



# PROGRESS REPORT

UNITED NATIONS INTELLECTUAL HISTORY PROJECT / UNIHP

no. 11 December 2009

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## PUBLICATIONS

In 2009 the project published two more volumes in the UNIHP series by Indiana University Press: in July *The UN and Development: From Aid to Cooperation* by Olav Stokke; and in August the project's capstone volume, *UN Ideas That Changed the World*, written by the project's co-directors, Richard Jolly, Louis Emmerij, and Thomas G. Weiss.

The final two series volumes are currently in production and will be published in the first quarter of 2010: *The UN and Global Governance: An Unfinished Journey*, by Thomas G. Weiss and Ramesh Thakur and *Development without Destruction: The UN and Global Resource Management* by Nico Schrijver. Quality-control meetings, internal and external fact-checking, and indices were part of the project efforts since July.

## WEBSITE

The website ([unhistory.org](http://unhistory.org)) has been completely redesigned by the design firm Winterhouse (<http://winterhouse.com>) after several months of preparation. The site went live on 2 June 2009. New features included a more dynamic display of information on the home page so that users gain a better sense of the depth of the site and range of information; and a more prominent display of news and events.

The revamped website includes a section of "Briefing Notes" ([unhistory.org/briefing/](http://unhistory.org/briefing/)), short summary papers on many of the topics addressed in the UNIHP book series. The three co-directors wrote these papers in an effort to make the project's findings more easily accessible to a broad range of audiences.

## ORAL HISTORY

Although the oral history phase of the project is completed, we continue to distribute the CD-ROM as widely as possible, and encourage use of the oral history interviews by writers and researchers around the world.

In December 2009, the project donated its collection of interview tapes to the Columbia University Oral History Research Office for permanent storage.

## DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

With the UNIHP series nearing completion, the project's co-directors focused intensively on dissemination of findings and raising awareness of the United Nations as a generator of ideas. To date multiple events have been held in seven countries for over 1,280 people. In additions, the co-authors have appeared at six major events arranged by others in five additional countries.

## FUTURE PLANNING

Efforts since July have also involved negotiations and planning for multiple events in at least seven and as many as thirteen more countries in 2010.

## 2009 ACTIVITIES

The UNIHP organized the following events in 2009:

### **September 14, 2009, New York, New York UN Executive Office of the Secretary-General, Special Planning Unit**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon opened the first book launch of *UN Ideas That Changed the World* in the UN Trusteeship Council Chamber at the United Nations. The discussion was moderated by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark. Former Under-Secretary-General José Antonio Ocampo served as discussant. Approximately 325 people attended this event, including government officials, UN staff, academics, journalists, and NGO representatives.

### **September 17, 2009, Washington, DC UN Foundation**

This meeting was hosted at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Former US Senator Tim Wirth provided opening remarks to the presentation. Sixty individuals from NGOs and academia participated in the event, including fifteen journalists from developing countries on a UN training program in DC (Reham Al Farra Fellows).

### **September 28-29, 2009, Oslo, Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NUPI (Norwegian Institute of International Affairs)**

This event included both private and public meetings. The private meetings were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and separately at NORAD, both with time for discussion. The meeting with the Deputy Foreign Minister and twenty-five staff focused on UN affairs in the ministry. In addition, a brief but useful interchange took place with the Secretary of State of MFA in the afternoon. Twenty people from NORAD (Norwegian aid agency) attended another session. The public meeting took place at NUPI and was chaired by NUPI director and former UN USG Jan Egeland. Former NUPI Director Sverre Lodgard introduced the presentations, which included an initial presentation by Olav Stokke on *The UN and Development: From Aid to Cooperation*, followed by Jolly, Weiss and Emmerij presenting *UN Ideas that Changed the World*. Seventy-five individuals participated in the meeting. The

participants were primarily researchers and academics, but included a few government officials and three Third World ambassadors. This event was followed by four separate interviews with journalists.

**September 30 - October 1, 2009, Sweden  
Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and the Swedish  
Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS)**

Two book launches were held in Sweden. On September 30, Emmerij, Jolly and Weiss introduced their capstone volume before a group of 25-35 participants at the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS). Henning Melber, Executive Director of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, provided welcoming remarks and Björn Wittrock, Professor at Uppsala University and Principal of the SCAS, moderated the seminar. In addition, Olav Stokke introduced his volume *The UN and Development: From Aid to Cooperation*. Two SCAS fellows, Philipp Lepennies and Seteney Shami gave insightful commentaries.

On October 1, in IDEA (Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance), a second launch was held before a select group of 25-35 participants. The meeting was opened by Henning Melber and included presentations by Emmerij, Jolly and Weiss, and Stokke. Participants included four Ambassadors along with some well informed and highly committed leaders such as Lisbet Palme and Bengt Save-Soderberg. In the IDEA meeting, Lennart Bage, former president of IFAD moderated the meeting and comments were given by Anders Nordstrom, Director General of SIDA.

**October 19-21, 2009, London, United Kingdom  
The Commonwealth Secretariat and the London  
School of Economics**

Three events were held in London. On October 19, 2009, Emmerij and Jolly gave an informal presentation before a select group of 35 Commonwealth staff members. The meeting in the Commonwealth Secretariat was introduced and chaired by the Commonwealth Secretary-General and former Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Mr. Kamallesh Sharma. On October 20, Robert Wade chaired the Conference where Emmerij and Jolly presented *UN Ideas that Changed the World* to a large and enthusiastic crowd of over 250 persons at the London School of Economics. Participants included the Honorable Clare Short, former Minister of Overseas Development of the UK, and Mark Malloch Brown, former UN Deputy Secretary-General. A final seminar was held on October 21 in collaboration with Professor Mary Kaldor. Ten bright graduate students and professors participated in this useful exchange of ideas on topics including the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN and improving the condition and accessibility of the UN archives.

**November 23-26, 2009, Bangkok, Thailand  
The Chula Global Network, the International  
Institute for Trade and Development, UN ESCAP,  
and the Ministry of Finance.**

On November 23, Jolly and Emmerij arrived at Culalongkorn University for the first Dissemination Conference organized by the Chula Global Network and the International Institute for Trade and Development. They were received by Weerasak Kowsurat and Watcharas Leelawath, respectively Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of the International Institute. Jolly and Emmerij introduced the UNIHP synthesis volume, *UN Ideas that Changed the World*, before an audience of 75 people, including former deputy prime Minister Dr. Surakjart Sathirathai, and many other prominent professors, civil society and media representatives. References to Asian policies, past and present were woven into the presentation and a lively discussion developed. Following the presentation on the capstone volume, Roger Normand, co-author of the UNIHP volume *Human Rights at the UN: The Political History of Universal Justice*, gave a summary of his book which also resulted in a good discussion.

On November 24, Emmerij and Jolly delivered their second Dissemination Conference at ESCAP before an audience of 200 people composed of Ambassadors, participants in the Committee meeting on Macroeconomic Analysis, staff members of ESCAP, and the media. The conference was chaired by Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of ESCAP. The introduction of the capstone volume by the two UNIHP Co-Directors was followed by a vivid discussion. Questions were asked on peace and security, the link between ideas and action, the response to the financial crisis, the competition between the Bretton Woods Institutions and the UN, the role of the UN in the democratization process of countries, the future of the UN Regional Commissions, and many others. A vote of thanks was given by Ambassador Manaspas Xuto, the President of the United Nations Association of Thailand which was followed by a reception that gave participants an occasion to discuss further with Emmerij and Jolly. The Political Counselor of the Netherlands Embassy was present for the entire event and indicated that he had found the presentations and discussion instructive and interesting.

On November 26, Emmerij gave a third Dissemination Conference at the Ministry of Finance in the form of a seminar before an audience of 35 people, mainly but not exclusively from the Ministry of Finance. The discussion centered on the 1997 crisis and its response (building up financial reserves), the reaction to the present crisis, the rapid response reaction of the Thai authorities, and what to do to avoid future disasters of that kind.

**November 27, 2009, Hanoi, Vietnam  
UNICEF**

Jolly gave a well attended presentation on *UN Ideas That Changed the World* on November 27, 2009 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Jesper Morch, acting Resident Coordinator, chaired the event. Over 100 persons attended, including many from the UN and local community, as well as the Ambassadors of Australia, Canada, South Africa and Sri Lanka. In addition, the Director-General for International Organizations of the Vietnamese Foreign Office attended the event and showed particular interest in UN peacekeeping and what *UN Ideas* said about preventive diplomacy. The whole session lasted almost two hours, with nearly an hour of introduction and presentation and slightly longer devoted to questions and discussion. Several copies of the CD ROM were distributed after the event.

Additional UNIHP-related seminars and presentations included:

**July 15, 2009, Rio de Janeiro  
International Studies Association (ISA) and  
Brazilian International Relations Association (ABRI)**

Weiss gave a presentation on *UN Ideas That Changed the World* at a joint meeting of the ISA and ABRI on "Diversity and Inequality in World Politics" held at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.

**October 4-6, 2009, Dakar, Senegal  
UNESCO & Department of History at Université  
Cheikh Anta Diop de Sénégal**

As part of the UNESCO History Project, "UNESCO and the Questions of Colonization and Decolonization," Weiss presented a keynote titled, "Decolonization, Idea or Event? What We Learned from UNIHP."

**October 13, 2009, Manchester, United Kingdom  
Brooks World Poverty Institute at the University of  
Manchester**

Jolly gave a presentation on *UN Ideas that Changed the World* before a group of 130 graduate students and faculty at the Brooks World Poverty Institute as the first in a series of seminars on Rethinking Development.

**October 16, 2009, Geneva, Switzerland  
World Economic Forum, the Swiss Federal  
Department of Foreign Affairs and the Graduate  
Institute, Geneva**

Weiss gave a presentation on *UN Ideas that Changed the World* as part of a panel discussion title, "The Case of the UN: Fit for Global Governance?" This discussion was held at the International Labour Organization in Geneva. 125 people attended including Dr. Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World

Economic Forum, Dr. Juan Somavia, Director-General of the ILO, and Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of WHO .

**October 29, 2009, Brighton, United Kingdom  
Institute of Development Studies (IDS)**

Jolly gave a presentation on *UN Ideas that Changed the World* as the Dudley Seers Memorial Lecture. The event was chaired by Carlos Fortín and held before a group of approximately 115 graduate students and faculty at the University of Sussex.

**December 2-3, 2009, Brussels, Belgium  
The Institute for International Law at Katholieke  
Universiteit Leuven**

Weiss gave a presentation titled, "Obama's UN Policy and Transatlantic Relations," before 125 faculty, students, officials from EU, and diplomats at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts and the Catholic University of Leuven's Center for Global Governance Studies.

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## **UNIHP Publications, 2001-2009**

*Ahead of the Curve? UN Ideas and Global Challenges*, Louis Emmerij, Richard Jolly, and Thomas G. Weiss (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2001).

*Quantifying the World: UN Ideas and Statistics*, Michael Ward (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004).

*Unity and Diversity in Development Ideas: Perspectives from the UN Regional Commissions*, Yves Berthelot, ed. with contributions from Adebayo Adedeji, Leelananda de Silva, Paul Rayment, Gert Rosenthal, and Blandine Destremeau (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004).

*UN Contributions to Development Thinking and Practice*, Richard Jolly, Louis Emmerij, Dharam Ghai, and Frédéric Lapeyre (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004).

*The UN and Global Political Economy: Trade, Finance, and Development*, John Toye and Richard Toye (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2004).

*The Power of UN Ideas: Lessons from the First 60 Years*, Richard Jolly, Louis Emmerij, and Thomas G. Weiss (New York: United Nations Intellectual History Project, 2005).

*UN Voices: The Struggle for Development and Social Justice*, Thomas G. Weiss, Tatiana Carayannis, Louis Emmerij, and Richard Jolly (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005).

*Women, Development, and the UN: A Sixty-Year Quest for Equality and Justice*, Devaki Jain (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005).

*Human Security and the UN: A Critical History*, S. Neil MacFarlane and Yuen Foong-Khong (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006).

*The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations*, Thomas G. Weiss and Sam Daws, eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

*The Complete Oral History Transcripts from UN Voices, CD-ROM* (New York: United Nations Intellectual History Project, 2007).

*Human Rights at the UN: The Political History of Universal Justice*, Roger Normand and Sarah Zaidi (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2007).

*Preventive Diplomacy at the UN*, Bertrand G. Ramcharan (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008).

*The UN and Transnational Corporations: From Code of Conduct to Global Compact*, Tagi Sagafi-nejad in collaboration with John Dunning (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008).

*The UN and Development: From Aid to Cooperation*, Olav Stokke (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009).

*UN Ideas That Changed the World*, Richard Jolly, Louis Emmerij, and Thomas G. Weiss (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009).