



United Nations Association of Australia  
WA Division

JULY 2012

# UNAANA Newsletter

## President's Report

A reminder that the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at **2pm on Sunday 12 August** at our Subiaco Office, Level 1, 1 Roydhouse St, Subiaco. I urge you to attend - it is a great opportunity for all members to meet with our Executive and discuss our activities and achievements over the past year and plans for the future. Refreshments will be served from 1.30pm. Our guest speaker will be Margaret Lobo, AM from Soroptimists International. Ms Lobo was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her services as an advocate and promoter of the status and health of women.

World Humanitarian Day is celebrated to raise public awareness of the humanitarian assistance that is being provided around the globe—and to recognise the people who sometimes risk their lives in order to provide it. This year's theme is 'People Helping People' and is about inspiring the spirit of aid work in as many people as possible. On **Monday 20 August**, UNAANA is partnering with UN Youth WA to present a Q&A session at UWA for World Humanitarian Day (details inside). The event will include speakers from the Global Poverty Project, Amnesty, the UN Department of Information and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The cost will be \$10 with all proceeds being donated to a humanitarian aid organisation.

Five UNAANA members will be attending the UNAA National Conference being held in Brisbane from 22-25 August. This year's theme is 'The Future is in Your Hands: Life After Rio+20'. Western Australia will be presenting a draft resolution for consideration at the National Council meeting on 25 August. The resolution seeks UNAA to call upon the Australian Government to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. Ratifying the convention will acknowledge the highly vulnerable status of migrant workers and help to protect these workers from exploitation.

We received 78 entries—a record number—for the Yolande Frank Memorial Award 2012. We were particularly delighted that five entries were received from Karratha this year. Children were asked to illustrate Article 26 of the Declaration of Human Rights i.e. that everyone has a right to education. The standard of the entries is exceptionally high. The names of the winners will be announced at the AGM and will be included in our next newsletter.



[Photo: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) takes part in the torch run—2012 Olympic Games in London. UN Photo: Eskinder Debebe]

The UNAA, sponsored by DFAT, is undertaking consultation on what Australia should aim to achieve if we are successful in winning a two year term on the UN Security Council. You are invited to make a submission which can be emailed to [unaaact@cyberone.com.au](mailto:unaaact@cyberone.com.au) or mailed to the UNAA (ACT Division) by 18 August 2012. UNAA will then prepare a summary report for presentation to the Government.

Hope to see you at the AGM.

- *Carolyn Gatward*

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**UN**  
**youth**  
australia

UN Youth WA presents:

# World Humanitarian Day

## Q&A

In conjunction with UNAA

It is our pleasure to invite you to our World Humanitarian Day Q&A: a forum for discussion of the role of humanitarian aid globally, what makes it effective, and Australia's contribution to countries in need.

Have your questions answered by our expert panel:

**Michael Sheldrick**

The Global Poverty Project

**Renata Sivacolundhu**

UN Department of Public Information

**Michael Wood**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Amy Walters**

President of Amnesty International UWA

... And more to be announced!

**When:** 20 August, 6.00pm - 7.30pm, followed by refreshments

**Where:** Woolnough Lecture Theatre, UWA

**How much:** \$10 - all proceeds will be donated to a humanitarian aid organisation.

Follow this link to book tickets today!

<http://www.trybooking.com/30286>

[wa.unyouth.org.au](http://wa.unyouth.org.au)



# United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Competition

*Winner Announced for UNEP's 21st International Children's Painting Competition - Entry Now Open for 2013*

Young artists from across the world were invited by the United Nations Environment Program to submit artworks on the topic of 'Green Communities'. The result was a whimsical display of imagination and flair from the children entering the competition, with images ranging from lions and human playing snooker on a map of the Earth, to a team of animal doctors and nurses operating on a sick planet.



This year's 21<sup>st</sup> International Children's Painting Competition prize winner was 13 year old Diana Fan from the USA, whose painting of a penguin combined with scenes of deep ocean, forests and wind turbines (pictured left) beat over 630,000 entries to claim the top prize of US\$2,000 and an all-expenses-paid trip to attend the next Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment.

The International Children's Painting Competition is UNEP's flagship art and environment event, first taking place in 1991. Since then, it has received more than 3 million entries from children in over 190 countries.

The competition was organised in partnership with the Japan-based Foundation for Global Peace and Environment (FGPE), Bayer and Nikon Corporation.

"The winning picture expresses the hopes and fears of the younger generation and is an appeal to everyone to actively support the conservation of nature," said Dr Michael Preuss, from Bayer.

The level of understanding of complex environmental issues displayed by these children aged between 6 and 14 years was inspiring and one hopes that their artwork will encourage people from around the world to join together and take action towards a sustainable future for all.

With the winners of the 21<sup>st</sup> competition having been announced, the search for next year's top painting has now begun, the theme being "Water: Where Does it Come From?". This supports the 2013 UN International Year of Water Co-operation.

Young people between 6 and 14 years are eligible to enter the competition. Full details are available at: [www.unep.org/tunza/children](http://www.unep.org/tunza/children).

A gallery of the winning paintings is available at: <http://unep.org/tunza/children/21stcompetition.aspx>.

Reference: <http://www.unep.org/NewsCentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2691&ArticleID=9230>

*[Amanda Joseph, UNAAWA Environment Committee Convenor]*

## Nelson Mandela International Day—18 July

*“For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others” Nelson Mandela*

July 18<sup>th</sup> is an annual international day adopted by the United Nations to celebrate the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela. However, this is a day to celebrate more than just this – it is a global movement to prompt each one of us to live and act by Mandela’s example.

Nelson Mandela International Day seeks to empower individuals and encourage actions of kindness and courage, honouring the values and loyalties demonstrated by Madiba himself. This celebration marks the birthday of Mr Mandela, who spent 67 years of his life fighting for the rights of humanity, 27 of which he was imprisoned. To mark the special occasion, people are asked, if possible, to spend 67 minutes of time helping others on this day.

References: <http://www.mandeladay.com>; <http://www.brainyquote.com>.

*[Jessica Watts, UNAAWA Executive Member]*



*Photo (left): Students of a girls school in El Fasher (North Darfur) participate in the programme to commemorate Nelson Mandela International Day (18 July). UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran.*



*Photo (right): Staff of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo observe Nelson Mandela International Day by scrubbing the floor in a section of the Goma General Hospital. UN Photo/Sylvain Liechti.*

## United Nations - Important Dates

### July

**7th July—International Day of Cooperatives**

**11 July—World Population Day**

**18 July– Nelson Mandela International Day**

**28 July—World Hepatitis Day [WHO]**

**30 July—International Day of Friendship**

### August

**9th August– International Day of the World’s Indigenous People**

**12 August-International Youth Day**

**19 August-World Humanitarian Day**

**23 August-International Day for Remembrance of Slave Trade and its Abolition [UNESCO]**

**29 August—International Day against Nuclear Tests**

**30 August-International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances**



*For more information, visit: <http://www.un.org/en/events/observances/days.shtml>*

## United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) Campaign against Transnational Organised Crime

*New UNODC campaign highlights transnational organized crime as a US\$870 billion a year business*

On 16 July 2012, UNODC launched a new global awareness-raising campaign emphasizing the size and cost of transnational organized crime. Profiling this multibillion-dollar-a-year threat to peace, human security and prosperity, the campaign illustrates the key financial and social costs of this international problem through a new public service announcement video and dedicated fact sheets.

Executive Director, Yury Fedotov says that:

*“Crucial to our success is our ability to raise public awareness and generate understanding among key decision makers and policymakers. I hope that the media will use UNODC's campaign to highlight exactly how criminals undermine societies and cause suffering and pain to individuals and communities.”*

The human cost associated with transnational organized crime is also a major concern, with countless lives lost each year. Drug-related health problems and violence, deaths caused by firearms, and the unscrupulous methods and motives of human traffickers and migrant smugglers are all part of this.



Every year, millions of victims are affected as a result of the activities of organized criminal groups and by dealing with issues such as human trafficking, the smuggling of migrants, counterfeiting, illicit drugs, environmental crime and illegal arms, it offers an insight into today's core criminal areas.

With an estimated value of US\$320 billion a year, **drug trafficking** is the most lucrative form of business for criminals.

At US\$250 billion a year, **counterfeiting** is also a very high earner for organized criminal groups.

**Human trafficking** brings in about US\$32 billion annually, while some estimates place the global value of smuggling of migrants at US\$7 billion per year.

The **environment** is also exploited: trafficking in timber generates revenues of US\$3.5 billion a year in South-East Asia alone, while elephant ivory, rhino horn and tiger parts from Africa and Asia produce US\$75 million annually in criminal turnover.

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The campaign is being rolled out through online channels and international broadcasters with the aim of raising awareness of the economic costs and human impact of this threat.

The multi-language campaign consists of a 30- and 60-second public service announcement, a set of posters, a series of fact sheets and various online banners. Materials are available through the campaign website : [www.unodc.org/toc](http://www.unodc.org/toc).

*[Ailsa Allen, UNAAWA member]*

# United Nations Association of Australia WA



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WA Division

## 2012 AGM

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The meeting will include:

- Presentation of the Annual Report
- Election of Office Bearers
- 2012 Annual Address
- Guest Speaker Margaret Lobo  
(Past International President,  
Soroptimist International)

Light refreshments from 1.30pm

2pm on Sunday 12 August

UNAAWA Office

Level 1, 1 Roydhouse St, Subiaco

For information:

- tel: 6380 7304
- email: [office@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:office@unaa-wa.org.au)
- visit: [www.unaa-wa.org.au](http://www.unaa-wa.org.au)



Photo: Members of the International Court of Justice, The Hague, Netherlands, 2005.  
UN Photo: ICJ/Jeroen Boerman

*UNAAWA - working towards a fair and sustainable world*

## UN officials welcome new Constitution for Somalia

The overwhelming approval of a Provisional Constitution for Somalia by the representative body convened for that purpose – a key step toward ending the Horn of Africa country’s long transition to stable governance – was hailed today by United Nations officials. “Today is a day of celebration,” said the Secretary-General’s Special Representative and head of the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), Augustine Mahiga.

After decades of warfare, Somalia has been undergoing a peace and national reconciliation process. The Provisional Constitution is a key part of the process as it will provide a legal framework governing the workings of the new Somali Federal Institutions after 20 August.

According to UNPOS, jubilant applause broke out at the National Constituent Assembly’s (NCA) meeting in the capital, Mogadishu, today, when the text for the document was approved by 621 delegates, with 13 votes against and 11 abstentions. The NCA, made up in total of 825 delegates drawn from all Somali clans, had spent the past eight days of deliberations.



“The Constituent Assembly embodied the diversity of Somali society around the traditional clan system, and ensured inclusiveness by bringing together elders, religious leaders, women, youth, business people, intellectuals and the Diaspora,” Mr Mahiga said.

*[UN Photo: Delegates at the National Constituent Assembly in Mogadishu, Somalia.]*

The voting took place despite suicide attacks on the NCA’s meeting venue earlier this morning. According to media reports, two suicide bombers blew themselves up at the gates of the venue, and the attempt follows a series of explosions in the capital, including roadside bombs and grenade attacks.

Mr Mahiga noted that the Somali delegates “were not deterred” by the suicide bombings, the damage from which was minimized by security personnel consisting of Somali forces and the UN-backed African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

While praising the Somali delegates for the vote today, both the Secretary-General and his envoy to Somalia emphasized that the constitution must now be implemented to become a living reality. Mr Mahiga indicated that for that to happen, the final steps to ending the transition must be taken including selecting a representative Parliament, and electing a Speaker, the President, and appointing an executive government.

*[Extract from UN News Centre article, ‘UN officials welcome historic’ approval of new constitution for Somalia’, 1/812]*

### Further Resources

- **The United Nations Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific:** <http://www.un.org.au>
- **The United Nations Youth Association Australia (UNYA) WA Division:** <http://wa.unya.org.au/>
- **For international updates, sign up for UN Wire:** [http://www.smartbrief.com/un\\_wire/index.jsp](http://www.smartbrief.com/un_wire/index.jsp)
- **Read more about the Millennium project at:** [www.unmillenniumproject.org](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org)