PROGRESS REPORT

UNITED NATIONS INTELLECTUAL HISTORY PROJECT / UNIHP

no. 9 December 2007

PUBLICATIONS

In 2007 the project published one more volume in the UNIHP series by Indiana University Press: *Human Rights at the UN: The Political History of Universal Justice*, by Roger Normand and Sarah Zaidi. In addition, *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations* edited by Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws —with 864 pages and 40 chapters, written by over 40 leading scholars on the United Nations—was published in May 2007 by Oxford University Press.

Two other volumes are currently in production and will be published in 2008: *Preventive Diplomacy at the UN* by Bertrand G. Ramcharan; *The UN and Transnational Corporations: From Code of Conduct to Global Compact* by Tagi Sagafi-nejad, in collaboration with John Dunning.

The UN and Development Cooperation by Olav Stokke, a very lengthy volume given the 60 year history of the effort, has undergone an additional round of peer review and is currently expected to go into production in May 2008. *The UN and the Global Commons: Development Without Destruction* by Nico Schrijver will be sent to reviewers in February 2008, with production expected to begin later in 2008. *The UN and Global Governance: An Unfinished History*, by Ramesh Thakur and Thomas G. Weiss is currently under revision, with production expected to begin in Summer 2008.

Substantial progress was made towards the final synthesis volume, tentatively entitled *UN Ideas Changing History*, being written by the project's directors (Richard Jolly, Louis Emmerij, and Thomas G. Weiss. This volume will be discussed at length with the UNIHP authors participating in the April 2008 conference "UN Ideas in Action: Past, Present, Future," organized together with the Government of Finland.

ORAL HISTORY

At the beginning of 2007, significant work went into the production and distribution of the CD-ROM containing the complete oral history transcripts and indices for the 79 interviews. This "electronic book" makes the oral histories of an extraordinary group of people from around the globe available to researchers worldwide in searchable format.

This archive of personal testimonies and recorded life narratives of individuals who served the UN in key positions as staff members, consultants, researchers, diplomats or chairs of commissions serves an important role in helping to preserve the institutional memory of the world organization.

In May 2007, copies of the CD-ROM were sent to interviewees, International Advisory Council members, donors, UN missions, and research organizations. In particular, we focused efforts on research organizations and libraries in the South in order to facilitate access by researchers to these important oral histories. Copies were sent to all major regional research institutions, including the Association of Arab Institutes and Centres for Economic and Social Development (AICARDES), the Asian Political and International Studies Association (APISA), the Latin American Social Science Council (CLACSO), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI), and the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA). In addition, over 500 copies of the CD were sent to the Dag Hammarskjold Library for distribution to all UN depository libraries.

Discussions are underway with the Columbia University Oral History Research Office about the permanent storage of the UNIHP interview tapes.

DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

The dissemination of UNIHP research, ideas, and publications is an important focus at this stage in the project in order to continue to stimulate discussion about contemporary UN activities and issues as well as facilitate further research on UN history. The project held numerous substantive seminar discussions organized around project research and book launches for academic and popular audiences in different world regions, wherever possible in collaboration with networks of UN researchers and other local partners.

UNIHP-related conferences, seminars and presentations included:

Paris, France, 25 October 2007
UNESCO General Conference, "Citizens and Global Governance: United in Action"

Richard Jolly presented on "Contributions of the 3rd UN: Some Reflections from UNIHP and ACUNS."

New York, New York, 18 September 2007
2007 Conference of the Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA): "Ideas Changing History"

Thomas G. Weiss presented "Oral Histories and Understanding Multilateralism: The Experience of the United Nations Intellectual History Project."

The Hague, The Netherlands, 5-7 July 2007
The Society of International Development (SID) 50th Anniversary International Congress

Louis Emmerij spoke about "Opportunities and Challenges facing the Development Community," with particular reference to the UN.

London, England, 5 July 2007
United Nations Association-UK

Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws launched The *Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*. The event was opened with introductory remarks by Sir Mark Malloch Brown, Minister of State, Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Chair, UNA-UK. Presentations were made by Adam Roberts, University of Oxford; Ambassador Nick Thorne, UK Mission to the UN (Geneva) and Ngaire Woods, University of Oxford.

Geneva, Switzerland, 28 June 2007
The Geneva Diplomatic Book Circle (GDBC) Roundtable: "Ideas Can Be Made: The UN Contribution to the Discourse on Development"

Thomas G. Weiss participated in an interactive roundtable discussion featuring the publications of the United Nations Intellectual History Project. Other speakers included Mr. Yves Berthelot, Senior Research Fellow at The CUNY Graduate Center and former director of the UNIHP Liaison office in Genva; Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Director, Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, UNCTAD; Mr. Heiner Flassbeck, Director, Division of Globalization and Development Strategies, UNCTAD; Mr. Khalil Hamdani, Director, Division of Investment, Technology and Related Financial, UNCTAD; Ms. Jo Butler, Chief Intergovernmental Affairs and Outreach Service, UNCTAD. Moderators were Co-Founders of the GDBC Mr. Jovan Kurbilija, and Mr. Amr Aljowaily, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the UN in Geneva.

New York, New York, 12 June 2007
United Nations Bookshop

Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws gave presentations on *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations* during its official release at the UN Bookshop. They were joined by Kiyotaka Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information and Barbara Crossette, a contributor to the Handbook and UN Bureau Chief of *The New York Times* from 1994 to 2001.

New York, New York, 8 June 2007
20th Anniversary Meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations

Richard Jolly presented a paper on "The Third United Nations"—that of nongovernmental organizations, academics, consultants, experts, independent commissions, and other groups closely associated with UN activities but not formally part of it. This article—co-authored by Thomas G. Weiss and Tatiana Carayannis—has been accepted for publication by *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateral and International Organization*.

New York, New York, 6 June 2007
20th Anniversary Meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations

Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws launched The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations at the opening plenary session with the participation of UN Deputy Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro.

Warsaw, Poland, 31 May-4 June 2007
High-level regional meeting

Louis Emmerij presented the lessons learned to date of the UN Intellectual History Project that had been the topic of *The Power of UN Ideas: Lessons from the First 60 Years* (2005).

Kazakhstan, 11 April 2007
UNICEF

Richard Jolly presented an overview of the findings of the UNIHP at the new UNICEF office in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. In addition to the UNICEF staff attending, the presentation was videotaped, to be made available for other UN staff in the main offices of Almaty. Dr. Jolly also briefly discussed the project on the previous day, during a keynote presentation to wind up a two day meeting on budgeting for children, held in the Senate chamber of the Government of Kazakhstan, with participants from the Kazakhstan Parliament and from a number of other countries in transition.

Paris, France, 15 March 2007
L'Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Thomas G. Weiss made a presentation on *UN Voices* and oral history research techniques to a gathering of faculty and students.

Paris, France, 14 March 2007
Académie de Paris au Grand Amphithéâtre de la Sorbonne

Thomas G. Weiss presented the importance of UN history for teaching of international relations at the first session of the European Branch of the Academic Council on the United Nations System, of which he is currently the chair of the Board of Directors. Also on the plenary panel were Florence Benoît-Rohmer, Sjur Bergan,

S.E.M. Claude Laverdure, Omar Massalha, Hanifa Mezoui, Antonio Monteiro, Lucile Szafran.

Chicago, Illinois, 1 March 2007
Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA)

Thomas G. Weiss discussed UNIHP findings for a plenary roundtable reflecting ISA Chair Prof. Ann Tickner's theme of "Politics, Policy and Responsible Scholarship."

Budapest, Hungary, 22-23 February 2007
Epoch forming changes in the World Economy in the last stage of the 20th century
and the main challenges of the new era

Louis Emmerij spoke about "The Move toward a Multipolar World: the Role of the UN" at a conference on "Epoch-forming Changes in the World Economy in the Last Stage of the 20th Century and the Main Challenges of the New Era," organized by the Institute for World Economics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the faculty of World Economy of the Budapest Corvinus University.

New York, New York, 5 February 2007
Human Security: Stock-taking and Moving Ahead

This seminar, jointly organized by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations and the UN Intellectual History Project, explored the value-added of the concept of human security and its particular relevance for the United Nations. The panel was organized to highlight the publication of *Human Security and the UN: A Critical History* by Oxford University professors S. Neil MacFarlane and Yuen Foong-Khong. In addition to MacFarlane, the panel also included Andrew Mack (Director of the Human Security Centre of the University of British Columbia and principal author of *The Human Security Report 2005*); Richard Jolly (Honorary Professor University of Sussex and co-director of the UNIHP, who participated in a 2006 UNDP analysis of fourteen country programs that examined the importance of human security and human development); and Don Hubert (Director of the Human Security Policy Division at the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade). Thomas G. Weiss moderated the discussion.

Casablanca, Morocco, 12-15 January 2007
Women Weave Peace into Globalisation

Taking cognizance of the widespread concerns about women's role in light of globalization, a meeting was organized of about 15 experienced women activist intellectuals in Casablanca. The intention was to reflect on the past efforts, to critically evaluate the present and to attempt to construct a framework which would be more in tune with the ground level realities that women, especially less advantaged women are currently facing, as well as aware of the macro situation and impulses and crisis. The goal was to create a knowledge derived document -- a memorandum, an advocacy tool, later perhaps a book, which attempts to build a revised analytical framework for looking at development experience with special reference to women in poverty and their quest for equality and justice. Devaki Jain made a presentation about "Women, Development and the UN" based on her volume in the UNIHP series, Women, Development, and the UN: A Sixty Year Quest for Equality and Justice (2005).

UNIHP Secretariat
The CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave, Suite 5203
New York, New York 10016
T: 212-817-1920, F: 212-817-1565
UNHistory@gc.cuny.edu

www.unhistory.org