR (www.UNHCR.org) give hope to the refugee situation. While their action speaks volumes, advocacy and awareness also goes a long way. As fellow New Yorkers, we should care about the welfare of refugees in other parts of the world. Get involved! Hear, listen, and act upon it! This is what the Young Professionals for International Cooperation and its Humanitarian Affairs Committee hope to achieve.

- Antoinette Miller, Director of UNA-NY YPIC's Humanitarian Affairs Committee
and Michelle Chaplin, YPIC Member

BAN KI-MOON: INSIDE THE 'OUTSIDER'



(Photo courtesy opiniojuris.org)

Days before he took office as United Nations Secretary-General on January 1st, 1997, Kofi Annan stated "I...do not know why there is a feeling that an outsider who doesn't know anything about the organization is somehow better suited to reform the organization than someone who knows it" (PBS.org). At the time, Annan was challenging the United Nations' historical tendency to elect Secretary-Generals with robust careers outside the organization, instead of candidates with in-depth United Nations experience; a rarity, Annan held 30 years of United Nations experience prior his Secretary-General inauguration. Throughout his 10-year term, the Ghanaian leader proved the value of his UN experience, galvanizing reform internally as well as stimulating international action externally. Through formulating ideas, like the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, and the Millennium Development Goals in September 2000, and promoting each vociferously around the world, he was able to elevate the position of Secretary-General to one of international acclaim and prestige; so much so BBC

dubbed him the "United Nations equivalent of royalty" (BBC News). For his efforts, Annan and the UN earned a Nobel Prize in 2000. However, though Annan had the "best intentions" during his reign, as the New York Times journalist James Traub notes in his recently released book *The Best Intentions: Kofi Annan and the UN in the Era of American Power*, Annan will leave behind an unfinished web of plans with myriad dangling threads of uncompleted reforms and unfinished tasks when his term ends on January 1st, 2007. Will his successor, South-Korea's Ban Ki-Moon, whom Mr. Annan may see as an "outsider" due to his 36-year diplomatic career, be able to weave Annan's 'best intentions' into results?

In photos, the 62-year old Ban Ki-Moon emits an air of modesty and studiousness, in simple, well-ironed suits and large glasses; often cameras catch his hands in expressive charade-like arrangements or clasped together in deep contemplation or attention. His hands tend to be the liveliest parts of shots.

The Guardian Newspaper depicts a United Nations staff member lamenting that Ban "is pretty faceless and does not have much charisma" (The Guardian). In a similar fashion, Ban's resume is tactfully laced with diplomatic achievements and his interviews are dotted with well-calculated anecdotes. Born and raised in South Korea, Ban Ki-Moon obtained a Masters in Harvard's School of Government. His ensuing diplomatic career led to posts in New Delhi and Washington D.C. When he transitioned to the South Korean government, Ban dutifully climbed the ranks as Director-General of American Affairs, Deputy Minister for Policy Planning, National Security Advisor and Foreign Policy Advisor to the President. At the Foreign Ministry, Ban also dabbled in UN-related activity, as the Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in Vienna in 1999. With enthusiasm only last witnessed in 1960s Lassie TV shows, Ban has gushed to the media about a brief encounter with President John F. Kennedy in a high school Red Cross trip to the White House; he insists that quick presidential meeting inspired him to pursue diplomacy. (US delegates- insert whimsical sigh here).

Does this airbrushed diplomatic person have the character it takes to lead the United Nations? Ban's superior at the CTBTO in Vienna, Wolfgang Hoffman, chides, "people should not interpret his 'soft approach' as a sign of weakness," said Hoffman. Hoffman states Ban is "very result-oriented," with "an analytical mind, and [can] see through people and situations very easily." Time Asia reports that during his time in the South Korean government, "in the face of opposition from his own diplomats, Ban reformed Seoul's foreign ministry, replacing a promotion system based on seniority with a meritocratic one. "He's an iron fist in a velvet glove," says an aide" (Time Asia). In fact, Ban himself argues he is a South Korean who has "risen out of the ashes of war." He states "We have done so through hard work, commitment, dedication and the help of friends, particularly the United Nations. Now we stand ready to pay back what we have owed" (BBC News). Thus, while some see Mr. Annan's spider web of reform as collapsing, others envision Ban's political tactics further propelling a successful reconstruction of Annan's fallen plans with tactful diplomacy and unassuming ingenuity.

Some argue his political tactics have already worked. After all, other 'charismatic' candidates did not gain the support of so many divergent world powers that Ban Ki-Moon obtained. Indeed, even the United States, which has been sparring with the United Nations and Mr. Annan in the past few years over the invasion in Iraq and the composition of the new Human Rights Council, favors Mr. Ban; Ban Ki-Moon was so intent on appeasing the United States, he once called the United States the UN's "most important member," which The Nation's UN reporter Ian Williams concluded "had some pious souls throwing up their hands in horror, since according to the (UN) Charter all members are equal" (The Nation). With such a close relationship

(continued on page 4)

BAN KI-MOON: INSIDE THE 'OUTSIDER' (cont...)

with the United States, Ban may have the opportunity to bridge the fissure between the world's most powerful country and the world's representative organization. Let us not forget about China, that was the other strong backer of Ban's election. Ban stated to the Chinese newspaper People's Daily that "he appreciates the strong support of the Chinese government and people for his election and pledged close cooperation with them in promoting peace, security and development, and human rights -- the three pillars of the United Nations" (People's Daily). To counter, The New York Times writer James Traub reports "both Washington and Beijing...sought a candidate who would be more "secretary" than "general" (NY Times). While it is not difficult to imagine this well-composed Westernized South Korean becoming a placid puppet to the nationalistic motives of both China and the United States, it remains unclear who is playing whom: Ban Ki-Moon, the United States or China.

- Faith-Ann Young, Editor-In-Chief of UNA-NY YPIC's Newsletter



YPIC OP-ED:

WHY IS AMERICA AMBIVALENT ABOUT BAN KI-MOON?

When South Korean Diplomat Ban Ki-Moon assumes office as Secretary-General of the United Nations on 1 January 2007, one would expect the world to wait in rapt attention. Ironically, in America- where the idea of United Nations was first begun under the ardent dreams and hopes of two American presidents- public opinion ranges from complete ambivalence to subtle frustration. Why is public concern for its new S.G. and the United Nations so low?

At the end of the Second World War, lands were devastated, 100 million people were dead, and the Allied powers were sick and tired of war. In America, which was in an economic boom, bustling with energy and automobiles, the Allied Powers gathered together to create

a world organization that would prevent another world war. Franklin D. Roosevelt coined the phrase United Nations and in 1945, representatives from 50 countries met in San Francisco to create the United Nations Charter, committing "to prevent war, to promote human rights, to provide a mechanism for international law, and to promote social progress and improved living standards." With great hope, the United Nations aspired to be the one world forum at which all major world problems could be addressed in a diplomatic fashion by each member state's delegation. Dag Hammarskjold, the second Secretary-General of the United Nations explained, "The principles of the Charter are, by far, greater than the Organization in which they are embodied, and the aims which they are to safeguard are holier than the policies of any single nation or people." (www.UN.org).

One reason public sentiment has declined since then is due to the behavior of the representatives of the member states. Unlike in 1945, when all had the same comprehension of war and the idea of peace, they could come to easy compromise. However, today the actions of the United Nations are often unhinged by a handful of member states who act in their own national interest, without regard to all one hundred and ninety one states, most of which are extraordinarily under developed. Ironically, America, on whose turf the United Nations was founded and where the headquarters remain today, has been one of the biggest challengers of United Nations policy. First, with entering the war in Iraq without UN approval, and second, by vocally opposing the composition of the new Security Council, the United States has been a hindrance to progression and consensus. If the top leaders do not set an example, what meter of conduct is left?

However, the United Nations is not only stunted by its member states, but by its own infrastructure. The United Nations has not yet lived up to its 1990s plans of creating a permanent peacekeeping force, and a global environmental council as counterpart to the Security Council. Also, it was caught knee-deep in the Oil-For-Food Scandal, which concluded that the United Nations' tolerated corruption and allowed Saddam Hussein's government to pocket \$10.2 billion. The Genocide in Rwanda in 1994 was an internationally lamented tragedy. The UN was unable to rally troops to Sierra Leone in 2000. In 2005, the United Nations failed to forcibly disarm the Congo militiamen; the fighting continues today. Today, the casualties in Darfur continue to mount, as the world watches, hands tied. The United Nations' itself is failing to live up to its founder's ideals.

(continued on page 5)

WHY IS AMERICA AMBIVALENT ABOUT BAN KI-MOON? (cont...)

The third impediment is the public's opinion. For instance, since the general attitude of the American public towards the United Nations appears to be ambivalence or hopelessness, there are few articles and few Op-Eds motivating the UN towards change. Most Americans simply appear unaware and misinformed. Since there are no voices clamoring for change, the United Nations remains as detached as ever from the world that it governs.

The United Nations requires the leadership of someone who is, above all, diplomatic - and a relentless manager, absolutely committed to not just leading the organization, but leading it to change. The incoming Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has been quite vocal in his interest of reforming the United Nations, stating, "I also know the criticism about inefficiency and corruption at the UN Secretariat." However, when he speaks for reform, he speaks broadly: "Through reform, the United Nations must be reborn as a viable and efficient organization so that it can properly deal with the challenges it faces in the 21st century." Ban has yet to reveal a detailed game plan to meet these vague reform goals. Ban Ki-Moon's ascension to S.G. presents the UN with a fertile time to begin the long awaited process of reformation. It can be seen as a cornerstone of change, or a cornerstone of defeat, depending on what progress is made after January 1st. Regardless, the mindset of change will be in the air in January 2007, with the first new Secretary-General in ten years.

- Kevin Jamison, Co-Director of UNA-NY YPIC's European Affairs Committee

YPIC FILM FESTIVAL: PORTRAITS OF HOPE AND COURAGE

UNA-NY YPIC hosted our third annual United Nations Association Film Festival Traveling Film Festival New York (UNAFF TFF), called "Portraits of Hope and Courage," on September 22, 2006. A throng of UNA-NY YPIC members gathered at the New York Film Academy to view four thought-provoking films that examined war and peace, humanitarian aid, poverty, women's issues and national identity in Armenia, Brazil, Cambodia, East Timor, Iraq, Israel, Mozambique, North Korea, Palestine, Russia, and the U.S.

Films screened this year included, *En Route to Baghdad*, which was a tribute to the life and work of renowned diplomat Sergio Vieira de Mello. It explored issues that impact the ability of UN humanitarian initiatives to move forward. Meanwhile, *Off to War* was a film that follows members of the 39th Brigade of the Arkansas National Guard on their ill-fated journey to war in Iraq while *Armenian Lullaby* was a vivid depiction of a poem that tells of an Armenian mother whose infant is lulled to sleep by the sounds of battle. *Paradise Lost* was an intimate diary of an Arab Israeli woman who attempts to recreate her hometown's lost innocence that offers valuable insight into the contradictions and complexities of modern womanhood and national identity in the Middle East.

The UNAFF is the world's only independent public film forum for exploring UN related issues, and celebrates the efforts of documentary filmmakers to fight for justice and dignity for all people around the world. Established nine years ago at Stanford University by film critic and educator Jasmina Bojic in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UNAFF screens documentaries by international filmmakers dealing with topics such as human rights, environmental survival, women's issues, children, refugee protection, homelessness, racism, disease control, universal education, war and peace. Encouraged by an overwhelming positive response from the audience and the media, UNAFF created a traveling film festival in 2000, which replicates the original festival in many of the UNA chapters across the country.

UNA-NY YPIC feels privileged to have hosted this impressive visual celebration with such poignant films. A special thanks to Jasmina Bojic, the United Nations Association Film Festival, our volunteers, the New York Film Academy, and our many viewers. We look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming annual UNAFF TFF next Fall.

-Liubov Grechen, UNA-NY YPIC's Vice Chair



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Dear Diary, Here are some New Year's Resolutions... Love, UNA-NY YPIC

1. Go see Blood Diamonds first thing in January
2. Listen to a lecture by Jeff Sachs at Columbia University's Earth Institute
3. Buy a hand-made bracelet from Invisible Children (www.invisiblechildren.com)
4. Join the rest of the bloggers raising money for World Food Programmes Fight against Hunger (www.wfp.org/english/?ModuleID=137&Key=2326)
5. Check out Alternative Gifts; Donate \$ (www.altgifts.org/binfolder/site/templates/splash.asp)
6. Send a heart-warming message that express concerns about global warming, air pollution and other environmental issues via the Natural Resources Defense Council (www.nrdc.org)
7. Buy an Apolis t-shirt; those guys are working for a good cause
8. Memorize and understand 5 top facts on Sustainability by Facing the Future (www.creativeaction.org/fast_facts.htm)

LATIN AMERICA'S LEADERS: DISSENTERS OF STATUS QUO

Within the current political landscape of Latin America, the media tends to give prominent coverage to the latest assembly of magnetic populist leaders who have been growing in power and popularity in the past few years. While some would say any coverage is better than no coverage, such narrow coverage creates a distorted image of the region's political cadre. For the past few years, some Latin American leaders have come to the forefront as rebels of the status quo. These days, the spotlight shines brightly, for better or for worse, on President Chavez of Venezuela, the fanatical dissenter with all things American. Meanwhile, in the foreground, Latin America is portrayed as a united front, a conglomerate of Spanish-speaking countries that share the same ideals and share the same problems. This generalized view does little justice to the true complexity and integrity of each Nation, while reducing the South American people to mere caricatures of their diverse selves.

Curtain call for Chavez – The UN General Assembly

Hugo Chavez has made quite an impression on the international community in the past year. Who can forget his all-too-memorable stunt during the UN General Assembly this September, when Chavez depicted George W. Bush as the devil incarnate?; the sulfur odor still lingers from the UN podium. UN representatives were understandably shocked as well as mildly amused; some even gave Chavez a standing ovation only to be asked to gain their composure. Why would UN delegates applaud such cavalier defiance to the Leader of the most powerful nation in the world? It was a telling moment at the most visible international platform of the world. This may seem like an outrage and an outright insult to the American public and understandably so, yet why the mixed response?



Courtesy of
<http://www.quepasa.com/english/cartoons/>

While I served as a consultant for the Haitian government in 2002, I had the opportunity to meet President Chavez during the Summit for European and Latin American Leaders in Madrid, Spain. At the time, I was convinced I was going to immediately dislike him given his populist rhetoric and bombastic attitude. However, much to my chagrin, I found him to be clever, intelligent and dare I say- charismatic. Here was the perfect example of a simple man who can convince the masses not only due to his charisma but because he, as the uncouth leader of the popular classes, has managed to gain a significant though much maligned profile in world politics. Thus, it should not come as a surprise that he was re-elected for a third consecutive term this December 3rd to another 6 years with a staggering 61% landslide electoral vote and mind you, no incidences of shady electoral practices. Nevertheless, as

(continued on page 7)

LATIN AMERICA'S LEADERS (cont...)

is the norm for all charismatic political leaders, his charm can only go so far as to fool us into making believers out of us. His pugnacious demeanor and manipulative practices still overrule social niceties.

Hegemonic regional power, Venezuelan-style

There has certainly been a massive shift in the Latin American political grid. The last thirteen months of electoral victories show a stream of newly minted Latin American elected leaders, starting with the highly polemic Evo Morales in Bolivia, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua and Rafael Correa of Ecuador. Some have a clear affiliation to Chavez either through financial or political backing.

The politically tangled network of Chavez' influence seems to extend well beyond its leftist core as well as national territory. For instance, Chavez allegedly provides but publicly denies refuge and training camps on Venezuela's soil at the border between Venezuela and Colombia to none other than the FARC, the Colombian leftist guerrilla group. This militant group is currently listed as an international terrorist group in the United States and Europe and the main culprit in the 45-year internal war in Colombia. The strained relations between Colombia and Venezuela are palpable.

Whether you are pro or against Chavez; it is safe to assume that his antics can hardly be avoided. He has proven more resilient than previously expected. Never mind the state of affairs in Venezuela, where crime has increased exponentially as the country's murder rate has tripled since he took office in 1999. And since 1991, the output of oil exports has diminished up to 16% from previous years, thanks to massive firing of half of its 40,000 employees of the state-owned PDVSA. Two thirds of which were managers and technical staff and considered a serious threat to Chavez's stability during the 2 month PDVSA strike in 2002 and were unceremoniously replaced by Chavez supporters who have little to no knowledge about running an oil company. Case in point, Chavez' brother, Adan manages the subsidized oil sales in the Caribbean as ambassador to Cuba.

But despite such crass fiscal irresponsibility, the Bolivarian revolution rages on as it largely owes its existence to an influx of inflated oil market prices coupled with the continuous campaign to distribute oil revenues to the poor through social projects. On the international plat-

(continued on page 8)



YPIC PROFILE

Most of you readers wonder who our UNA-NY YPIC leaders are....and who our writers are... to be "internationally-savvy" like you. Thus, from now on, we will profile one of our contributors to give you a bit of perspective...
...Read on...

WHO IS PATRICIA SACRISTAN?

Director of UNA-NY YPIC's
Latin American Affairs Committee

Born: in Bogotá, Colombia

Languages: Fluent in Spanish & French. Functional in Italian and Creole (FYI: she is known to burst out spontaneously in any of the above.)

Education: Educated in the United States and France. She holds a Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy and a Bachelor of Science in International Business Administration.

Entrepreneurship: While pursuing a career in international trade in Miami, Patricia managed her family's Import and Wholesale flower distributorship business in her early 20s.

Development: In 2002, Patricia had a perspective-altering experience, working in Haiti as the Foreign Relations Consultant for Hispanic Countries in the Communications Bureau of the Presidency at the National Palace of Haiti. She served as the primary contact person with high ranking foreign government officials, foreign investors and Spanish media outlets.

PROUSTIAN QUESTIONNAIRE....

Which historical figure do you most identify with? I don't really look back at history as a point of reference, but perhaps I should. Let me see.... Gandhi.

Which living person do you most admire? Bono

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself? My lack of punctuality. Perpetual CPT time

What is your favorite journey? Life in general

What is your current state of mind? Tranquil with short spurts of indecisiveness and a pinch of nit pickiness.

What is your most treasured possession? Nothing that I could not part with. When you have lived in different countries as I have, you learn to become detached of things.

Where would you like to live? Somewhere in Asia for 6 months.

What is your most marked characteristic? Tenacious and persistent

Who are your favorite writers? Paulo Coelho, Garcia Marquez, Malcolm Gladwell. Anyone at the Economist.

What is your motto? It is always worth it to make a leap of faith into the unknown. It is so gratifying to know that there is no such thing as mistakes but the opportunity to learn lessons and be all the wiser because of it.

What do you consider your greatest achievement? That is a perpetual work in progress. The verdict is still out.

LATIN AMERICA'S LEADERS: DISSENTERS OF STATUS QUO (cont...)

form, Chavez showers friendly governments with oil subsidies and preferential trade agreements or surreptitiously gives "foreign aid" via oil donations. The most controversial of all was the "donation" to poor areas of the Bronx during the past winter months in New York, yes indeed, our very own turf and home.

This may all be fine and dandy, depending on whose view you come across that day, and to some, this is either very commendable or a laughing matter. But the truth of the matter is that aside from being a running joke or a social crusade, the Bolivarian revolution is about economics. The long term effects of such expenditures on the Venezuelan economy may very well translate into an economic long term fiasco. The adverse effects are already emerging via an increase in the crime rate and a reduction of net oil exports. One can only imagine the impending results once the oil surplus revenue comes to a screeching halt.

The UN Act II – a bull at the china store

Chavez's peculiar tactics to voice his Bolivarian Revolution at an international platform have all but backfired at the UN Level. His staccato antics have failed him to win the coveted seat at the UN Security Council when Venezuela was obstructed victory; only to lose it to Panama, after a stalemate between Venezuela and Guatemala. But there is more to the story than just losing a seat.

So as we revisit the UN General Assembly's briefly lived standing ovation to Chavez; leaving Chavez's histrionic maneuvers aside, there is a telling truth that begs to be discovered. With this simple gesture, the UN representatives made it known that though they do not agree with folkloric Chavez, the community of Nations clamors for respect of the UN Charter and respect for the international law. To all Nations present, it is a question of maintaining the delicate balance of international consensus that has been breached by the current U.S. administration. There is a universal dissent towards the current US foreign policy and its disdain to play by international standards. No one nation is or should be above the international system.

Thankfully, there is much respite flowing through the UN corridors as the resignation of John Bolton, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations ends an era when the focus was on coercive diplomacy. The tide is favorably changing thanks largely to Americans' change of heart demonstrated at the voting ballots this past November.

Where do we go from here? The final act

Historically, American isolationism has been an endemic problem of this powerful nation. Because of our size and power, we tend to see the world through our own colored lens and retain a distorted image of the world around us and of how the world perceives us. Thus, as informed Americans, we have to make the proactive choice to better inform ourselves, to be proactive and not to be passive vessels of the mass media.

There are several worthy websites that provide a one stop source of international coverage. The unveiling of two noteworthy websites such as France24 (www.france24.com); a French website in English, that offers a more balanced perspective of international news and was featured in the Blog section of a recent New York Times Issue. <http://thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2006/12/04/live-from-paris-everything-youre-not-supposed-to-know/?8dpc>

Another valuable website is www.watchingamerica.com where a compilation of articles from around the world depicts how the world sees us. Most of their translated content is available nowhere else in English. According to Robin Koerner, one of the website founders, adds: "Watching America represents a unique window into world opinion. The site redefines "global media" by breaking down the final barrier among the peoples of the world – the language barrier."

Perceptions are as much a barrier as language. Distortion is only in the eyes of the beholder and who better than us to take a stance to change that perception. The veneer of a monochromatic Latin America is a half truth. There are many outstanding Latin American leaders who share a democratic ideal and who deserve to share the media spotlight. It is about having a balanced forum. And this is where Latin America converges with the UN Charter and views the United Nations as its best ally.

- Patricia Sacristan, Director of UNA-NY YPIC's Latin American Affairs Committee

UNA-NY YPIC EVENT: FAIR TRADE BAZAAR Oct 21, 2006

October 21, 2006 the Economic Development Committee of UNA-NY YPIC held its inaugural Fair Trade Bazaar at the Hungarian Mission to the United Nations. Organized as both an informational and recreational event, the Fair Trade Bazaar enabled attendees to peruse and buy a unique offering of fair trade products from retailers from the New York City Metro area, while learning more about fair trade by listening to speaker Devin Stewart, Director of the Global Policy Innovations program at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs.



Photo Courtesy www.indiapeacechild.org

Vendors offered a festive mélange of fair trade goods, including Mad Imports (www.madimports.org), which sold beautifully handcrafted handbags from raffia and other natural materials and stationery made from recycled paper and wildflowers, all made in Madagascar and Kenya. Alice's Tea Cup (www.alicesteacup.com) brought fair trade teas, chocolate chip cookies and hot chocolate, both made with equal exchange chocolate, and handmade string lights from Bali, while Mercado Global (www.mercadoglobal.org) sold jewelry, lavender pillows and tea accessories, 100% of whose profits return to their partner co-operatives to promote fair wage employment and investment in employees' children's education. Circle of the Sun (www.circleofthesun.org) displayed 100% alpaca hand knit scarves and shawls from Bolivia, free of synthetic dyes. World Mission Crafts, whose founder Edward Eckhart has been involved in selling fairly traded goods for over 18 years (www.worldmissioncrafts.org), sold an impressive array of fair trade goods from all corners of the globe, from jewelry to apparel to home décor. Sensational Products (www.biztogether.net/shopping), and East Side Bagel (212-794-1655), collaborated together bringing a variety of traditional Turkish handcrafts and baked goods to the event. Peace Child India (www.peacechildindia.org), an initiative to encourage youth community leadership in poor and oppressed communities in India, also contributed by selling handmade greeting cards, perfect for the holidays, while Gulden Coffee (www.guldencoffee.com) brought a large selection of packaged fair trade coffee from all over the world.

Panelist Devin T. Stewart, the Director of the Global Policy Innovations program at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, spoke to the audience about the topic of fair trade and what individuals can do to support this cause. Stewart described his online magazine called Policy Innovations that the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs' Global Policy Innovations Program recently launched: "The magazine features ideas for creating a fairer globalization and using the currents of globalization to advance the cause of social justice. Policy Innovations is unique in that it highlights globalization's ethical issues and the innovators who are making a difference." Policy Innovations offers audio and video multimedia content, articles and commentary to spark new thinking on how to craft a fairer globalization for all, updated databases of innovative thinkers, organizations, policy papers, and 25 Innovations for a Fairer Globalization, which serves as a global commons for ideas on how to improve the processes of globalization and harness its power to bring greater peace and prosperity to more people. Mr. Stewart urged Fair Trade Bazaar vendors members to participate and submit articles.

- Andrea Satter, Director of UNA-NY YPIC's Economic Development Committee

- www.policyinnovations.org More information on online magazine
- www.ifat.org Comprehensive collection of links about Fair Trade by IFAT
- www.transfairusa.org More info on Fair Trade & a search tool for finding fair trade certified retailers in your area
- www.transfairusa.org/content/about/history A history of Fair Trade by TransFairUSA
- www.maketradefair.com Global Call to Action Against Poverty's "Make Trade Fair" campaign

If you would like to learn more about how to plan your own Fair Trade Bazaar, please contact Andrea Satter, Director of the Economic Development Committee at ypiced@unanyc.org. A follow-up event to the Fair Trade Bazaar is scheduled to take place between February and March 2007 about careers that promote Microfinance, with Edward Eckhart of World Mission Crafts as one of our panelists.

GOING GLOBAL WITH YPIC: ARGENTINA INITIATIVE 2006

As Vice-Chair of the United Nations Association of New York's Young Professionals for International Cooperation (UNA-NY YPIC), I traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina, this November to serve as a UNA-USA alternative delegate at the 38th World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) Plenary Assembly and as one of 8 UNA-USA YPIC delegates at the WFUNA Youth Assembly. This assembly, the first in Latin America, brought together UN ambassadors, world leaders, fellow UNA members and other concerned citizens from over 40 nations to address issues ranging from UN reform to the Millennium Development Goals.

The idea to take YPIC Global first began in April at UNA-USA Members' Day at the United Nations, which was attended by YPIC leaders from across the nation. Seeing young professionals' work on a national scale, many realized the potential benefits of cooperating on a global scale. Our delegation spent the next seven months preparing, fundraising, contacting UNA youth programs around the world, and participating in endless conference calls in order to kick-off our Global Young Professionals (UNA-GYP) Program at the WFUNA Plenary Assembly in Argentina.

The generous support of the Whitehead Foundation and Arthur Ross Foundation made it possible for our new Task Force to promote our ambitions of advancing international cooperation and community education on international affairs. Currently, each YPIC chapter works locally in different regions of the United States promoting and implementing various programs that benefit both the local and international communities at large, and our goal for the 2006 WFUNA Conference was to expand our network, by training and educating other young professionals and WFUNA Youth members in attendance on how to take YPIC Global. Our efforts certainly paid off when our UNA-GYP Task Force presented two highly applauded talks to both the WFUNA Youth Assembly and the WFUNA Plenary Assembly on how to develop young professional programs globally.

WFUNA Youth, the long-lived dream of a global umbrella organization for all UN Youth Associations and UNA Youth Programs was created at the 37th WFUNA Plenary Assembly in Barcelona in 2003. Membership is extended to participants until the age of 30, with the average ranging from 18 to 25. WFUNA Youth is most similar to UNA-USA's Student Alliance, Global Classrooms and Model UN programs; however UNA-USA YPIC has been instrumental in successfully transitioning our youth members into adult and lifetime UNA members by engaging young professionals. UNA-USA YPIC members are individuals between the ages of 21 to 40 who come from fields such as business, law, government, the nonprofit sector, the arts and philanthropy. We sought to share our perspective and YPIC program with the WFUNA community and expand our own network.

Our UNA-GYP Task Force includes members from the UK, the Netherlands, Tanzania, the Dominican Republic, and Germany. As a representative of UNA-USA's largest YPIC, I spoke to the WFUNA Youth Assembly on UNA-NY YPIC's structure, membership, and activities. Tim Jarman, Chair of UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network discussed the success of his fledgling year-old program, and Wilhemina Aerbts from UNA-Netherlands described the YPIC they just created. In fact, their first event took place the week we returned. Reginald Munisi of Tanzania listened attentively to our presentations and then discussed the opportunities he saw for a young professionals program in his country. Our presentations to both WFUNA Youth and the main Plenary Assembly were received with interest and enthusiasm, and we created a sound base for a UNA-GYP program.

Our next tasks are to build an interactive UNA-GYP website to assist interested young professionals from UNAs around the world to create and develop their own programs, to share our best practices, and to work on creating a marketable UNA-GYP brand. We have our work cut out for us, but the momentum and camaraderie developed in Buenos Aires will certainly sustain our vision of a successful UNA-GYP.

- Liubov Grechen, UNA-NY YPIC's Vice Chair



WFUNA Assembly session at the Congress.



Members of the UNA-GYP Task Force (second from left, Liubov Grechen, UNA-NY YPIC's Vice Chair; second from right, Andrea Satter, Director of Economic Development Committee right).

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

If a tree falls in the middle of a forest with no one around, does it make a sound? If a tragedy occurs and if a person or thousands of people fall in an area where there is no press and no cameras, will the world ever know?

One organization that is aware of the intense need for such visual evidence is the World Press Photo. It supports professional press photography on an international scale by hosting exhibitions, holding an annual contest, and creating greater visibility for press photography through a variety of publications. Last year, it celebrated 50 years honoring this cause.

Dr. Jan Pronk, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sudan, spoke at the 50th anniversary celebrations of World Press Photo on Oct 8th, 2005. He addressed the need for press & photography, especially in regions like Sudan.

The excerpts of the speech are below:

(Excerpt) "On September 28, 2005, at six o'clock in the evening, 400 Arab militia on horse and camelback attacked a camp of displaced people, Aro Sharow, in the area of Shilea, West Darfur, Sudan, close to the border of Chad. They entered the market, began to shoot randomly, went on the rampage in the camp itself, continued to shoot, loot and burn and destroyed two neighbouring villages, Acho and Gosmino. They killed 35 persons, amongst them women and children, at random. Many were wounded; quite a few are still missing. After having finished their job, they rode away.

Photographs have not been made. You will not see them in the world press. There were no photographers around. There are no reporters in that region. We get all information from the internally displaced people (IDP) themselves. Thousands are on the run. Gradually we receive more information from the observers whom we sent to the area, in order to assist the survivors and help reconstructing the camp that was totally burnt down. With the help of that information we address the authorities that failed to protect their own people and try to find out who was responsible, so that we can inform the International Criminal Court. In Abuja, Nigeria, we urge the parties negotiating a peace agreement for Darfur to stay at the negotiation table, instead of breaking up the talks. That could have been one of the objectives of this brutal attack.

The attack on Aro Sharow is but one in a series of deadly attacks on camps, villages and little rural towns in Darfur over the last year. Hundreds of people were killed. Tens of thousands fled away, many died on the run, children, elderly, vulnerable people. Tawila, Hamada, Labado, Khor Abeche and Aro Sharow. For us in Sudan these are well known names. They stand for nightmares. For you these names will presumably be new. They did not make the press. There were no reporters, no photographers. For us, having visited the places and seen the destruction the images are real and alive. They stand for war crime, death and despair. But they are not part of the world's memory, because there are no photographs.

Nobody was around, only the victims, the survivors and the attackers. No witnesses, no reporters, no press, no photographers. To look away from the trivial requires a shock. We viewers are so accustomed to entertainment and triviality that we will have to

A picture that is worth a thousand words?

Last year, Canadian photographer Finbarr O'Reilly of Reuters won the World Press Photo of the Year 2005. His picture, featured below, was taken in Tahoua, northwestern Niger, on 1 August 2005. In the photo, the fragile, emaciated fingers of a one-year-old child lightly reach for the lips of his mother at an emergency feeding clinic in Niger. In 2005, Niger endured calamities of biblical proportions such as swarms of locusts and an intense drought left millions of people without food.



© World Press Photo

In 2006, there have been more stories similar to the picture above to tell. As young people interested in the world, should pay attention to the photos we see and support organizations such as this, that encourage the spread of information, and facts. Be aware, appreciate the photographers and journalists who risk their lives to capture those moments we otherwise may never know had ever occurred.

See the World Press Photo Exhibition!

The World Press Photo exhibition features a large election of the prize-winning images. Currently the exhibition is on display in Israel, Jakarta, Kapfenberg, Ljubljana, Mumbai and Parma. Stay tuned for NY Exhibitions: >More Need an excuse to travel to sunshine this Jan? 9 January 2007 - 01 February 2007 World Press Exhibition travels to the United States! Los Angeles, California

be pushed across the line demarcating the present day reality: a photograph showing 'what is'. The picture which helps us to move is the photograph showing what may happen, could happen or might have happened or undoubtedly will happen: a glance beyond the finite fraction of time captured by the photograph, a glance into the future. That was the power of Kevin Carter's photograph of the vulture watching a naked child during the famine in Sudan in 1993. The viewer sees and knows: this child is the vulture's prey, it is bound to happen.

Seeing helps making a choice. Journalistic photographs help many to become and remain subjective in the real sense of the word, because, to quote Chapnick once more, "in this subject matter is the stuff of life". Please, keep watching. We need more stories and more pictures."

- Faith-Ann Young,
Editor-In-Chief of UNA-NY YPIC's Newsletter

NY-YPIC EVENT: LEADERSHIP SKILLS OF THE 21st CENTURY WORKSHOP

UNA-NY YPIC hosted our inaugural Global Leadership Skills of the 21st Century Workshop on October 19th, 2006, facilitated by Thomas Zweifel, CEO of the Swiss Consulting Group, at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations. Both Ambassador Peter Maurer, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations, and Ambassador Raymond Loretan, Consul General of Switzerland, addressed a group of internationally minded individuals on the complexities of leadership in today's increasingly globalized world.

Thomas Zweifel, CEO of the Swiss Consulting Group and a Professor of Leadership and Cross-Cultural Management at Columbia University and at St. Gallen Business School (HSG), has coached hundreds of leaders in Fortune 500 companies, SME's, non-governmental organizations, governments, the UN and the military since 1984. Living in Europe, India, Japan and the United States, he has enabled large-scale change processes, built virtual high-performance teams, and realized breakthrough results for clients, often as a virtual leader working through remote empowerment. Zweifel serves as a source of power for people to produce the results they want -- from New York to Paris, from Geneva to Moscow, from Tel Aviv to Sydney. He publishes frequently on leadership and is the author of *Culture Clash: Managing the High-Performance Team*; *Communicate or Die*; *Democratic Deficit? Institutions and Regulation in the European Union, Switzerland, and the United States*; and *International Organizations: Democracy, Accountability, Power*. In addition to his writing, Zweifel speaks often in corporations, international organizations, and the media, most recently on ABC News and CNN.

Zweifel led our members in a unique interactive workshop to guide them in their careers and cross-cultural development, and each participant received a copy of *Culture Clash: Managing the High-Performance Team*. Participants gained practical techniques and were equipped with sound research and fascinating stories to help them manage across cultures anywhere in the world! Following the workshop, the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations hosted a wonderful reception and book signing with Zweifel. The workshop was truly enlightening, bringing together new YPIC members for an interactive educational experience. Many participants expressed an interest in continuing this workshop, and we are currently organizing a follow-up session with Zweifel to be held in January. If you are interested in learning more about the Swiss Consulting Group and Thomas Zweifel's work, please visit: <http://www.swissconsultinggroup.com/index.php>.

A special thanks to Ambassadors Peter Maurer and Raymond Loretan, Thomas Zweifel, and all of our participants, volunteers, and guests. Your participation helped make our Global Leadership Skills of the 21st Century Workshop the great success it was.

- Liubov Grechen, UNA-NY YPIC's Vice Chair

STAY TUNED FOR MORE OF UNA-NY YPIC EVENTS

Check out our website:
www.unanyc.org/ypic/ypic.html

Free your mind!

Be Active!

Start 2007 off right!

Tip of the day:

* At the start of the New Year, write yourself a list of goals, to-do's, resolutions. Include dates, motivations, names, websites.*

* Post the sheet on the fridge, in your car, in your bedroom & see how you fare on a monthly basis! *

DIPLOMATIC CORNER: INTERVIEW WITH ANIKA RAHMAN

President of Americans for United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA)

Bio: Anika Rahman, a well-known international advocate for the rights of women, is the President of Americans for UNFPA where she is responsible for building American legislative and financial support for the promotion of women's health and rights globally. For more than twelve years, Ms. Rahman has monitored and analyzed United States and international policies that affect the health and rights of women.



The Butterfly Effect

In the 1990s, "in the international arena, people were wondering how to deal with practices that violate women's rights but are an important part of culture," states Anika Rahman. In reaction, Rahman co-wrote the book *Female Genital Mutilation: A Practical Guide to Worldwide Laws and Policies* to define FGM, explore common justifications of the practice and the global laws, rights and religion that surround it. Anika Rahman, a native of Bangladesh who received an undergraduate degree from Princeton University and a law degree from Columbia University, strongly believes "culture is not an excuse for abridging or violating human rights." Today, as President of Americans for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and a key spokeswoman for its causes, Rahman is dedicated to increasing American's support of UNFPA's work, thereby continuing to champion her strong belief in universal rights for women, man, and children.

Articulate and confident, Rahman explains that UNFPA issues are widely recognized as basic, fundamental human rights. For instance, UNFPA contributes 40% of the contraceptives provided by international assistance programs worldwide, but there is still more work to be done. "Roughly 201 million women in low-income countries would use safe, effective contraceptive methods if they were available," says Rahman. When a woman can plan her family, she can participate more fully in society.

Since UNFPA is supported by the United Nations and works in 140 countries world-wide, it has the power and influence not only to publicize critical issues but also to act upon these issues and ameliorate them. Rahman can without hesitation rattle off a diverse and impressive list of UNFPA accomplishments. UNFPA has reduced maternal deaths in countries such as Bolivia, China, Egypt, Honduras and Jamaica, by training birth attendants, buying ambulances, providing two-way radios to alert medical facilities, and providing access to transportation. Such simple measures lead to powerful, positive results. After the Tsunami, UNFPA shipped eighteen tons of hygiene supplies to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. They also have contributed to a 30 percent reduction in female genital cutting in parts of Uganda, according to the UNFPA fact sheet. UNFPA has also established pilot projects to train medical professionals on rehabilitation and trauma counseling for victims of violence. In Mali, UNFPA supported a literacy project focused on migrant girls, domestic workers, poor and victims of violence and abuse, while in Mauritania, UNFPA is funding an educational initiative to reduce the dropout rate by half and equip at least 5,000 girls with professional skills, such as home economics and information technology. The Butterfly Effect explains one flap of a butterfly's wing in Brazil can cause a tornado in Texas. By gaining support in America for UNFPA, Rahman believes it can be the impetus for dynamic, positive changes to human rights internationally.

However, UNFPA has recently been hindered by decreased funding from the United States Government. For the past five years, U.S. President George W. Bush has refused to contribute the Congressionally-allocated annual \$34 million USD to UNFPA because the administration charged that UNFPA is supporting People's Republic of China's (PRC) population program, which "facilitates its government's coercive abortion program." In other words, the administration accused UNFPA of, directly or indirectly, promoting abortion in China, which is prohibited by the Kemp-Kasten Amendment. As of December 2006, the amount withheld from UNFPA totals \$161 million dollars.

While active in 140 other countries, UNFPA is involved 32 counties in the PRC. The PRC has a history of using governmental schemes, such as fees for families with more than two children and governmental propaganda such as the 'one-child' policy to limit population; such schemes can be seen as 'coercive' methods to encourage abortion. However, none of UNFPA's work in the PRC has been linked to any 'act of coercion;' in 2002, the US-government sent a team to report on UNFPA's work in China; the team found absolutely "NO evidence that UNFPA has knowingly supported or participated in the management of a program of

UNA-NY Young Professionals for International Cooperation

coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization in the People's Republic of China." In fact, the finding also recommended "the appropriate resources be allocated to monitor and evaluate PRC Population control programs." UNFPA is an advocate for policy reform in China, urging the government to uphold international human rights standards.

Previous presidents, such as Reagan and George H. Bush, have protested China's coercive population control policies by requiring UNFPA to hold US contributions in a separate account and ensuring that none of the US money went to China. The current administration has refused to reconsider its decision and has not requested any further investigations. At this time, the United States is the only country that has voluntarily withheld funding from the UNFPA (there are some countries that could not donate due to lack of funds.) UNFPA is currently supported by 166 countries in the world. Afghanistan, which despite its current state of poverty and instability donated \$100, a symbolic donation of their commitment to UNFPA.

Like the Butterfly Effect, the absence of tens of millions of dollars to UNFPA has manifold effects all over the organization, affecting women's health in Sierra Leone, pregnant mothers in Zaire, and children's education in Bolivia. Anika Rahman chides that this predicament revolves around a "simple political decision that sacrifices the lives of women in 139 countries." As president of an organization that advocates for women, she struggles with the reality that there continues to be "significant political ambivalence," regarding the health and dignity of women.

Anika Rahman points out that some of the great challenges for UNFPA stem from cultural and religious issues, not merely political ones. "A lot of people around the world are opposed to the idea of reproductive health," including various religious organizations and political parties internationally. In response, UNFPA holds various conferences with religious readers, sponsoring a meeting of Muslim Religious Leaders in Zanzibar in November 2006 to discuss issues such as HIV/AIDS, family planning, child protection and rights of women. With growing global awareness about HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and women's rights, it appears Nations and their leaders, religious, cultural or otherwise, are beginning to recognize the increased need for UNFPA reforms against violence against women, maternal health care, contraceptive education and family-planning. "We need to think of ourselves as part of a global community," states Rahman.

Meanwhile, our generation is viewed as a potentially great initiator of change, especially since the world has the largest-ever young people's generation in history. Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of UNFPA, has stated, "it is a priority to establish mechanisms for intergenerational dialogue between [legislators] and young people who can help [legislators] adopt policies and laws that reflect their needs." Rahman also urges us to flap our wings: "I would encourage our readers to get involved; we would love young people to write letters to the editor and become activists."

Our generation should become neither the naive butterfly that causes the extraordinary damage nor the tornado that is victim of this chaos theory. We can create and control our own chaos with awareness and action. UNFPA and Americans for UNFPA both have very dynamic websites; please visit: www.unfpa.org and www.americansforunfpa.org. (Rahman shared that her organization is ahead of the game, with a colorful and interactive myspace site: www.myspace.com/americansforunfpa.) Find out more, donate, write, tell your friends, organize groups, write petitions, make films and use the tools around you as your wings that spur tornados of change.

- Liubov Grechen, UNA-NY YPIC's Vice Chair

EVENTS: 2007, JANUARY

Below are some intriguing events in the New York Area to kick off the New Year...

Jan 24th-28th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2007

Watch podcast of Meeting in Davos, Switzerland; it is well-worthwhile to watch 2,000 leaders in business, politics, media et al to converge for inspiring discussion on the emerging economies and changing economic goals.

Jan 29th International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust

UNDPI will organize the second annual observance of this International Day with a ceremony in the General Assembly Hall. Guests are advised to arrive by 9:00 am to clear Security. Seating in the GA Hall is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please write to holocaustremembrance@un.org. The final date for registration will be 12 January 2007.

10:30 am to 12:30 pm (<http://www.un.org/events/calendar/Edetail.asp?EventID=1057&BeginDate=1/29/2007>)

UNA-NY Young Professionals for International Cooperation

WORD ON THE STREET!

We hit the streets to find out how fellow New Yorkers feel... They tell it like it is...

QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT BAN KI-MOON?

Martin, 30, Banker, Chelsea: "He seems like an inane character. Then again I am from Scotland where we have long believed that the UN is just a marionette to the US."

Francesca, 22, College Student, Tribeca: "Who is Ban Ki?"

Christopher, 19, Student, Midtown: "My dad says its about time that the United Nations realizes its place. It will be better now that Ban and Bush agree. It's about time our government has support. We are at war here!"

Stephani, 30, NGO Staffer: "I think it symbolizes the disintegration of all we have fought for. I mean we kicked off the Millennium with so many goals! Already it was so hard for us NGOs to get heard, get funding, get aid. Now, Ban Ki-Moon seems too afraid to try to right some of the countless wrongs."

Chuck, 32, Journalist, LES: "Who Cares? Nothing will change."

UNA-NY YPIC NEWSLETTER

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YPIC Vice Chair: Liubov Grechen

YPIC COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

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- Career Events - K. Lynn Moses
- Economic Development- Andrea Satter
- European Affairs- Robert Morier and Kevin Jamison
- Humanitarian Affairs- Antoinette Miller
- Human Rights- Julia Ewing
- Latin American Affairs- Patricia Sacristan
- Marketing & Communications - Sharlene Ratcliff-Korenica

ABOUT UNA NEW YORK'S YPIC:

UNA-NY is the highly active Manhattan chapter of UNA-USA, with a mission to make the United Nations and its accomplishments visible to the New York City community through events, films, discussions, and presentations by leaders from the U.N. and other international organizations. UNA-NY's YPIC is a unique forum for young professionals in NYC to learn about and get engaged in international affairs, while tapping into a dynamic network of like-minded young professionals and a line-up of influential speakers.

UNA-NY YPIC CORNER

INTRO TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Economic Development Committee works towards causes relating to bettering the economic situation of underprivileged Nations and people in the developing world, including support for fair trade, fundraising events, and informational and career seminars.

The Economic Development Committee provides opportunities for education and enrichment to private sector investment, governance, microfinance/small and medium scale enterprise, trade liberalization, regulatory reform, money laundering, and taxation.

We welcome all young professionals to participate in the educational as well as social activities that serve to inform all those interested in the global community!

Find out more information about all
UNA-NY YPIC COMMITTEES:

African Affairs Committee, Economic Development, European Affairs, Humanitarian Affairs, Human Rights, Latin American Affairs, & NY YPIC's Marketing & Communications: http://www.unanyc.org/ypic/ypic_committees.html

UNA-NY YPIC EVENTS INFORMATION

<http://www.unanyc.org/ypic/ypicevents.html>

Questions, Comments, Corrections, Opinions?

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