



Extraordinary Session of the Executive Board of the World Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA)

3rd Margins Inter-Regional Meeting of UNESCO National Commissions

13-15 June 2016, Shanghai, People's Republic of China

REPORT

The Extra-ordinary Session of WFUCA Executive Board was organized alongside the 3rd Inter-regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO held from 13 to 15 June, 2016 in Shanghai, China.

Presents:

Mr. Dharendra Bhatnagar, President Mr.
Du Yue, Secretary-General
Mr. Yoo Jay-Kun, Vice-President for Asia and Pacific region
Ms. Sabina Chukayeva, Member for Asia and Pacific region
Mr. Ioannis Maronitis, Member for Europe and North America region Mr.
Elat Sylvere, Member for Africa region
Mr. Farhat Mokhtar, Member for Arab States region Mrs.
Mané Fall, treasurer
Ms. Yulia Averina, Ex-officio Member (Ural-Siberian Federation) Mr.
Luo Jie, Ex-officio Member (Chinese Federation)
Mrs. Maria Paola Azzario, Ex-officio Member (Italian Federation)
Mr. Noboru Noguchi, Ex-officio Member (Japanese Federation) Mr.
Tao Xiping, Honorary President
Mr. George Christophides, Honorary President

Observers:

Mrs. Daniela Popescu, President European Federation UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations
Ms. Lee Sunjoo, Secretary-General, Korean National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations

UNESCO Representative:

Mr. Eric Falt, Assistant-Director General of External Relations and Public Information Sector
Mrs. Emiko de Marmier-Murai, Coordinator for Member States and Partners, External relations and Public Information Sector

Guest:

Mr. Patrick Gallaud, Vice-President of NGO Liaison Committee

Secretariat:

Ms. Catherine Thiounn, Office Secretary
Ms. Joyce Wang, Liaison Officer of CNFUCA

Excused (absent with prior information):

Mr. Dzmitry Subtselny, Vice-President for Europe and North America region Mr.
Mustapha Badreddine, Vice-President for Arab States Region
Mr. Jesus Nieto Campos, Vice-President for Latin America and the Caribbean region
Mr. Luis Otavio Palhari, Member for Latin America and the Caribbean region
Mme. Alice Combarry Soulama, Vice-President for Africa region
Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thang, Ex officio Member (Vietnam Federation)
Mr. Eiji Hattori, Honorary president
Mr. Danil Kurashov, Auditor

Agenda

- Item 1:** Opening / Welcome - Speeches
- Item 2:** Amendment & adoption of the agenda and program
- Item 3:** Presentation and adoption of the minutes of the last Extra Ordinary Session of the Executive Board held on 8th October 2015 in Bucharest, Romania
- Item 4:** Appointment of the new Secretary-General, renting of new office premises and changes in the secretariat; financial matters and approval thereof.
- Item 5:** Review and streamlining the membership of WFUCA. Strategies to strengthen the organization
- Item 6:** Discussion on WFUCA's vision, strategy and priorities in the next four years: proposals from members
- Item 7:** Discussion on WFUCA's Constitution
- Item 8:** Time and place of next Executive Board meeting
- Item 9:** Miscellaneous items

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An extra ordinary session of the WFUCA Executive Board meeting was held alongside the 3rd Inter-regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO. All WFUCA Executive Board members were invited to join 3rd Inter-regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO, as observers. Taking this as a good opportunity to interact with representatives of the NATCOMs and officials of UNESCO, the Executive Board members attended the plenary sessions. The secretariat members also distributed backgrounder/leaflets of WFUCA to the delegates. WFUCA President, Mr. Dharendra Bhatnagar was provided an opportunity to speak at the closing session of the 3rd Inter-regional Meeting of National Commissions for UNESCO (attached speech).

The session of the WFUCA Executive Board meeting started in the afternoon of 13th June 2016. President, Mr. Dharendra Bhatnagar welcomed all members present in the meeting and expressed gratitude to the Chinese National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations and the Chinese National Commission for UNESCO for hosting the meeting in Shanghai, China.

Mr. Eric Falt, Assistant Director General for External Relations and Public Information Sector, UNESCO, Paris attended the meeting as a special invitee. Mr. Bhatnagar expressed his gratitude to Mr. Falt for sparing time from his busy schedule to attend the meeting and invited him to address the members. Mr. Bhatnagar shared the agenda of the extra ordinary session with him.

In his address, Mr. Eric Falt congratulated the newly elected Executive Board of WFUCA led by the new President, Mr. Dharendra Bhatnagar. Mr. Falt said that he had been keenly observing the working of WFUCA and was regularly up dated on its affairs by the representatives of his sector, who attended the congresses and meetings of WFUCA. Mr. Falt said that UNESCO recognizes and appreciates the contribution of civil society in advancing its aims and objectives particularly among the grass root level and will continue to do so provided the civil society organizations like WFUCA continue to adhere to the laid down principles and priority programmes of UNESCO.

Mr. Falt said that there were few instances where he received complaints about UNESCO Clubs and Associations indulging in practices which are unethical and contrary to UNESCO's philosophy. He cited some specific cases and said that this

was brought to the notice of the WFUCA President with clear directions to stop such people by taking immediate action. Mr. Falt mentioned that all UNESCO Clubs and Associations must work closely with the National Commissions in their respective countries and report their activities to them on regular basis. He reminded the UNESCO club leaders that they can use the name and logo of UNESCO only with the prior permission of the National Commission of their country.

Mr. Eric Falt said that it is important to have a statute for an organization but representatives of his office who attended the last two congresses are of the opinion that constitution of WFUCA is a bit too lengthy and complicated, especially the rules regarding elections of the office bearers. He said that he is happy to note that this has been included as an item of agenda in this meeting.

Mr. Eric Falt said that because of the present financial situation, there is no special sector for UNESCO Clubs and National Commissions as it used to be before. There is also shortage of staff. Nevertheless his office team is giving full attention to the NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO. He expressed confidence that with new leadership in command, the relationship between UNESCO and WFUCA will improve. He outlined the priority programmes of UNESCO which he said are decided by the member states. He said C/5 document should be our road map of activities. Programmes like Sustainable Development Goals, Prevention of Violence, Protection and Preservation of Heritage, Women and Youth should find priority in club activities. He also emphasized on special focus on African continent. He wished success to the present session of the Executive Board.

WFUCA President, Mr. Dharendra Bhatnagar thanked Mr. Eric Falt for his valuable suggestions and assured him that the new Executive Board will pay full attention to his observations/remarks and work according to his guidance and follows the priority programmes outlined in C/5. Mr. Bhatnagar invited comments from the Executive Board members and Honorary Presidents on the statement of Mr. Eric Falt. President and all members expressed their gratitude to Mr. Eric Falt for finding time to briefly attend the Executive Board session and his address.

After Mr. Eric Falt left, Mr. Bhatnagar took up the agenda items. As the first item on agenda was welcome speeches, he invited Mr. Tao Xiping, Honorary President of WFUCA and also President of Chinese National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations (CNFUCA), host of the meeting for his address.

Mr. Tao Xiping once again welcomed all participants to Shanghai and hoped that the meeting will be successful. He assured the members that he and his colleagues will do their best make their stay comfortable.

Item 2 was the adoption of the agenda. All members unanimously approved the circulated agenda.

On item 3, Mr. Bhatnagar said the minutes of the last meeting held in Bucharest, Romania, was circulated to all members. He invited comments/suggestions from the members. The report was adopted without amendments. As regards the world congress report, the President requested all members to read it carefully and send their comments, if any, to the secretariat.

On item 4, the President informed the members that a contract was made with UNESCO for the new premises of WFUCA and the rent has been paid till December 2016 from the financial assistance received from CNFUCA. He further clarified that remuneration to the office secretary is also being paid by CNFUCA.

He announced that Mr. Du Yue, Secretary-General of Chinese National Commission for UNESCO has accepted to become the Secretary-General of WFUCA. A letter of nomination was given to Mr. Du Yue. The President then introduced Mrs. Catherine Thiounn, the new Office Secretary of WFUCA. The President recalled and appreciated the services of previous Secretary General Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thang and Office Secretary Ms. Theophano Pampaka. He said their contribution for strengthening WFUCA will always be remembered. All members applauded the appointment of the new Secretary General, Mr. Du Yue and the new Office Secretary Ms. Catherine Thiounn.

As regard, to the financial matters, the Treasurer Ms. Mane Fall sought time till the next day to present the financial statement.

Items 5 and 6, the President suggested that the agenda items 5 and 6 should be taken together. He informed the members that the new Secretary General has prepared a Strategic Plan for WFUCA for 2016-2019. He invited Mr. Du Yue to present the plan to the members. Mr Du Yue, explained the Strategic Plan through a Power Point Presentation (herewith enclosed). He pointed that:

- Next year will be the 70th Anniversary of UNESCO Club movement, he proposed that a special event should be organized in Sendai, Japan, starting place of the first ever UNESCO Club
- WFUCA needs a new vision in view of Agenda 2030 and adopt to the new situation
- To revitalize WFUCA, we need new strategy and more attractive activities
- To convert our goals from paper to concrete actions, we need to
 1. Establish/strengthen solid links with National Commissions, which is most important.
 2. Need structures and resources for the activities
 3. Taking lead from activities of the National Federations, develop some common actions and activities. For example, in Japan there is a painting competition and in China Penglai Peace Festival is organized every 2 years
 4. Organize attractive activities. National Federations and Regional Federations need fund raising from private and public sectors. WFUCA can develop activities and raise funds.
 - 5- Develop youth programmes in the future. Regions which could organize youth festivals should be identified.
 - Build solid foundations, have working and financial regulations and new strategy for the programs.
 - Need to amend the constitution
 - Need to establish sub commissions for culture, education, world heritage and climate change.
 - Need to strengthen the mechanism of WFUCA. Request permission to use UNESCO logo for credibility with member States
 - Make the world know our existence. Establish identity through innovative programmes and activities.
 - Each member country should have activities on basis of their resources.

The members of the Executive Board appreciated Mr. Du's Strategic Plan and made following suggestions:

- That we urgently need to revitalize membership of WFUCA. However, on paper there are about 80 member countries but actually about half of them are active and regular.
- Should create our own activities with a structure of commissions and sub commissions.

- Create a sub commission on finance and fund raising.
- Without resource, we cannot implement the activities. The project should be attractive enough, meaning something different, to get extra-budgetary financing.
- Fund raising from regional institutions like African Bank of Development etc., identify and involve some high level personalities to raise funds in the framework of activities.
- Each federation should think of some unique, action-oriented, independent and non-political activities that NGO's can do.
- Need innovations even if we have 70 years of experience. Should assign some responsibility to each member of the Executive Board.
- The Secretariat should send regular information and communication.
- Find solution to language issue in the framework of communication.
- In view of the financial difficulties, have periodical meetings through Skype.
- May have key activity on project like "Terrorism".
- Should request UNESCO Offices to be involved in the programmes and activities of National Federations.
- Full authorization to the President and Secretary-General to discuss with UNESCO Officials, issue of right to use UNESCO logo and sign a new agreement between WFUCA and UNESCO to enlarge partnership.
- Restore WFUCA status at ECOSOC (<http://csonet.org/content/documents/E-2014-INF-5%20Issued.pdf>) (You can see WFUCA at page 132)
- Organize the on-line trainings for UNESCO clubs
- Create WFUCA page on Facebook
- Start a tradition to issue a WFUCA certificate to each UNESCO Club

After item 5 and 6, the meeting was postponed for the day.

Tuesday 14th June 2016

The meeting resumed on the next day and President welcomed all participants again for the 2nd day session. He informed members that after distribution of the backgrounder of WFUCA, representatives of some National Commissions approached him and discussed about the procedure to start UNESCO Club movement in their country. He further informed members that in October 2015, he attended the launch of National Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations of Kenya in Nairobi, organized by the National Commission of Kenya and supported by UNESCO Regional Office for East African countries. The President also shared information about the mail received from the National Commission of Oman recommending 3 existing UNESCO Clubs to join WFUCA. He stated that Oman National Commission has been informed that only a National Federation can become the member of WFUCA and asked them to initiate formation of a National Federation of Oman. In the meantime, Oman National Commission has been asked to recommend one UNESCO Club of Oman to be admitted as "Corresponding Member" until the time a National Federation is formed in Oman.

Reverting back **to the item of financial matters**, Treasurer with the help of Ms. Thiunn, office secretary explained the income and expenditure from August 2015 to May 2016. She also made a statement regarding some confusion about membership fee from Tunisia and Cameroon. She said that she will issue a proper receipt for all membership and other amounts received in the bank accounts and send a reminder soon to all members to pay their membership fee for 2016 along with arrears, if any.

Moving to the **item 7** regarding WFUCA constitution, the President said that he

himself is also of the opinion that the constitution along with Rules of Procedure need to be simplified for removing any ambiguity and different interpretations by members and it should be a crisp and consolidated document. He reminded the members that considerable time was consumed on the election process in 8th and 9th World Congress. He said that this issue was raised by UNESCO officials as well.

The President further informed the members that this issue of amending constitution involves lot of time and some serious considerations therefore suggested form a committee of 3 persons to make recommendations to the Executive Board. Revision or any amendments to the constitution is approved by the congress on recommendation of the Executive Board. He suggested the names of three persons i.e. himself, Mr. Du Yue and Mr. Noboru Noguchi. He informed the members that the committee will place their recommendations in front of the next Executive Board.

The **item 8** was to discuss time and place of the next Executive Board. President informed the members that the proposal from Mr. Daniel Kuroshov, Auditor of WFUCA to host Executive Board meeting in Vladimir, Russia could not be materialized due to some reasons. He invited fresh proposals from members. Ms. Sabina Chukayeva of Kazakhstan suggested that the Japanese National Federation is proposing to have an event in Sendai, Japan to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of UNESCO Club movement therefore it is advisable to combine the next Executive Board meeting with it. Mr. Noboru Noguchi said that he would consult his colleagues in Japan for this suggestion.

Mr. Tao Xiping, Honorary President suggested that the next meeting should be held in WFUCA office in Paris. All members supported his idea. However, the President said that the final decision on this matter would be taken after receiving a final reply from Mr. Noguchi.

Under **item 9**, President informed that Mr. Patrick Gallaud, former Secretary General of WFUCA, who is now the Vice Chairman of NGO Liaison Committee, is present as a special invited guest and has some interesting projects to share with members. He invited Mr. Patrick Gallaud to present his proposals. Mr Patrick Gallaud, informed and suggested that:

- A project proposal should be created in coordination with UNESCO NGO Liaison Committee, which is important for the NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO.
- WFUCA should be part of the International Conference, which is organized every two year.
- WFUCA should be candidate for the presidency of the NGO Liaison Committee at the election to be held in December 2016.
- There will be 2 big events in which WFUCA is invited (boarding and lodging will be provided): COP21 to COP22 in Morocco and the Conference on Youth and Peace: problems in building peace (Mexico)
- The NGO Liaison Committee is organizing in Astana (Kazakhstan) in June/ September 2017 an exhibition on "Energy for the future and global sustainability". There will be a festival of arts as a new energy for the rapprochement of the cultures. The main topic is to organize 5 days festival on culture including performances of theater, movie festival, fashion etc... WFUCA should be associated to this project and some federations may be involved in organizing artistic programmes.

Mr. Du Yue introduced Dr Li Xin, Deputy Secretary-General of UNESCO World

Heritage Training and Research Institute for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHTR-AP), who had been working on the Chinese project of “UNESCO Creative Towns”. Dr Li made a power point presentation on restoration of an ancient town “Lilly Town” known for traditional arts and craft. He also invited members to visit this place, which is not very far from Shanghai.

There were general discussions on developing WFUCA programmes and highlighting activities of various UNESCO Clubs and Associations across the globe. Consensus was reached to the following:

- We need to prepare strategy plans for the 70th anniversary of UNESCO Club Movement, Culture of Peace and Sustainable Development.
- Japanese National Federation may send a proposal in the framework of the Participation programme for which the deadline is 28 August 2016.
- A consolidated report on activities of WFUCA members to be prepared to highlight UNESCO Club movement in the world. Circular letter to be sent to all National Federations and Regional Federations in this regards.
- To consider proposal for the next Executive Board meeting in Paris just after the NGOs meeting which will be held from 12 to 14 December 2016.

Since there were no other items for discussion, the President thanked the host organizations for making it possible to organize this extra ordinary session of the Executive Board which provided an opportunity to interact with the delegates of the ongoing 3rd Inter-Regional Meeting of National Commissions and also provided an opportunity to discuss various important organizational matters. He also thanked all Executive Board Members and Honorary Presidents for their active participation and constructive suggestions and inputs. He also thanked to all the support staff to make the meeting successful.

The meeting ended with thanks to chair.

Later an excursion tour was organized to the “Lilly Town” to witness the Chinese project of Creative Town. The Municipal Authorities of Lilly Town hosted a Gala dinner for the members.

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