Editorial

On behalf of the UNESCO Windhoek Office, we would like to extend our greetings for the new season and wish the readers of our first newsletter for 2016 a prosperous new year.

The ninth edition of our newsletters provides an update for the December 2015 and January 2016 activities.

Late last year, UNESCO Deputy Director General (DDG) Mr. Getachew Engida, visited Namibia for the 10th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). He also paid a special visit to the UNESCO Windhoek office to advise them about the financial status of UNESCO.

A high level delegation from the Republic of Korea visited Namibia to gauge the progress of the Better Education for Africa’s Rise (BEAR) Project. The delegation arrived in Namibia on 16 January 2016 and exchanged ideas with national stakeholders regarding the project.

An external evaluation team was in Namibia from 25 January to 28 January, 2016 to assess the impact of the UNESCO/China Funds-in-Trust Project, ‘Capacity Development for Quality in Pre- and Lower Primary Teacher Education in Namibia’.

Stakeholders have been meeting at UNESCO Windhoek National Office to prepare the commemorations of the 2016 World Radio Day in Namibia. The meetings are a result of the cooperative efforts between the Namibia National Commission for UNESCO and UNESCO Windhoek Office.

Other activities in this edition include the updating of the UNESCO Country Programme Document and the Tenth Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage which took place in Namibia from 30 November to 4 December 2015.

Our Invitee of the month is Ms. Jennifer Bitonde, World Food Programme (WFP) Representative to Namibia. She shares WFP’s mandate, key interventions and partnerships with other stakeholders in Namibia.

We hope to continue informing you on our activities and that you will enjoy reading our newsletter.

Your comments and feedback are greatly appreciated. Please contact: c.mapfumo@unesco.org.
Deputy Director General visits Namibia

The Deputy Director-General (DGG) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Mr. Getachew Engida, visited the UNESCO Windhoek Office on 03 December 2015. Mr Engida arrived in Namibia for the 10th Session of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Committee.

The DGG met with UNESCO Windhoek Office staff and was welcomed by the Head of Office (HoO) and Representative to Namibia, Dr Jean Pierre Ilboudo to advise on financial matters concerning the future of UNESCO.

Mr Engida briefed the HoO and other staff about the financial challenges currently facing UNESCO and encouraged the office to remain positive and to engage in more lucrative partnerships with the Namibian Government and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of UNESCO Windhoek National Office.

The meeting was mainly organized to allow the DDG to pay a courtesy visit to the United Nations House situated in Windhoek.

During the staff meeting Mr. Engida gave career guidance and professional advice particularly to the young staff members of the UNESCO Windhoek Office team.

“Look for opportunities wherever you can find them, not just in the UN system. Your relationship -with other colleagues also matters because in the end you may need their references. Also try to further your education, study a new language and develop yourself by establishing a good reputation among your colleagues,” said Mr. Engida.

Mr. Engida is a specialist in change management, good governance and transformative leadership in diverse international settings.

He has also served as the World Bank nominee on the Boards of Trustees in a number of international organizations.

The DGG has spent the last 20 years leading and managing international organizations advancing the cause of poverty eradication, peace building and sustainable development.

Mr Engida is from Ethiopia and has had a distinguished international career in auditing and financial management for prominent international companies and also worked for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) as Assistant Comptroller.

Mr Engida was appointed as Deputy Director-General of UNESCO in April 2010.
UNESCO together with various other stakeholders reviewed the UNESCO country program document (UCPD). This document was then presented at the UNESCO annual staff retreat which took place in Okahandja Country Lodge on the 9th December 2015.

Mr Obert Mutumba, Consultant for UNESCO Windhoek Office presented the UNESCO Country Programme Document (UCPD) for Namibia. It provides the framework for UNESCO’s multisectoral cooperation with Namibia based on its national priorities as outlined in its Vision 2030 and National Development Plan 4 (NDP4), the United Nations Partnership Agreement Framework and other Ministerial strategic documents.

The UCPDs are launched in response to rising requests from Member states. The launch in this regard is within the framework of the UN Reform which is aimed at achieving greater coherence, efficiency and effectiveness at country level. It also aims at avoiding fragmentation, duplication and competition among the UN Sister-agencies.

Hence this UCPD/Namibia document will set the framework for the Organization’s multisectoral cooperation strategy with Namibia United Nations Partnership Agreement Framework (UNPAF) for the period of 2014-2018.

During his presentation, an overview of the CAP-six Pillars was presented and staff were referred to a report which shows a diagram contrasting the SDGs with Namibia’s priorities (NDP4 and new Priorities).

He also explained the Gini Coefficient method of determining inequality and how Namibia became classified as an upper middle income country.

UNESCO Windhoek Head of Office and Representative to Namibia Dr Ilboudo urged staff to familiarise themselves with the ministerial priorities; which Mr Mutumba described in depth by linking the ministerial priorities to the UNESCO objectives.

The main objective is to provide support to Namibia on the implementation of its initiatives as prescribed within the National Development Plan (NDP4) and other government strategic documents. This support will be in the areas of Education, Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information.

Heads of Sectors were given an opportunity to give a brief overview of their sectors work in the last biennium and planning in terms of their programs.
High Level Delegation from the Republic of Korea visits Namibia to gauge the status of the BEAR Project

UNESCO Head of Office, Dr Jean-Pierre Iboudo received a high level delegation from the Republic of Korea on a three day visit to Namibia. The delegation arrived in Namibia on 16 January 2016 to exchange ideas with national stakeholders and to witness progress as well as discuss remaining challenges faced regarding the implementation of the Better Education for Africa’s Rise (BEAR) Project.

The group included the Ambassador and First Secretary of the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO, His Excellency (HE) Lee Byung Hyun and Mr. Lee Youngchan.

Mr. Yoo Hyoung-Gyu, the Second Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of Korea and Mr. Saehun Seol, the Senior Programme Specialist from the Section of Youth, Literacy and Skills Development at the Head Quarters accompanied the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO.

The overall objective of the BEAR project is to improve the relevance of Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes by making TVET attractive to learners, teachers and the general community.

The BEAR project also aims to complement the current activities in Namibia as implemented through the National Training Authority (NTA).

On their first visit, the delegation made a courtesy call at the NTA office in Windhoek. The delegation met with NTA staff for a round table discussion regarding the Progress Report which was presented by Mr. Amon Haufiku, Manager for VET programmes.

In his presentation Mr. Haufiku outlined the achievements, challenges experienced and lessons learnt regarding managing Donor-Funded Projects.

According to Mr. Haufiku, the NTA together with the Government of Namibia aims to work on a funding framework for the TVET sector.

During his presentation, he also mentioned that the current financial support UNESCO gives to NTA makes the implementation of the BEAR project possible in Namibia.  To Page 5....
“The relationship between the NTA and UNESCO is solid and we have worked well in terms of implementation of the TVET programme in Namibia. The budget we continue to receive is administered by UNESCO Headquarters and distributed to NTA,” he said.

“The relationship between the NTA and UNESCO is solid and we have worked well in terms of implementation of the TVET programme in Namibia. The budget we continue to receive is administered by UNESCO Headquarters and distributed to NTA,” he said.

After a successful morning session at the NTA, the delegation was accompanied by Dr Ilboudo to pay a courtesy visit to the Minister of Higher Education, Training and Innovation, Dr. Itah Kandjii-Murangi who is also the Chair of the UNESCO National Commission in Namibia. She welcomed the delegation and mentioned the impact TVET has to transform the Namibian economy, especially if it is guided by a country such as the Republic of Korea which has achieved national success in the TVET area.

“The TVET subsector has a potential to transform Namibia’s economy and the livelihood of its people. In Namibia, we honestly feel strongly that it is important for us to connect with other countries that have walked visible miles and are successful in achieving results through TVET,” she said.

After meeting Dr. Kandjii-Murangi, the delegation met with the Deputy Minister of Education, Arts and Culture, Hon Anna Hipondoka. Ambassador Byung-Hyun wanted to discuss with the Deputy Minister whether Namibia has comprehended the significance of TVET in the education curriculum.

“Namibia is currently reforming its education curriculum to include TVET subjects in... To page 6...
selected schools as we have realised the importance of technical and Vocational education," said Hon Hipondoka.

During the afternoon, the delegation met with the President of the UNESCO 38th General Conference, Hon. Stanley Simaata who is also the Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology. He pleasantly received the delegation on their arrival at the Office of the Prime Minister.

After a successful and interactive meeting with the official stakeholders for the BEAR project, the delegation made a final trip to NAMWATER, situated in Okahandja for a brief tour around the workshop area where the BEAR project has invested heavy material for carpentry training.

The Namibian Chapter of the BEAR Project was launched in 2013 and is a partnership between the Republic of Korea, UNESCO and the NTA. It was established to support five selected member states in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC): the Democratic Republic of Congo, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia and Namibia.
UNESCO/Chinese Funds-in-Trust Project in Namibia evaluated

An external evaluation team, consisting of evaluator Mr Gert-Jan Lindeboom and Chinese representative Dr Hong Wei Meng, visited Namibia for a four day mission from January 25 until January 28, 2016. The main objective of the mission was to assess the efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, partnership and cooperation, sustainability and indications for impact of the UNESCO China Funds-in-Trust project ‘Capacity Development for Quality in Pre- and Lower Primary Teacher Education in Namibia’.

The project’s National Coordinating Committee ensured that the team was able to meet the relevant stakeholders in the country involved in the project implementation.

The meetings included audiences with the education ministries; interviews with other development partners in the country such as UNICEF and the EU Delegation; and an audience with the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Namibia H.E. Mr Xin Shunkang. The Ambassador, who has played a crucial role in the project implementation in Namibia, also hosted a dinner for the mission team.

The University of Namibia, the main implementing partner of the project, featured strongly in the mission programme. Dr Charmaine Villet, Dean of the Faculty of Education shared with the evaluators how the achievements and experiences of the project are currently informing the design of other efforts to upgrade the un- and under-qualified teachers at the lower primary grades in Namibia. Dr Villet talked about the way in which the project activities enforced a new way of thinking about teacher education. The evaluators recognized this institutional rethinking of practices as a clear indication for impact in the long run.

The lecturers, government officials and teachers that took part in the project’s national action research initiative undertaken in 28 schools in Namibia shared their experiences with the project team. The researchers testified how the collaborative work provided a conducive environment to learn from the experience and expertise of colleague-professionals. Feeling empowered, the researchers informed to have refined their skills, See page 8…..
UNESCO/Chinese Funds-in-Trust Project in Namibia evaluated

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-re-examined their perspectives of teaching and learning and adjusted their professional practice. The mission team managed to talk to researchers in and around Windhoek, as well as researchers in proximity of the UNAM Hifikepunye Pohamba campus in Ongwediva.

The UNAM Continuing Professional Development Unit (since January 2016 the Centre for Professional Development and Teaching and Learning Improvement, CPD-TLI), headed by Dr John Nyambe emphasized the importance of the established Kopano Education Forum in Namibia. Kopano was established in the framework of the project and is a virtual learning community of practitioners, an online community of Namibian education stakeholders that serves as a support system as well as a hub for educational innovation, inspiration and new ideas.

Dr Nyambe’s unit has taken on full responsibility for the functioning of the forum. The evaluators recognized the great potential of the forum and commended the project team for this achievement. Dr Nyambe also indicated to be eager to institutionalize the successful CPD approach implemented through the project.

The team also visited two schools that were part of the 28 schools involved in the project’s national action research initiative: Dordabis Primary School and Bloukrans Primary School. In the schools, the teachers involved in the project demonstrated their newly acquired ICT integration skills. The project’s strong focus on integrating ICTs in Teaching and Learning was recognized as a challenge but the teachers demonstrated the significant progress that was made, by allowing the delegation to observe their lessons.

The hands-on toolkit of strategies developed and piloted through the project was also recognized as a very tangible project result. UNAM is currently reproducing 150 toolkits for all students graduating from the Early Childhood and Lower Primary Department at UNAM, the UNAM campuses and the Regional Education Offices.

The evaluation delegation commended the project team for its own reflective practices throughout the project implementation. A National Coordinating Committee that succeeds in meeting on such a regular basis to make sure that all project activities have relevance and can be adjusted responding to current realities was recognized as a key factor for success. Together with the intended results, multiple initially unplanned spin-off results have contributed to what the evaluators called a successful implementation of the project in Namibia.

Dr Hong Wei Meng, the Chinese representative in the delegation reported to only have two very strong words at the end of the mission: “Congratulations” and “Thanks”.

The evaluation of the project implementation in Namibia will contribute to China’s decision to fund a potential second phase of the UNESCO-China Funds-in-Trust project in Africa. The project is implemented in a total of 8 African countries, of which Namibia is one.

The evaluated project, the UNESCO China Funds-in-Trust project ‘Capacity Development for Quality in Pre- and Lower Primary Teacher Education in Namibia’ was implemented in 2014-2015 by UNESCO, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, the Ministry of Higher Education, Training and Innovation and the University of Namibia’s Faculty of Education.
Namibian media partners in ESD and SDGs

Nine media practitioners from various public, commercial and community media houses in Namibia promised to work together with the government and development partners in educating and informing the citizens about Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The media practitioners, comprising of print journalists, radio presenters and producers made this commitment during a two-day workshop that was held recently at the UN House in Windhoek. It was a general feeling among the participants of the workshop that media personnel, especially those in management roles need to be engaged on a continuous basis in trainings on or discussions about ESD and the SDGs in order to keep the momentum going.

The workshop discussions were based on a number of topics including; Transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs: Global and National contexts, The role of the United Nations in the SDGs, SDGs in Namibia: Practical application, Education for Sustainable Development: UNESCO’s role in ESD and building a sustainable future for all, Understanding legal frameworks: Multilateral environmental agreements, Media as partners in ESD: overall framework and many more.

The Head of UNESCO Windhoek Office and Representative to the Republic of Namibia, Dr Jean Pierre Ilboudo in his opening remarks encouraged the journalists and media practitioners to strive to transform Namibia and help build a sustainable future for all through information dissemination. He said the media should be part of the global development agenda and support the government of the Republic of Namibia and development partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and they can do this by means of incorporating ESD into their work.

Dr Ilboudo said the workshop was a very important one, given the sustainable development challenges the entire world is facing today. He also emphasised that ESD Media Workshops can be an “effective strategy to mobilize national and international media to report on matters relating to sustainable development and help transform societies.”

The Head of Development Planning and Inclusive Growth at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York, Mr Babatunde Omilola discussed the role of the UN in the SDGs. Mr Omilola’s presentation was particularly important as it established a firm platform for the journalists to understand the involvement of different UN institutions in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs.

Mr Omilola said journalists should find ways to reach the unreached, give priority to public awareness, and inform the public on how the SDGs are interrelated. He also recommended publicizing the SDGs in local languages.

After all the presentations and discussions, the media practitioners participated in group work and in the end they came up with possible stories and programmes that can be developed based on ESD and the SDGs and they assured the organisers that they were going to work on the stories and programmes.
Globalisation has brought numerous advancements in communication technologies but, millions of people around the world still have no access to basic radio services. In responding to this global crisis, the 36th General Conference of UNESCO strategically adopted World Radio Day (WRD) in 2011 to create a global platform that brings together different partners from the radio broadcasting sector as well as humanitarian organizations. UNESCO proclaimed WRD to be celebrated on 13 February annually.

The proposal to celebrate this international event was brought forth to UNESCO by the Kingdom of Spain to remember the unique power radio has to touch lives and bring people together across every corner of the globe.

Each annual celebration of WRD covers a development theme to draw the attention of Public bodies and civil society to the power radio has to save lives, educate and promote equal participation, promote peace, and to advance human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Over the past five years, UNESCO has covered five themes on WRD selected to celebrate the event on an international platform.

The theme of the first ever edition of WRD aimed to tackle “The role of radio as a facilitator of education, freedom of expression and public debate.” The celebrations also marked the anniversary of UN Radio which was launched in 1946.

One year later, UNESCO Windhoek Office, the Namibian National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM) together with other stakeholders and local radio stations celebrated WRD 2013 under the theme “Radio in our everyday lives.” Some of the activities organised to commemorate the event included, special programming in all 19 participating radio stations and a three-day capacity building workshop for 30 local radio station personnel focusing on ICTs and sustainability.

In the following year, 2014, UNESCO Windhoek Office held a public day at the Zoo Park to commemorate WRD under the theme “Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment in Radio.” The platform was not only used for celebrating radio as a medium, but also to reflect on the significant contribution women continue to make in radio. According to MISA in a statement published in one of the mainstream print media. “MISA is of the view that women make an important contribution to the diversity of values, culture and expertise, expressed in broadcasting output and in the workplace. For this reason MISA is committed to working with media owners, media workers and governments to develop gender-related policies and strategies for radio and, equally important, to promote the safety of women radio journalists,” said former Regional Director of MISA Zoé Titus.

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The Fourth Edition of WRD in 2015, was themed “Youth and Radio,” with the goal of increasing the participation of young people in radio. Speaking at the event, Dr Tharcisse Barihuta, UNAIDS Country Director, said UNESCO is strongly committed to promote youth participation in broadcasting.

“Through the funding of the Swedish Development Cooperation, UNESCO Windhoek office is implementing a four-year regional project on “Empowering Local Radios with ICTs. The aim of the project is to address the lack of quality programming of local radios, in particular inadequacy of reporting on development issues and limited space dedicated to debate relevant issues for the youth,” said Dr Barihuta.

The year 2016 is a year to reflect on disasters and emergencies caused by conflicts, terrorism and climate change. Though the safety of journalists in Namibia is not a grave issue, the nation faces other emergencies and disasters such as floods, drought, foot and mouth disease and an alarming increase of gender violence to mention a few.

The Fifth edition of WRD is themed "Radio in Times of Emergency and Disaster." It gives a unique opportunity for Namibia to counter these emergencies and disasters collectively. For the first time in the history of the nation; WRD will be celebrated outside Windhoek.

Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General (DG) of UNESCO, said radio plays an important role in humanitarian emergencies and disaster situations.

“Humanitarian emergencies and disasters are increasing worldwide, with terrible consequences for human lives, sometimes reducing years of development to dust. Amidst the ruins and in the face of an emergency, the radio is often the first medium for survival. Its durability is an incomparable advantage, often enabling it to resist shocks and retransmit messages of protection and prevention to as many people as possible, better and faster than other media, saving lives,” said Ms. Bokova.

The overall goal of the fifth edition of World Radio Day is to reflect UNESCO’s ongoing global efforts to counter all forms of Emergencies and disasters. World Radio Day will be celebrated in Namibia on 13 February 2016, in Gobabis.
The tenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage took place at the Windhoek Country Club and Resort in Namibia from 30 November to 4 December 2015.

The meeting, chaired by Trudie Amulungu of Namibia, opened on 29 November in Windhoek with the participation of 500 delegates from some 100 countries.


“UNESCO has over the years rightly placed great emphasis on the protection of humanity’s intangible heritage. Central to UNESCO’s mission is the recognition that whatever human beings have created, built and invented over the centuries is the collective heritage of all humankind, for which we have to assume collective responsibility.

The destruction, abuse, violation and defiling of any item diminishes us all and should be avoided at all costs,” said the Namibian Minister of Education, Arts and Culture. … Like the land we live on and the life that it supports, we protect what we value. For intangible culture to be kept alive, it must remain relevant in the context of the current generation, who must in turn, maintain its relevance going forward.” Ms Hanse-Himarwa said.

Elemotho, the Namibian musician, performed at the ceremony, which also included a dance performance and poetry reading.

President of the UNESCO 38th General Conference, Hon. Stanley Simataa and Hon. Katrina Hanse-Himarwa during the 10th Session opening ceremony.

Hon. Katrina Hanse-Himarwa, Minister of Education, Arts and Culture of Namibia at the 10th session opening ceremony. © Fousy Kambombo
Indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices embedded in our cultures, are powerful tools to address the pressing challenges facing humanity today. These challenges include poverty and hunger in all their dimensions, climate change and natural disasters, loss of biodiversity, social marginalization and economic inequalities.

In a video message to participants, the Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, described Namibia as “a great champion of the 2003 Convention” for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and thanked its government for hosting the meeting.

“This is a strong signal for Africa, UNESCO’s global priority. This is a strong signal for intangible heritage,” she said.

During its session, which ended on 4 December, the Committee reviewed six nominations for inscription on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding, as well as 34 nominations for inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The 24 members of the Committee also examined a range of 12 ethical principles to be considered in safeguarding intangible heritage. Their [the principles] goal is to prevent disrespect and misappropriation—be it moral, legal or commercial—of intangible cultural heritage.

They recognize the importance of ensuring the free and informed prior consent of local communities, respecting the rights of those concerned to full and equitable participation in any process, project or activity that may affect them, and acknowledging the crucial role of communities in maintaining and managing their culture and heritage.

The List in Need of Urgent Safeguarding features intangible heritage elements whose viability is at risk and whose safeguarding is regarded as a matter of urgency. It previously numbered 38 elements to date and enables States Parties to the Convention to mobilize—

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international cooperation and assistance to ensure the transmission of these cultural practices with the participation of the communities concerned.

The following elements were nominated for inscription on the List in Need of Urgent Safeguarding for review during the 10th session:

- Colombia - Traditional Vallenato music of the Greater Magdalena region
- Egypt - Traditional hand puppetry
- Mongolia - Coaxing ritual for camels
- Portugal - Manufacture of cowbells
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—Glaseoecho, male two-part singing in Dolni Polog
- Uganda - Koogere oral tradition of the Basongora, Banyabindi and Batooro peoples

The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity previously numbers 314 elements to date. It aims to enhance the visibility of communities’ traditions and knowledge without recognizing standards of excellence or exclusivity. The nominations during the session for the Representative List of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity were:

- Afghanistan - Attan
- Algeria - Sbuā, annual pilgrimage to the zawiya of Sidi El Hadj Belkacem in Gourara
- Andorra; Spain; France - Summer solstice fire festivals in the Pyrenees
- Argentina - Filete porteño in Buenos Aires, a traditional painting technique
- Armenia - Kochari, tradit...
### CULTURE

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- Bulgaria; The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Republic of Moldova; Romania - Cultural practices associated to the first of March
- Cambodia; Philippines; Republic of Korea; Viet Nam - Tugging rituals and games
- Colombia; Ecuador - Marimba music, traditional chants and dances from Colombia’s South Pacific region and Equador’s Esmeraldas Province
- Democratic People’s Republic of Korea - Tradition of kimchi-making
- Dominican Republic - Son
- Ethiopia - Fichee-Chambalaalla, New Year festival of the Sidama people
- Greece - Tinian marble craftsmanship
- Indonesia - Three genres of traditional dance in Bali
- Italy - Celebration of the Celestine Pardon
- Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan - Aitysh/Aitys, art of improvisation
- Kyrgyzstan - Kok-boru, traditional horse game
- Namibia - Oshituthi shomagongo, marula fruit festival
- Nigeria - Eyo masquerade festival
- Peru - Witi dance of the Colca Valley
- Romania - Lad’s dances in Romania
- Saudi Arabia - Alardah Alnajdiyah, dance, drumming and poetry in Saudi Arabia
- Slovakia - Bagpipe culture
- Tajikistan - Art of Chakan embroidery in Kulob
- Turkmenistan - Epic art of Gorogly
- United Arab Emirates; Oman - Al-Razfa, a traditional performing art

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**United Arab Emirates; Saudi Arabia; Oman; Qatar - Majlis, a cultural and social space**

**United Arab Emirates; Saudi Arabia; Oman; Qatar - Arabic coffee, a symbol of generosity**

**Uzbekistan - Ropewalking**

**Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) - Traditional knowledge and technologies relating to the growing and processing of the Curagua**

At the closing of the session, the committee decided that the next annual meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will take place from 28 November to 2 December 2016 in Addis-Abeba (Ethiopia) and will be chaired by Yonas Desta, Director General of the Authority for Research and Conservation of Cultural Heritage (ARCCH).

The next committee meeting will decide on measures to safeguard oral traditions and expressions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge and practices concerning

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From 13…. nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts, which constitute intangible heritage.

The Committee further approved the granting of financial assistance totalling US$90,000 to Malawi for a project to Safeguard Nkhonde, Tumbuka and Chewa proverbs and folktales, which are important to the country’s culture and whose transmission is declining.

Aiming to document this heritage, the project foresees the training of six researchers from the Oral Traditions Association of Malawi (OTAMA) to help six field assistants from the communities concerned interview resource people and collect some 30 proverbs and folk tales of the tradition as few of them have been recorded to date. This material will be filmed, transcribed, translated and published.

The Committee also defined operational directive recognizing the role that the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage can play in achieving the 2030 sustainable development goals that the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted in September.

Similarly, twelve ethical principles were adopted by the Committee. They aim to prevent disrespect and misappropriation—be it moral, legal or commercial—of intangible cultural heritage. They recognize the importance of ensuring the free and informed prior consent of local communities, respecting the rights of those concerned to full and equitable participation in any process, project or activity that may affect them. They acknowledge the crucial role of communities in maintaining and managing their culture and heritage.

The Committee inscribed five elements on the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding out of eight submissions. It also added 23 elements to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity out of a total of 35 nominations.

Now numbering 48 elements, the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of Urgent Safeguarding helps States Parties mobilize international cooperation and assistance to ensure the transmission of these cultural practices with the participation of the communities concerned.

The Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, now numbering 336 elements, shows the diversity of this heritage and raises awareness of its importance.

The Representative List includes forms of expression that testify to the diversity of the intangible heritage and raise awareness of its importance. The review of nominations for inscription on this list during the 10th session saw 23 elements inscribed out of a total of 35 that were proposed, including Namibia’s Oshituthi shomagongo, marula fruit festival.

The Oshituthi shomagongo, marula fruit festival, runs for two to three days between March and April when eight Aawambo communities from northern Namibia meet to enjoy omagongo – a beverage made from the fruit. To prepare, men carve utensils and serving tools and the women make basket’s and pots. They gather the fruit with young people, to process and ferment its juice. Traditional songs are sung, poems recited and lives discussed. Transmitted through observation and participation, the element unites generations and communities.
Several stakeholder meetings were held at UNESCO Windhoek National Office to prepare the celebration of the fifth edition of World Radio Day in Namibia. The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT), National Commission for UNESCO (NATCOM) and various other stakeholders from public services, mainstream and community media were present at the first meeting. World Radio Day is officially celebrated on 13 February internationally and the main theme for this fifth edition is ‘Radio in Times of Emergency and Disaster.’

The preparatory meetings were strategically organized to bring together partners from the radio broadcasting sector as well as humanitarian organizations active in Namibia in the field of disaster preparedness and response to celebrate World Radio Day (WRD) 2016. This year’s celebration aims to draw the attention of public bodies and civil society to the power of radio in times of emergency and disaster.

UNESCO Windhoek Head of Office (HoO) and Chairperson of the Meeting, Dr Jean-Pierre Ilboudo welcomed all stakeholders present at the first meeting and thanked them for attending the first conceptual phase of the celebrations. He explained why the specific stakeholders were invited and the objective of calling such a high level meeting.

“Each year, there is a specific theme and stakeholders dealing with that theme are actively involved in the celebrations. The objective of this preparatory meeting is to share information and brainstorm on activities to be implemented in Namibia as part of WRD celebrations,” he said.

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World Radio Day 2016
Preparations Underway

In order to assist the stakeholders to bring WRD 2016 closer to the community, the main theme for the fifth edition also includes five subthemes and fifteen ideas which were presented by the organisers. The subthemes and ideas offer a wide array of opportunities for discussion and guide the conception of the official programme.

A unanimous consensus was also reached by the stakeholders during the first meeting as they decided to include all the five sub-themes for this year’s celebration of WRD since they were all considered relevant for Namibia. The stakeholders agreed that work could be done around the subthemes by designating each sub-theme to individual radio stations.

As a result of the interactive meetings, a Sub-Committee was set up to spearhead the preparations for the celebrations.

Ms. Florence Haifeni from the MICT was voted in as the Chairperson of the Sub-committee.

Her responsibilities include overseeing the meetings and other logistics such as discussions about the budget, venue for the main celebration and workshop training of journalists. The Sub-committee meetings are held weekly until the official celebrations take place. The results of the subcommittee meetings were positive and for the first time in the history of Namibia, WRD will be celebrated outside the capital city, Windhoek.

The official celebrations will begin with a one day training workshop on Emergency and Disaster reporting for broadcast journalism students and various practitioners from mainstream and community radios on 03rd February 2016. The official WRD celebration for Namibia is scheduled to take place on 13 February 2016 in Gobabis.

Left: NUST Department of Journalism and Media Technology HoD, Ms Emily Brown (left) attended the first World Radio Day preparatory meeting.
Our Invitee of the Month is Ms. Jennifer Bitonde (JB), the World Food Programme (WFP) Representative to Namibia. Here are the extracts of our (UW) conversation with her.

UW: Thank you for agreeing to be our Invitee of the month. As United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) representative in Namibia, what are the core policies and strategies that govern WFP activities?

JB: WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide. It is the United Nations frontline agency mandated to combat global hunger, which afflicts one out of every seven people on earth.

Hence the policies governing WFP are oriented towards the objective of ending global hunger. Every day, WFP works to ensure that no person goes to bed hungry and that the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women and children, can access adequate nutritious food they need to live healthy and active lives.

Our work is guided by the WFP’s Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 which provides the framework for our operations and role in achieving a world with zero hunger. This includes:

- saving lives and protecting livelihoods in emergencies;
- supporting food security and nutrition and (re)building livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies;
- reducing risk and enabling people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs; and
- reducing undernutrition and breaking the intergenerational cycle of hunger.

In Namibia, WFP supports national food security plans to enable the country to assess, plan and responded to the food needs of the most vulnerable people.

UW: Being part of the UN family, what are the comparative advantages of WFP and how do you complement other Agencies’ efforts?

JB: WFP has a deep field presence and global reach which allows the organization to reach many vulnerable people even in the remotest and most difficult to reach areas. We operate in about 75 countries reaching 80 million people worldwide. Much of WFP’s reputation lies in its unmatched ability to respond to emergencies quickly and effectively as well as its capacity to scale up emergency operations at short notice.

WFP’s humanitarian logistics capacity is a key component of its comparative advantages. WFP’s logistics capacity allows it to provide timely responses to emergencies even in cases where access is a challenge. As leader of the UN logistics cluster, WFP provides logistics services to partners.

But most relevant to Namibia is WFP’s strong vulnerability analysis and mapping capabilities which facilitate targeting of assistance to people who need assistance most. WFP’s well developed vulnerability assessment tools and systems are used to determine needs and provide information on potentially developing situations of food insecurity and the appropriate actions to be taken.

With more than 45 years of confronting hunger and developing deep understanding of hunger issues, WFP has substantial operational and policy expertise in hunger-related issues which many national governments have tapped into to design and implement national food safety nets that are crucial in the fight against hunger. By strengthening the capacity of relevant government institutions to assess food security needs, we complement other -

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agencies to access information on evolving food security situations that is used to plan and direct their assistance accordingly.

UW: What is the difference between WFP and FAO?

JB: The most obvious difference is the name. WFP stands for World Food Programme and FAO stands for Food and Agriculture Organisation.

WFP’s key mission is to deliver food into the hands of the hungry poor. We step in during emergencies and use food and or cash after emergencies to aid recovery. Our longer term approaches to hunger assists with the transition from recovery to development. FAO on the other hand is the world’s agricultural knowledge agency, providing policy and technical assistance to countries to promote food security, nutrition and sustainable agricultural production.

Although WFP and FAO have specific roles, these roles are complementary. Food security and agricultural development are major challenges facing the world today and both WFP and FAO work together to address these challenges to achieve a world without hunger. WFP and FAO also share a common vision of promoting world food security through the twin-track approach of alleviating hunger with food assistance, nutrition support measures and social protection instruments; and eliminating the root causes of hunger and poverty.

UW: What are some of the key achievements of WFP in Namibia thus far?

JB: WFP key achievements in Namibia date back to 1990 when it first established its presence in Namibia. The organisation provided food aid to communities that were affected by the drought in 1991 and 1999 thereby averting hunger in areas that were affected. Most of the food safety nets you see in Namibia today such as the National School Feeding Programme and the emergency food assistance programmes were initiated by WFP and have remained an important strategy for addressing hunger in the country. In 2005 up until 2008, WFP supported Orphans and Vulnerable children (OVC) in Namibia providing nutritious food assistance to tackle the impact of HIV/AIDs on poor families. WFP played a major role in ensuring that the OVCs were integrated in the national child social grants system which is run by the Government.

Another major achievement for WFP in Namibia was the feeding of thousands of refugees who sought refuge in Namibia during the time of conflicts in Angola and the Great Lakes Region. WFP was here to provide assistance to these refugees until 2013 when most of them returned home, after conditions in their countries of origin had improved or durable solutions such as resettlement were found.

Since 2012, WFP focus has shifted from food assistance to provision of technical assistance and policy guidance to the government on hunger related issues. Through WFP technical assistance,

- The government of Namibia has developed policy and strategic guidelines for effective management of food safety nets such as school feeding. Currently WFP is working with the government on a school feeding policy.
- Systems for assessing and monitoring food security needs as well as the impact of food assistance programmes have been developed and are being utilised across the country.
- Through knowledge generation and knowledge management approaches, the evidence base on food security has been enhanced.

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For instance a number of studies and assessments have been carried out which have informed policy decisions to strengthen food assistance programmes.

- Training has been a major component of WFP work in Namibia. A number of food security practitioners and service providers have been trained in logistics supply chain management, school feeding management, food security assessment and mapping and the impact of these trainings is evident in the increased ability of these practitioners to replicate the same trainings at sub regional level.

- WFP has also facilitated learning and information sharing between Namibia and other countries on food and nutrition security and food assistance. Namibia has been able to share its good practices with other countries and also acquired knowledge on other countries’ practices which have been replicated here.

**UW: As the representative for WFP in Namibia, what are some of the pressing emergencies regarding food programme in Namibia?**

**JB:** One of the pressing challenges we are facing in Namibia is food insecurity which is caused by multiple factors including low food production due to poor soil fertility, natural hazards, lack of access to adequate means of production, unemployment, poverty, inequality etc. Namibia as you may know is a food deficit country that produces about 40% of its annual food requirement.

Sixty percent (60%) of its national cereal requirement is imported from regional or global markets and because of this, food prices in the country are susceptible to factors such as high commodity and fuel prices influenced by situations in other countries such as conflicts and unfavourable weather conditions.

For a country that has about 28% of its population unemployed and 27% poor, any increase in food prices will have a huge impact on these people in terms of their ability to access food either through markets or own production. Hence government plans to expand the social safety nets to include food banks and the basic income grant is a welcome policy decision that will enable people who are vulnerable to shocks and other risks to live descent and more productive lives.

**UW: There are reports that most of the countries in Southern Africa will have a serious drought this year due to El Niño conditions. Could you please tell us what El Niño is all about?**

**JB:** El Niño is a weather pattern that results from the warming of sea temperatures in the equatorial pacific causing hot air to rise and disrupt global weather patterns. This anomaly happens at irregular intervals of two to seven years, and lasts nine months to two years. The average interval is five years. When this warming occurs for seven to nine months, it is classified as El Niño “conditions”; when its duration is longer, it is classified as an El Niño “episode”. These altered weather patterns can cause severe droughts – as is the case in many countries in southern Africa - whilst simultaneously causing heavy flooding in other countries or even in some parts of a country experiencing drought elsewhere at the same time, as in Malawi.

In the southern Africa region, El Niño is associated with dry conditions which are often are not conducive for agriculture. These conditions affect commodity prices and constrain the supply of rain-driven agricultural commodities; reduce agricultural output; create high food-prices and generalised inflation, etc. In some instances, the El Niño cycle is associated with increased risks of some of the diseases.

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The Namibia annual rural vulnerability assessments conducted by the government with WFP technical assistance, make food security information available to partners to plan appropriate responses to the drought situation. Most of government food responses are informed by food security assessments that WFP is supporting.

Currently WFP is working with the National Planning Commission and the Office of the Prime Minister to review the food and nutrition security in the country which will ultimately result in the formulation of a Zero Hunger strategy for Namibia.

UW: In 2015 the President of the Republic of Namibia declared war on poverty and called upon all development partners to help his government in this fight. Also the high youth unemployment rate is a significant contributing factor to poverty in Namibia. What is WFP doing to fight poverty and hunger in Namibia within the context of its mandate?

JB: Poverty cannot be eliminated if people do not have access to nutritious food. So WFP commends the government of Namibia for waging war against poverty and hunger. Within the partnership framework between WFP and the government, WFP will continue to support Namibia in ensuring that food security remains a priority and that adequate policy guidelines are in place to implement anti-hunger solutions.

Information and data on food security is crucial in terms of determining who is food insecure and where and how many they are. WFP will continue to push the boundaries on innovative data analysis approaches to assist government understand household hunger and what interventions are required to support them.
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-Enhancing systems for food security monitoring and impact assessment remains a priority for WFP as this allows for effective preparedness and response. Building a capable team of government cadres to manage and implement effective and efficient food security programmes that address hunger is a key component of our programme. Social safety nets are essential for ensuring access to nutritious food while addressing persistent poverty and reducing inequality. WFP continues to work with the government to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of safety nets such as school feeding and emergency food assistance.

**UW:** What are some of the key opportunities for WFP and the Namibian Government working together in Namibia within the framework of UNPAF?

**JB:** WFP's vision is a world in which every man, woman and child has access at all times to the food needed for an active and healthy life. Without food, there can be no sustainable peace and development. We are happy that this vision is shared by the Government as evident in the recent declaration of war against hunger by the President of Namibia and Namibia's commitment through the 2014 Malabo Declaration to end hunger in Namibia by 2025. The Zero Hunger challenge and the new sustainable development agenda provide an opportunity for WFP and the Government of Namibia to work together to end hunger in Namibia.

**UW:** What opportunities are there for UNESCO and WFP to work together in Namibia?

**JB:** SDG2 which is to "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture" and its first 3 targets are directly related to WFP's global mandate. SDG2 is going to be the focus of WFP for the next 15 years and WFP's corporate strategic objectives will be derived from this SDG. In Namibia, WFP will continue to pursue the same agenda of ensuring Zero Hunger in Namibia.

Work has already begun to establish a comprehensive analysis of the food and nutrition security in the country; determine the progress that policies and programmes aimed at improving food security and nutrition have made; identify gaps in the response and prioritize actions that will be required to fill the gaps to accelerate progress towards Zero Hunger. This initiative will contribute to the establishment of a Zero Hunger strategy for Namibia which will also guide WFP strategy in Namibia.

**UW:** Behind every successful person there is a great story to tell. Can you tell us a bit about your professional career and how you ended up in Namibia?

**JB:** My career with the UN begun 20 years ago. I joined the UN in Rwanda soon after genocide where as Head of WFP Sub Office in the prefectures of Butare, Kibungo and Cyangugu, I facilitated the implementation of food assistance programmes for returning–
refugees, displaced persons and vulnerable communities. Prior to joining WFP, I worked with Concern Worldwide in Kigali, Rwanda also supporting the repatriation of Rwandan refugees. In 1999 I was assigned as an Emergency Officer with WFP in Pyongyang, Korea Democratic People’s Republic (DPRK) where I was responsible for monitoring WFP emergency operation in DPRK. Then joined WFP Office in Asmara, Eritrea in 2001 to coordinate the School Feeding Programme where school meals and take home rations were provided regularly to vulnerable children to encourage them to enrol in school and attend classes regularly. In 2005 I joined WFP in Khartoum, Sudan where I was responsible for WFP Country Programme on school feeding. After Khartoum, I moved to South Sudan in 2006, where I served as WFP Head of Sub Office in Lakes State. Here I was responsible for the overall management of WFP operations including assessing and responding to emergency food needs. Prior to joining WFP Namibia in 2011, I led the food cluster in Multan Pakistan during the 2010 flood emergency and was responsible for coordinating the cluster’s emergency food response to flood affected districts in Punjab province. I am currently serving as WFP Representative in Namibia and I am responsible for providing leadership in defining and implementing WFP policies and strategies that contribute to Zero Hunger in Namibia.

UW: To us you are known as the Representative for WFP in Namibia; but please tell us who Ms. Jennifer Bitonde really is besides the title of leadership she holds? What are your hobbies? What really makes you tick (interest)?

JB: My main interests are travelling and discovering new places and cultures and fashion. I love gardening and interior designing and I can’t live without music. A lot of things make me tick but the most important ones are being around positive people having positive social interactions and making a difference in people’s life, whether through work or personal life.

UW: How do you deal with challenges and balancing between your demanding work and the family?

JB: Currently my family is not in Windhoek with me. So I have plenty of time to focus on my work during the day but in the evening, thanks to social media, I am in constant touch with my family. When my family visits, I always manage to find time to adjust my schedule to accommodate quality family time without compromising my work responsibilities. I am also lucky to be working for an organization that respects and encourages work-life balance. So I always make time to bond and catch up on so many things with my family.

UW: Are you a lover of books? If so what book are you currently reading, who is the author and why did you choose the specific book?

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I like books but with improved access to internet, I have switched to reading books, journals and articles online. I am currently reading a book by Judith Rodin; "Being Strong in a World Where Things Go Wrong; the Resilience Dividend". This book is about building resilience and how people, organizations, businesses and communities have developed resilience in the face of otherwise catastrophic challenges.

It is about the ability to bounce back more quickly and effectively from shocks and stresses. Rodin tells how we are able to create and take advantage of new economic and social opportunities that offer us the capacity to recover after shocks and grow strong in times of relative calm. I find this book relevant to my work in Namibia given the recurrent natural shocks Namibia experiences almost every year. The book will help me understand how other countries have managed to build resilience in the face of catastrophes. Hopefully I can apply or share the same strategies here in Namibia.

**UW: Tell us about your parents and siblings. Did they have any influence on the person you are today? And who inspire you most in life?**

**JB:** I am the fourth born and the first girl in a family of 10. I have 7 brothers and 2 sisters. I have about 30 nieces and nephews. My parents have passed on and oh yes they were my biggest influence. My mother in particular was a strong woman who always had things under control.

I recall during the 80's when Uganda was going through a civil war, our family was separated. My mother stayed with me and some of my siblings in a small town in the Western part of Uganda while my father and my other siblings were stuck in the capital city, Kampala. For many months while the war raged on, my mother managed to keep the family together by diversifying the family income to keep us all in school.

During holidays she made us work in her shop and on the farm, delivering milk to a milk processing plant in town. She managed to increase the maize and coffee crop yields which helped us through the difficult times until the war ended and our family was reunited. I have since learnt how important diversifying incomes is and I try to do the same to for my family and also apply this knowledge in my work.

**UW: We have come to the end of our interview, thank you for sharing your time with us. However, before we say goodbye, what advice, quote or words of inspiration would you like to share with our readers?**

**JB:** I would like to share my favourite quote from one great man I admire, Nelson Mandela. It goes like "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead". For me this quote sums up everything I try to do at work and at home and is very relevant to our UN work in Namibia and elsewhere. We all must strive to make a difference in the lives of others.

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