**UNESCO AND ITS Mandate**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the United Nations’ specialized agency with a mandate for intellectual cooperation in the fields of education, science and the social sciences, culture and communication. From the Headquarters of the Organization in Paris, UNESCO liaises with its 188 (and six Associate) Member States through a worldwide network of Offices. The Offices assure UNESCO’s presence in the regions and maintain interactive relations with the various partners in pursuing the Organization’s mission.

UNESCO’s Constitution stipulates that “The purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.” (Article I. Purposes and Functions, par. 1.)

The constitution was adopted by the London General Conference in November 1945 and entered into effect on 4 November 1946 when 20 states had deposited instruments of acceptance.

**UNESCO AND ITS Strategy**

Approved by the 31st Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in October 2001, the Medium-Term Strategy for 2000-2003 (C/41) is placed in the context of UNESCO’s commitment to contribute to peace and human development in an era of globalisation. The programmes and activities in this strategy are aligned along three strategic axes: “developing and promoting universal principles and norms”; “promoting pluralism, through recognition and safeguarding of diversity together with the observance of human rights”; and “promoting empowerment and participation in the emerging knowledge society”.

Two cross-cutting themes underpin these policy choices: the “eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty” and “the contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society”.

UNESCO Offices throughout the world, in collaboration with National Commissions for UNESCO, develop regional, sub-regional and national strategies. In the Asia and the Pacific region strategic areas have been identified in collaboration with the Secretaries General of the National Commissions for UNESCO. Among them, UNESCO gives high priority to assisting Member States in the region to develop national Education For All (EFA) plans.

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**UNESCO FIELD OFFICES IN THE ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION**

Cluster Offices & Regional Bureaus

UNESCO Office Almaty: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
UNESCO Office Apia: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu
UNESCO Office Bangkok and Regional Bureau for Education: Cambodia, Laos People’s Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam
UNESCO Office Beijing: China, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea
UNESCO Office Jakarta and Regional Bureau in Science: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines
UNESCO Office New Delhi and Regional Bureau for Communication and Information: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka
UNESCO Office Teheran: Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan

Disclaimer: Delimitation of national boundaries are for reference purposes, and do not represent an endorsement by UNESCO Headquarters, Institutions or any of its Field Offices.

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**UNESCO OFFICE HANOI annual report 2001 & overview of activities 1999-2001**

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**ACRONYMS**

ACCU Asia Cultural Centre for UNESCO
APPEAL Asia-Pacific Programme of Education for All
ASP UNESCO Associated Schools Project
CCG Common Country Assessment
CG Commonwealth Government
CDG Consultative Group for Women
CEB Canadian International Development Agency
CLE Community Learning Centre
EFA Education for All
HIV/AIDS Human Immune Deficiency Virus
ICL Information and Communication Technologies
IEA International EFA Support Team
IGA Japan International Cooperation Agency
FOREWORD

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

What pleasure it is to introduce the Annual Report of the UNESCO Office in Hanoi for the Year 2001! It culminates the end of our first biennium of operation: a most significant period in the history of the Office.

Since its establishment in late 1999, our Office has grown by leaps and bounds. Many young and dedicated people from a variety of countries have joined our dedicated Vietnamese staff members in establishing our presence in Viet Nam and assisting in the promotion of sustainable and equitable development through education, the sciences, culture and communication for all. To all these colleagues goes my deep appreciation for their hard work and for their dedication to the ideals of our Organization.

Much has also changed in Viet Nam since the establishment of our Office. UNESCO is proud to have been associated with the accomplishments of the Vietnamese government, supporting the new Heritage Law and a renewed commitment to Education for All together with its emphasis on poverty alleviation and the preservation and conservation of the country’s natural and cultural resources. As Viet Nam moves steadily forward towards modernisation and internationalisation, the UNESCO Office in Hanoi will continue to respond to requests for technical assistance on the part of our partners and stakeholders.

Finally, I should like to thank the Vietnamese authorities and, in particular, the President of the Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Mr. Chu Tuan Cap, for their assistance and cooperation. A special thank you goes to the Secretary General of the National Commission, Madame Nguyen Thi Hoi, whose professionalism, dynamism and unfailing sense of humour I have come to treasure over the years of my tenure in this extraordinary country.

I trust that you will find the many activities covered by this Annual Report to be of interest and hope that they will provide you with an insight into the life of a small national office.

Ms. Rosamaria Durand
UNESCO Representative in Viet Nam and Head of Office

Dialogue must become an instrument of transformation, a way for tolerance and peace...
Mr. Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO
A focus on Education For All

Since 1990, Viet Nam has prioritised the provision of quality education for all and, despite some difficulties, has nearly achieved universal primary education. Moreover, Viet Nam was one of the countries that presented a comprehensive Education for All (EFA) assessment at the World Education Forum in Dakar in 2000, which was very well received. In keeping with the Dakar resolutions, Viet Nam made a commitment at the Consultative Group (CG) meeting held in December 2000 to prepare a National EFA Plan with the assistance of interested donors.

Within this context, UNESCO, in partnership with the World Bank (WB), initiated a consultation process with the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) to secure funding to develop a strategy aimed at providing technical assistance to the Ministry and engendering widespread support for the decisions made at the CG meeting. As a result of these efforts, financial resources were secured through the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and UNESCO. Moreover, the UNESCO Office in Hanoi was designated as the lead agency in this process. In October, 2001, the preparatory phase of the project was launched and a team of international consultants was identified to work with MoET officials and other donors to prepare a National EFA Plan.
UNESCO Supporting Education in Viet Nam: EFA Milestones

DECEMBER 2000

At the Viet Nam CG meeting, several bilateral and multilateral donors commit themselves to supporting the EFA efforts of Viet Nam in the preparation of a National EFA Plan of Action.

JANUARY TO JUNE 2001

The UNESCO Hanoi Office initiates negotiations with the WB and MoET and prepares an initial proposal for the EFA Plan of Action.

JULY TO OCTOBER 2001

An International EFA Support Team (IEST) is identified and financial inputs are secured from CIDA and the WB ($197,000 USD), UNESCO Headquarters ($30,000 USD), the Japanese Funds-in-Trust ($44,150 USD) and the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in Bangkok ($21,898 USD), to finance the development of the EFA Plan.

In addition to financial inputs, UNESCO also contributes technical assistance and ‘in-kind’ resources from its Headquarters in Paris and through its Bangkok and Hanoi Offices.

OCTOBER 2001

By Ministerial decision on 17 October, MoET establishes an EFA Plan Preparation Team charged with coordinating and overseeing the entire process of the preparation and consolidation of the National EFA Plan.

NOVEMBER 2001

An EFA Secretariat is established, based at the Hanoi UNESCO Office and jointly funded by UNESCO, the WB and CIDA, to provide administrative and organizational backstopping.

DECEMBER 2001

The first mission of four international consultants is undertaken. They begin their work under the guidance and coordination of a Lead Consultant and in collaboration with MoET.

END 2001 ONWARDS

From December 2001 until the end of the project, the IEST will continue to provide technical assistance to assist MoET in the preparation of the National EFA Plan scheduled for completion in October 2002.

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**Education month by month – the 2002 EFA Diary**

The purpose of the EFA Diary 2002 is to salute Viet Nam’s commitments and promote the six EFA goals. It provides a promotional tool and an effective way to raise awareness of the critical importance and relevance of the National EFA Plan to sustainable development and educational advancement. The text of the Diary contains excerpts from the ‘Dakar Framework for Action’ with information about each of the six goals subscribed to by the 164 Member States that attended the World Education Forum in April, 2000. The illustrations, photographs and posters were contributed by a wide range of EFA partners in Viet Nam.

Produced with the financial assistance of the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Diary has been disseminated widely throughout Viet Nam to all the EFA partners, mass organisations, government departments and ministries, and the international community. Copies have also been sent to the Organization Headquarters in Paris, France, all UNESCO Offices and their vast network of partners throughout the world.

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**Early childhood and family support – trends and transformations**

A Sub-regional Consultation Meeting on Family Support was held in Hanoi in May 2001, jointly organized by MoET, the Early Childhood and Family Education Section of UNESCO Headquarters and the Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO. Technical input was received from the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok. Apart from Viet Nam, the meeting welcomed participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, who came together to discuss the changing composition of families and the care and education of young children.
A poster competition, entitled ‘My mother, my teacher’ was held as part of the UNESCO Hanoi Office’s activities in celebration of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), with the aim of strengthening the Associated Schools Project (ASP) network in Vietnam and promoting education for a Culture of Peace.

Conceived as a follow-up to the Plan of Action from the ‘Asian Women for a Culture of Peace Conference’, held in Hanoi in 2000, the competition was coordinated by the Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO in collaboration with the office as a means of building upon the role of women as mothers and educators as well as their traditions of conflict resolution through dialogue and communication.

The UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok and the Asia-Pacific Programme of Education for All (APPEAL) collaborated with the National Commission, supported by the UNESCO Office in Hanoi, to organize the Community Learning Centres (CLCs) Review Meeting held in Hanoi in November 2001. Participants came together from nineteen countries in the region, joining staff from UNESCO Field Units and the Asia Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU).

During the five-day meeting, CLCs were discussed from both a national and regional perspective. Country presentations on national activities and impacts as well as overviews of the APPEAL programme, in the context of EFA and the follow up to the ‘Dakar Framework for Action’, were considered. Special attention was given to the development of CLCs in Asia and the Pacific region and to strategies for establishing linkages and partnerships. Further thematic discussions covered the process, outcomes and impact of the CLCs, capacity building of CLC personnel and strategies for the sustainability and expansion of CLCs. The programme included field visits to CLCs.
Vital Traditions: A regional textile workshop

Traditions that continually evolve yet stay true to their roots were a cross-cutting theme of a three-week workshop entitled ‘Vital Traditions – Revival and Innovation of Traditional Textiles’, held in the end of 2001 at the Viet Nam Museum of Ethnology in Hanoi. The workshop explored options available for augmenting economic opportunities for local craft artisans in the Asia and the Pacific region by identifying and reviving traditional designs, creating new textile designs and improving the technical and marketing skills of craft producers.

Thirty participants, representing artisans and resource people from the craft sectors of ten countries in Southeast Asia, attended the workshop together with participants from the Co Tu, Chau Ma, H’mong and Thai ethnic minorities of Viet Nam. The instructors were textile designers, artists, and teachers from Australia, France, the USA and Viet Nam. The workshop also included experts in the fields of weaving, marketing, the development and study of crafts, and cultural traditions.

Documentation of the process and the new products created by the participants during the workshop were displayed on the final day.

The workshop was organized by the UNESCO Hanoi Office in collaboration with the Viet Nam Museum of Ethnology, Craft Link (a Vietnamese not-for-profit organization) and the National Commission, and was financially supported by NORAD. It was part of the ‘Artists in Development’ Creativity Programme, one of a series of ten such workshops held around the world to preserve traditional skills and promote the creative talents of artisans.

A documentary film, brochure and report on the workshop will be released in the spring of 2002. Follow-up activities to the workshop recommendations are being planned for the year 2002 and beyond, and will be incorporated in the Office’s strategy for the protection and promotion of intangible heritage.
Strengthening craft and tradition among ethnic minority women: Weaving Training and Demonstration Workshop

In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Information (MoCI), a workshop was held at the Viet Nam Museum of Ethnology in Hanoi in October 2001. It aimed to improve weaving techniques among women from the Katu, Tai, and Kinh (in Ha Tay Province) ethnic groups, raise awareness of some of the challenges facing craft workers in ethnic groups and promote knowledge and understanding of the weaving techniques among the general public. The results of the workshop included improved technical skill in weaving, better understanding of quality and authenticity of products as well as knowledge about markets, marketing and the preservation of crafts. The training was in the preparations for the regional textile workshop described earlier.

The workshop constituted part of the poverty alleviation and intangible heritage conservation activities of the UNESCO Hanoi Office, and aimed to promote traditional Vietnamese culture in the context of the rapid socio-economic changes that are taking place in Viet Nam. Through this, and similar activities, the Office supports income generation and cultural development with a focus on ethnic minority women, providing them not only with increased household income, but also wider access to decision making and a more prominent role in their communities.

Income generation through handicraft development: Skills training for ethnic minority women in northern Viet Nam

Craft activities can be a useful means of generating income in poor areas, providing basic education and a way of earning money as an alternative to a life on the street. They can often bring about significant economic change as well as indirect benefits such as improved health, strengthened individual and collective self-esteem and identity. This has been the case in the province of Lao Cai in northern Viet Nam, where women in the San Xa Ho commune of Sa Pa district were taught to use their indigenous craft skills to earn extra income to benefit themselves and their families. Implemented through Craft Link and drawing upon its extensive experience of developing handicrafts for income generation, the project spanned eight months in the latter half of 2001 during which the participants received training in literacy, craft preservation and development, financial training and management, and marketing. As a practical outcome of the training, the project revived the art of making collars using traditional materials.

The Ha Long Bay Ecomuseum project: Moving forward

Located in northeast Viet Nam and inscribed on the World Heritage list in 1994, Ha Long Bay is a unique land and seascape of ‘karst’ limestone islands, reaching up to 200m above sea level. It extends over an area of approximately 1500 km² and is rich in natural resources and biodiversity. Ha Long City, a rapidly developing urban and industrial area that includes Cam Pha Town with a total population exceeding 300,000, is immediately adjacent to the centre of the Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Area (WHA).

The Ha Long Bay Ecomuseum Feasibility Study, undertaken in the year 2000 with funding from the United Nations Development Programme, marked the first holistic approach to strengthening environmental and cultural management capacity in Viet Nam using heritage interpretation techniques. By building the management capacity of the Ha Long Bay Management Department and expanding community and stakeholder participation in conservation activities, protecting the environment became everyone’s concern.

Throughout the life of the project, the highest authorities in Quang Ninh Province have endorsed this approach and facilitated its implementation. The supportive role and participation of H.E. Mr. Ha Van Hien, former Chairman of Quang Ninh Provincial People’s Committee and present Secretary of Quang Ninh Communist Party, is greatly appreciated and will be a determining factor in the efforts of Quang Ninh Province to secure the funds required for the establishment of the Ha Long Bay Ecomuseum.
Second inscription of Ha Long Bay

In December, 2000, the name of Ha Long Bay was entered in the World Heritage List for the second time following a decision by the World Heritage Committee at a meeting in Cairns, Australia. On this occasion, the inscription was under Criterion (i) for Natural Heritage Sites, for the “most extensive and best-known example of marine invaded tower karst and one of the most important areas of fengcong and fenglin karst in the world.” (Report of the 24th Session of the World Heritage Committee, section X, sub-section A, item A.2). To commemorate this further recognition, H.E. Mr. Ha Van Hien, then Secretary of Quang Ninh Communist Party and Chairman of Quang Ninh Provincial People’s Committee, received the World Natural Heritage Certificate at a ceremony in Ha Long City on 30 April, 2001.

Ms. Rosamaria Durand presents the World Heritage Certificate to H.E. Mr. Ha Van Hien.

Preserving heritage in Hanoi

Since receiving the ‘UNESCO Cities for Peace’ Prize in 1999, Hanoi People’s Committee has been engaged in different activities to uphold that prestigious title by preserving the heritage of Hanoi during a period of rapid urban development. The Hanoi UNESCO Office has endeavoured to work closely with the Hanoi People’s Committee to support these activities, conducting topical research in architecture and opening links to other cities in the region to solve similar development issues. These efforts will continue in the future, strengthening the bond between the Office and the Hanoi People’s Committee.

NORMATIVE ACTIONS FOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN VIET NAM

Protecting Viet Nam’s heritage: reinforcing the regulations

The UNESCO Office in Hanoi worked with MoCI on a number of different activities during the latter part of 2001. Firstly, in consultations with the Ministry, it was decided that more efforts were needed to raise public awareness of the negative aspects of illicit trafficking in cultural property. In response to this, MoCI conceived two television programmes to inform and convey information to the public and making a connection with Viet Nam’s new National Heritage Law and the policies that are being implemented to protect the national heritage. These programmes also feature discussions about illicit trade in antiquities and other issues relating to the protection of cultural heritage.

Secondly, MoCI organized three important workshops in November 2001 in Hanoi, two of which received financial and technical support from UNESCO. Each workshop was timed to coincide with, and support, a much larger MoCI workshop that had already been planned to discuss the implementation of the National Heritage Law. The three workshops were related to the following topics:


In keeping with its objectives to offer capacity building opportunities to managers of WHAs, the Hanoi UNESCO Office, in collaboration with the National Commission, prepared a proposal that was successfully submitted to the World Heritage Fund. The aim was to bring together the managers of four WHAs to discuss preservation and conservation issues in the context of the recent Vietnamese National Heritage Law and to prepare an Action Plan for Hoi An Ancient Town.

In December 2001, representatives from the four WHAs in Viet Nam (Ha Long Bay, Hoi An, Hue and My Son) assembled in Hoi An to attend a three-day workshop with representatives from various levels of the Government and from the UNESCO Office in Hanoi. This provided a forum for sharing experience and information, underscoring important issues and developing a collective management plan incorporating an understanding of the Heritage Law. A draft Action Plan, in which the identification and integration of surrounding communities and other stakeholders were important components in heritage protection and conservation, was presented to participants for their comments. Follow-up activities will include the completion of this Action Plan as well as preparation for the future implementation of its proposals.

UNESCO AND THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF VOLUNTEERS 2001

In celebration of the United Nations International Year of Volunteers, the Hanoi UNESCO Office undertook the following two projects, both aimed at increasing the participation of volunteers in heritage protection and preservation.

- **National Heritage Law – a new tool for the World Heritage Areas**

- **Heritage step by step: Involving young people in conservation**

Based on experience gained from the project to develop Ha Long Bay as an Ecomuseum, the UNESCO Office commissioned a guidebook for youth participation in heritage conservation. The pocket-size publication is a brief, user-friendly guidebook that enables young people to participate in the interpretation, conservation, and management of heritage areas, especially WHAs, and facilitates activities related to cultural heritage, voluntary work and community participation. The publication was developed with the participation of the Youth Group of the Ha Long Ecomuseum Project, Ha Long Bay Management Department and the Quang Ninh Youth Union, supported by the Viet Nam Youth Federation.

The publication was produced in the context of the United Nations International Year of Volunteers in 2001, and was printed in preparation for the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage 2002. Despite the publication’s focus upon Ha Long Bay WHA, it was designed for use in any heritage locality and developed as a prototype for reproduction in other countries.

- **Youth for heritage conservation in Viet Nam: The Hanoi UNESCO Office in collaboration with United Nations Volunteers**

The International Year of Volunteers aimed to mark the importance of voluntary work, not only within the UN (United Nations) system and in development activities, but also as an important element in community development in general. Against this backdrop, the Office, working with United Nations Volunteers in Hanoi and Bonn and relevant national and provincial youth organisations, undertook to develop a major proposal for a project to involve young people in the conservation of heritage areas. The main goal of the project is to raise public awareness and encourage neighbouring communities to participate in the conservation and interpretation processes of the WHAs in Viet Nam. At the end of 2001, the project was short-listed by a potential donor and, if approved, will be launched in 2002.
PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Multidisciplinary Approach to Development

"In this vast interconnected whole, there are no isolated phenomena, and a relationship exists - according to the paradoxical image familiar to us all - between the fluttering of a butterfly’s wings and the unleashing of a storm."

Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO

PROMOTING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

Following the International Year for the Culture of Peace in 2000, UNESCO remains the lead agency during the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), an inter-sectoral programme that involves all UN agencies. The key objective for the Decade is to promote education for a culture of peace, specifically focussing upon children, and is consequently executed in close association with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Given its mandate, UNESCO, in its programming strategies for the Decade, will give impetus to issues immediately linked to values of freedom, justice, solidarity, the right to peace, and the creation of a foundation for a Culture of Peace, and will mainstream its programming in accordance with these fundamental values.

A highlight in the celebration of the International Year for the Culture of Peace, and marking the beginning of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, was the attendance of the three top officials of UNESCO at the Asian Women for a Culture of Peace Conference held in Hanoi in December 2000. The Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura made an opening speech to the conference delegates, followed by Ms. Sonia Mendieta de Badaroux, President of the Executive Board of UNESCO (2000-2001). Ms. Jaroslava Moserova, President of the General Conference (2000-2001), gave a closing address.
Asian women leading the way towards peace and non-violence: Implementation of the Plan of Action of the Asian Women for a Culture of Peace Conference

In May 2001, the National Commission, in cooperation with the Viet Nam Women’s Union and the Hanoi UNESCO Office, organized a Launching Ceremony for the ‘Implementation of the Plan of Action of the Asian Women for a Culture of Peace Conference’, held in Hanoi in December 2000. As an initiative for the national follow-up to the Asian Women’s Conference, and in celebration of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), this event reaffirmed Viet Nam’s commitment to a culture of peace in general, and the contribution of Vietnamese women to a culture of peace and sustainable development in particular.

A special honour to guests and speakers was the presence of H.E. Ms. Nguyen Thi Binh, Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. During the ceremony, Ms. Rosamaria Durand, as UNESCO Representative in Viet Nam, presented the Office’s Plan of Action, focused on income-generating activities for women in the crafts sector.

Furthering amity: Education for a Culture of Peace

In November 2001, the Hanoi UNESCO Office, in collaboration with the National Commission, convened a national seminar on education for a culture of peace in Hanoi. The seminar provided a platform for dialogue amongst policy makers and practitioners in the field of education, with the aim of designing a number of specific recommendations and practical guidelines for streamlining the concept of ‘Culture of Peace’ into the Vietnamese formal and non-formal education system.

This seminar was held as a follow-up to the recommendations from the ‘National Workshop on a Culture of Peace in Viet Nam’ held in May 1999, and the ‘National Seminar on Education for a Culture of Peace for UNESCO Associated Schools in Viet Nam’ held in December 1999, two events organised by the National Commission. The Seminar also connected thematically to the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), and constituted an element in the Decade programme of the Hanoi UNESCO Office.
SCIENCE FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**Can Gio Mangrove Biosphere Reserve**

In February 2000, the International Co-ordinating Council of UNESCO’s ‘Programme on Man and the Biosphere’ (MAB) approved the entire mangrove forest of Can Gio in southern Vietnam for inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Can Gio, a 75,740 hectare mangrove area with biological diversity of high conservation value, is located between Ho Chi Minh City and the South China Sea. Although it was almost completely destroyed by bombing and herbicide spraying during the years of conflict between Vietnam and the USA, more than 200 species of fauna and 52 species of flora are now flourishing in the reserve. In collaboration with the Hanoi Office and the UNESCO Regional Office for Science based in Jakarta, and in close consultation with Vietnam MAB Committee, the Can Gio Management Board arranged seven community workshops during 2001 with the objective of enlisting the support of local communities, producing public information materials and upgrading the data management of the area.

**Confronting the pandemic: a Cultural Approach to HIV/AIDS in Vietnam**

In 2001, the UNESCO Office in Hanoi undertook two research studies on HIV/AIDS in Quang Ninh province and Ho Chi Minh City, the two areas of the country with the highest prevalence of HIV positive people. Financed by the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and UNESCO, the studies focussed on using cultural references and resources to encourage positive behavioural changes and more supportive environments for people with HIV/AIDS. The findings provided significant and often alarming insights into the role of cultural factors that strongly influence people’s perceptions and interpretations, consequently dictating their behaviour towards themselves and those affected by the epidemic. The findings call for establishing support groups and developing appropriate educational materials to raise awareness about prevention methods, support and care.

Workshops were conducted during the summer of 2001 in the Can Gio Biosphere reserve to encourage local communities to participate in protecting the ecologically sensitive area.

…much of the discriminatory behaviour towards HIV positive persons was through attitudes, words, and gestures in connection with everyday life activities such as eating, sharing rooms, using household implements and objects and straightforward physical presence.”

(Vietnamese cultural approach to prevention, support and care in selected areas of Ho Chi Minh City (2001): Social Development Research and Consultancy (SDRC) for the UNESCO Hanoi Office)
The Hanoi UNESCO Office in the media

Information and photographs related to the Office’s activities appeared frequently in the national and local media during 2001. Most of the coverage related to specific events organized by, or involving, the Office, but occasional general interviews with Ms. Rosamaria Durand, UNESCO Representative, featured UNESCO’s programming activities in Viet Nam. Particular highlights that attracted media attention during 2001 included the presentation of the Certificate for Ha Long Bay’s second inscription on the World Heritage List and wide coverage of the Regional Textile Workshop organized in Hanoi. Ms. Durand also represented the Organization on Viet Nam National Television (VTV) on several occasions. These included commenting on the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddha statues in Afghanistan at a Regional Meeting of the International Council of Museums held in Hanoi in March, 2001 and on literacy and education in Viet Nam and in the world on 8 September, International Literacy Day. This interview also featured an in-depth presentation of the ‘Growing Up in Cities – Hanoi’ project.

The Hanoi UNESCO Office has kept records of significant articles appearing in Viet Nam News, an English-language daily newspaper, its equivalent in French, Le Courrier du Vietnam, and two publications in Vietnamese. However, items appearing in the large number of Vietnamese language newspapers, magazines and periodicals are not represented in the biennial overview below.

The Hanoi UNESCO Office and the UN Country Team

As a member of the UNCT, the Hanoi Office has participated in the process to develop a number of comprehensive and critical documents such as the Common Country Assessment (CCA), United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for 2001-2005 and the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy Paper. The Office has also contributed to documents relating to the Millennium Development Goals for Viet Nam in the Viet Nam Development Targets, especially in the areas of education and ethnic minorities. In the UNDAF development process of 1999/2000, culture and development was included as a crosscutting theme for the first time in keeping with UNESCO’s focus upon linking culture to development strategies and objectives.

The Hanoi Office has also provided input to the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Annual Reports, which document the different forms of collaboration at the country level between the agencies. Worthy of notice are the many contributions to UN News, the common quarterly magazine of the UNCT, the most important of which are listed below:


continues on following page.....


Traditional Knowledge Systems and Sustainability. Vol. 7, No. 3 (2001)


In addition to these, the UNESCO Office in Hanoi was featured in the same magazine on a number of occasions. These included, for example, the establishment of the Office (Vol. 5, No. 3 [1999]), Ms. Rosamaria Durand delivering a UN joint statement on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Vol. 5, No. 4 [1999]) and the presentation of participants’ reflections on the Viet Nam Youth Forum (Vol. 7, No. 1 [2001]).

**Culture and Development: A UN discussion paper prepared with the technical assistance of UNESCO**

As a member of the Viet Nam UNCT, the Hanoi UNESCO Office has participated in the exercise of drafting UN System Discussion/Advocacy Papers on particular priority development issues. Culture and development was one such issue identified by the Office and proposed to the UNCT as a priority item.

As a result, the UNESCO Office in Hanoi was identified as lead agency for the development of this paper, and began implementing this initiative in collaboration with the National Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, MoCI and other selected stakeholders in Viet Nam in December 2001. The aim of this paper is to initiate a process for addressing the principles, priorities and mechanisms involved in locating culture in community development in Viet Nam while simultaneously considering achieving sustainable development within a cultural economics framework.

It is expected that the paper will involve the international community, participating Vietnamese partners and, in particular the UN agencies in Viet Nam, in a discussion of broad issues in the cultural field. Opening up a critical dialogue around the inextricable link of culture to development will underscore and strengthen the efforts already undertaken in Viet Nam during the UN Decade for Culture and Development.


As its contribution to the Field Office exhibition ‘The Challenges of the Field’, the Office provided examples of educational displays, featuring crafts, designed for use by ethnic minority communities together with publications, photos, videos, posters and other material describing its programming. It also contributed to the Cultural Diversity exhibition, presenting textiles from ethnic minority communities selected from among those that had previously participated in activities concerned with training in crafts development conducted by the Hanoi Office.

### The Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO

Established in 1971 and located in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Commission is a constituent element of UNESCO. It promotes and advocates the ideals of the Organization, provides information to the Vietnamese public, mass organizations and national institutions and centres, assists with the coordination of all UNESCO related activities and facilitates their implementation.

The technical cooperation agreement between UNESCO and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, signed in October 1999, is the cornerstone of the work of the National Commission and the UNESCO Office and is
The Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO, headed by Ms. Nguyen Thi Hoi, Secretary General since 1999 (fourth from the right), based on a shared commitment to sustainable development, poverty alleviation, human resource development, peace and democracy building in Viet Nam.

Against this backdrop, UNESCO Hanoi and the National Commission jointly develop operational activities that respond to the needs expressed by Vietnamese stakeholders.

In 2000, H. E. Mr. Chu Tuan Cap, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, was appointed President of the National Commission, replacing H. E. Mr. Nguyen Dy Nien, who after a long and fruitful involvement with UNESCO became Minister for Foreign Affairs. Since 1999, the National Commission has been under the capable leadership of Ms. Nguyen Thi Hoi, the current Secretary General.

The Office of UNESCO in Hanoi wishes to express its grateful appreciation of the National Commission's support. The closeness of the relationship and the practical help and advice that the Commission has willingly provided has been a critical factor in the achievement of the Office's objectives throughout the biennium.

In addition to the UN organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors and other international institutions and agencies with whom we have collaborated, we would particularly like to thank the many Vietnamese partners that we have worked with, and that have contributed to our efforts. Limited space precludes a fully comprehensive list, but particular thanks go to the following organizations:

**VIETNAMESE STATE BODIES**
- Communist Party of Viet Nam
  - Central Committee
    - Commission for External Relations
    - Central Commission for Science and Education
  - National Assembly
  - Foreign Affairs Committee

**VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES**
- Ministry of Construction
  - International Cooperation Department
  - Research Institute on Architecture
- Ministry of Culture and Information
  - Department for Conservation and Museology
  - Department of Copyright
  - Department of International Relations
- Ministry of Education and Training
  - Department of Continuing Education
  - Department of Early Childhood Education
  - Department of International Relations
  - Department of Planning and Finance
  - Department of Primary and Pre-school Education
  - Department of Secondary Education
  - National Institute for Education Development
  - National Institute for Educational Sciences
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Consular Department
  - International Organizations Department
  - Press and Information Department
  - Protocol Department
- Ministry of Health
  - International Cooperation Department
- Ministry of Planning and Investment
  - Foreign Economic Relations Department
- Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
  - Department of International Relations
- State Committee for Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Area Affairs

**PROVINCIAL AND CITY PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES**
- Ha Long City People's Committee
- Hanoi People's Committee
  - Department of Culture and Information
  - Department of Foreign Affairs
- Hoi An People's Committee
- Quang Nam Provincial People's Committee
  - Department of Culture and Information
  - Department of Tourism
  - World Heritage Conservation Office
- Thua Thien Hue Provincial People's Committee
  - Department of Tourism
- Quang Ninh Provincial People's Committee
  - Department of Culture and Information
  - Department of Education
  - Department of Health
  - Department of Planning and Investment
  - Department of Tourism

**EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**
- Institute of International Relations
- Viet Nam National University, Hanoi

**SPECIALISED INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCH CENTRES**
- Hanoi Institute of Oceanology
- Ho Chi Minh City AIDS Committee
- Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources
- National AIDS Bureau
- National Centre for Monument Conservation
- National Committee for the Advancement of Women in Viet Nam
- National Library of Viet Nam
- National Youth Committee of Viet Nam
- National Centre for Natural Sciences and Technology
  - International Cooperation Department
  - Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources
  - Institute of Geography
- National Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities of Viet Nam
  - Centre for Family and Women's Studies
  - Institute of Folklore Studies
  - International Cooperation Department

**RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND MAJOR RESEARCH CENTRES**
- Research Institute of Marine Products in Hai Phong
- Viet Nam Committee for Protection and Care of Children
- Viet Nam Man and Biosphere Program (MAB)
- National Committee
- Viet Nam National Administration of Tourism
- Viet Nam Research Center on Human Rights

**MASS ORGANIZATIONS**
- Centre for Vocational Training and Job Service for Youth
- Quang Ninh Youth Union
- Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Viet Nam Fatherland Front
- Viet Nam Women's Union
- Viet Nam Youth Federation
  - International Cooperation Department

**WHOA MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENTS**
- Ha Long Bay Management Department
- Hoi An Centre for Monuments Management and Preservation
- Hue Monuments Conservation Centre
- My Son Relics Management Board
- Quang Nam Heritage Sites Conservation Centre
  - (Hoi An Old Town and My Son Sanctuary)

**MUSEUMS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS**
- Ho Chi Minh Museum
- National History Museum
- Viet Nam Museum of Ethnology
- Vietnamese Women's Museum

**VIETNAMESE ASSOCIATIONS**
- Association of Vietnamese Folklorists
- Centre for Education Promotion and Empowerment for Women
- Craft Link
- Psychology Education Association of Ho Chi Minh City
- Social Development Research and Consultancy
- Viet Nam Architect Association
These UNESCO publications have been produced by the Hanoi Office since its inception in 1999:


- **DIARIES**
  - **2000 - Peace is in Our Hands: International Year for the Culture of Peace (1999)**
  - **2002 - Education for All: A Global Priority (2001)** Produced as advocacy tools, these Vietnamese-English diaries highlight major thrusts in the programming of the Hanoi Office and raise the awareness of UNESCO's main areas of activity.

- **UNESCO Viet Nam Office (1999)** The original brochure for promoting UNESCO's work in Viet Nam, and the Office's first publication.


- **EFA Planning Guide: Southeast and East Asia (2001)** Originally published by the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, this guide has been translated into Vietnamese and provides the methodological tool for drafting the National EFA Plan of Action in Viet Nam.

- **Ha Long Bay Ecomuseum Feasibility Study (2001)** The technical report of the Ha Long Bay Ecomuseum feasibility study, available both in Vietnamese and English.


- **Vital Traditions: Revival and Innovation of Traditional Textiles (video) (2002)** A video bringing forward the voices of the workshop participants and showing their areas of expertise at the regional textile workshop. In original languages with English subtitles

- **Guidebook for Youth Participation in Heritage Conservation (2001)** A brief, pocket-size and user-friendly guidebook that encourages and enables young people to participate in the interpretation, conservation and management of heritage.

- **The Viet Nam Youth Forum 2000 Record** The outcome report, published both in Vietnamese and English, of the first, national youth forum held on Hanoi in 2000.

- **Globalization with a Human Face: Promoting Cultural Diversity and Education for All: A Priority for the New Millennium.** Season's greeting cards for 2000 and 2001, respectively. The Office sends traditional UNESCO Hanoi greeting cards all over the world at the end of each year.

- **Folders and fact sheets related to various programming and project activities.** (*developed and prepared in 2001, but published in 2002*)

In addition, the Hanoi UNESCO Office has participated in a number of joint publications with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), producing a presentation on the United Nations in Viet Nam, The UN works for the next generation 2001 calendar, and UN works … campaign posters.
The UNESCO House is a beautiful heritage building, restored between late 1999 and the early months of 2000 with financial assistance from Hanoi People’s Committee and the National Commission, in the former French colonial area of central Hanoi. The house is an example of a distinct architectural style that must be preserved. By locating its Office in a renovated heritage house, UNESCO wishes to make a statement in support of the continued conservation of such heritage in the context of rapid urban development.

The Hanoi UNESCO Office has been headed by Ms. Rosamaria Durand, Representative and Head of Office, since its establishment in September 1999, and has since been ‘home’ to many people. These dedicated individuals have contributed greatly to the success of UNESCO’s activities in Vietnam, and have played a pivotal role in the Office’s development.

STAFF BASED IN THE UNESCO HOUSE AT THE END OF 2001:

Ms. BUI Thi Hai, Office Manager (01/2000 -)
Ms. DOAN Thi Dung, Secretary to the Representative (07/2000 -)
Ms. HOANG Lan Anh, Cleaner (04/2000 -)
Mr. HOANG Van Thuy, Night Guard (04/2000 -)
Ms. LE Thu Huong, Programme Officer, Education for All (09/2001 -)
Mr. Yung LE, Project Officer, Youth and Culture of Peace (03/2001 -)
Ms. Yung LE, Project Officer, Youth and Culture of Peace (03/2001 -)
Ms. Le Thu Huong, Programme Officer, Education for All (09/2001 -)
Ms. Yung LE, Project Officer, Youth and Culture of Peace (03/2001 -)
Ms. Joshua MILLEN, Project Officer, Cultural Heritage (08/2001 -)
Ms. NGUYEN Thi Anh Dung, Liaison Officer, Regional Textile Project (10/2001 -)
Ms. NGUYEN Quoc Chinh, Night Guard (04/2000 -)
Ms. NGUYEN Thi Ngoc Quynh, Project Assistant, Education for All (11/2001 -)
Mr. Normand RODRIGUE, Project Officer, Cultural Heritage (07/2001 -)
Ms. Yayoi SEGI-VLTCHEK, Assistant Programme Specialist, Education and HIV/AIDS (09/2001 -)
Mr. Thomas SLATIS, Programme Officer, Culture and Communication (07/2000 -)
Mr. TRAN Manh Hy, Gardener (04/2000 -)
Mr. TRAN Van Tien, Driver (02/2000 -)

FORMER STAFF:

Ms. DO Thi Thu Huong, Project Assistant, Ha Long Bay Ecomuseum Feasibility Study (07/2000-01/2001)
Ms. Madeleine HAGNE, Project Officer, Gender (06/2000-01/2001)
Ms. Aprile SCHWARTZ, Project Officer, Science and HIV/AIDS (06/2000-06/2001)
Ms. Sarika SEKI HUSSEY, Project Officer, Education (06/2000-06/2001)
Mr. Len TOOKE, Project Manager, Ha Long Bay Ecomuseum Feasibility Study (06-12/2000)

EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS:

Ms. Pernille ASKERUD, Education and Culture
Dr. Klaus BAHR, Lead Consultant for EFA
Ms. Jan BAKER, Craft Design
Dr. Diane BREHTERTON, Culture of Peace
Ms. Claire BURKERT, Craft Development
Mr. Serge DOUSSANTOUSSE, HIV/AIDS
Dr. Amareswar GALLA, Principal Technical Advisor in Culture
Dr. HA Huu Nga, Culture, Archaeology
Mr. Nyan MIYINT, Education, Data Processing and Projection Analysis
Mr. Fabrizio OSSELLA, Education, Non-formal and Youth Education
Mr. Gregory PEARSON, Education, EFA Preparations
Mr. PHAM Hoang Hai, Books, Publishing, Library
Mr. PHAM The Khang, Books, Publishing, Library
Prof. TO Ngoc Thanh, Culture, Intangible Heritage
Mr. Len TOOKE, Specialist Editor, Culture, Heritage
Ms. TRAN Han Giang, Gender
Prof. Pham Xuan Nam, Culture and Development
Dr. TRAN Van Y, GIS Systems
**UNESCO AND ITS Mandate**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is the United Nations’ specialized agency with a mandate for intellectual cooperation in the fields of education, science and the social sciences, culture and communication. From the Headquarters of the Organization in Paris, UNESCO liaises with its 188 (and six Associate) Member States through a worldwide network of Offices. The Offices assure UNESCO’s presence in the regions and maintain interactive relations with the various partners in pursuing the Organization’s mission.

UNESCO’s Constitution stipulates that “the purpose of the Organization is to contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among the nations through education, science and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms which are affirmed for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language or religion, by the Charter of the United Nations.” (Article I. Purposes and Functions, par. 1.)

The constitution was adopted by the London General Conference in November 1945 and entered into effect on 4 November 1946 when 20 states had deposited instruments of acceptance.

**UNESCO AND ITS Strategy**

Approved by the 31st Session of the General Conference of UNESCO in October 2001, the Medium-Term Strategy for 2002-2007 (31 C/4) is placed in the context of UNESCO’s commitment to contribute to peace and human development in an era of globalisation. The programmes and activities in this strategy are aligned along three strategic axes: “developing and promoting universal principles and norms”; “promoting pluralism, through recognition and safeguarding of diversity together with the observance of human rights”; and “promoting empowerment and participation in the emerging knowledge society”.

Two cross-cutting themes underpin these policy choices: the “eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty” and “the contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society”.

UNESCO Offices throughout the world, in collaboration with National Commissions for UNESCO, develop regional, sub-regional and national strategies. In the Asia and the Pacific region strategic areas have been identified in collaboration with the Secretary General of the National Commissions for UNESCO. Among them, UNESCO gives high priority to assisting Member States in the region to develop national Education For All (EFA) plans.

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**ACRONYMS**

- ACCU: Asia Cultural Centre for UNESCO
- APPEAL: Asia-Pacific Programme of Education for All
- ASP: UNESCO Associated Schools Project
- CC: Common Country Assessment
- CG: Consultative Group for Women
- CDA: Canadian International Development Agency
- CLC: Community Learning Centre
- CIE: Education for All
- IF: Human Immune Deficiency Syndrome
- ICT: Information and Communication Technologies
- IN: United Nations
- ITP: United Nations Development Programme
- JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency
- KF: World Heritage Area
- NALOC: New South Wales
- NCP: National Commission for UNESCO
- NBP: Nauru
- NCP: National Commission for UNESCO
- NIT: School/University
- NNA: Niue
- NPS: Papua New Guinea
- PAK: Pakistan
- PAP: Palau
- PCA: Pacific Community
- PG: Papua New Guinea
- PIA: Pakistan
- PIK: Philippines
- PR: Pacific Islands
- PSP: Pacific Small Island States
- TVT: Viet Nam
- IFA: International Foundation Assistance
- WHT: World Heritage Trust
- WI: World Bank
- WFP: World Food Programme
- WHT: World Heritage Trust

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& OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES 1999-2001