



**Suriname National Commission for UNESCO**

**Final  
REPORT**

**of the**

**Training Seminar for Second or Third Officials of  
Caribbean National Commissions for UNESCO**

**Paramaribo – Republic of Suriname**

**01 – 03 February 2005**

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## Day one: 1 February 2005

Secretaries-General of National Commissions for UNESCO and representatives of National UNESCO Commissions in the Caribbean gathered in a Training Seminar for New Officials of Caribbean National Commissions for UNESCO, 01-03 February, 2005 at the Torarica Hotel, Paramaribo-Republic of Suriname.

Ms. **Anuradha Kamtasing**, Secretary-General, Suriname extended the welcome and introduced Ms. **Mirta Lourenco**, who delivered the remarks on behalf of UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris. Hon. Mr. **Walter Sandriman**, Minister of Education and Community Development and Chairperson of the Suriname National Commission for UNESCO, officially opened the Training Seminar.

The first presentation for the day was:

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF UNESCO'S DECLARATION ON CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE CARIBBEAN AS MAJOR UNESCO PRIORITIES FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

- ❖ **Mr. Andre Kramp** (*Former Chief of the Slave Route Project, UNESCO Project, Executive Director of the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Suriname*)
- ❖ **Mr. Julio Carranza-Valdes**, *Programme Specialist UNESCO/Kingston*

Mr. Kramp set out by defining such terms as

- Intangible Heritage
- Cultural Diversity
- multi-culturism

He highlighted the importance of the preservation of the intangible cultural for the Caribbean communities, especially within the context of UNESCO's four major programmes in the field of Intangible Cultural Heritage, namely the

- Proclamation of masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity
- Living Human Treasures
- Endangered Languages
- Traditional Music of the World

He noted that the preservation of Caribbean Cultural Heritage is a challenge for the region, especially since a major part of this heritage is slavery-related. He said that for the region it was an activity on origins and identities, for remembering what happened after the Middle Passage, and for keeping this memory alive for present and future generations. He informed the meeting that UNESCO has – through the Slave Route Project - during the past ten years paid particular attention to the study of the historical dimensions of the slave trade and slavery and the special contemporary relevance of its attendant cultural heritage in the Diaspora Cultural Diversity.

With regard to cultural diversity, Kramp stated, among other things, that cultural diversity was also intrinsically linked to social and economic prosperity, in that . every culture represents knowledge and wisdom, and that in a global knowledge-based economy, sustainable growth is requires access to a diversity of knowledge systems, as it hinges on the ability to generate ideas and be innovative. If properly nurtured, cultural diversity will develop into multiculturalism, which according to Kramp was fundamental to our belief that all citizens are equal. Multiculturalism should ensure that all citizens can keep their

identities, can take pride in their ancestry and have a sense of belonging. It should encourage racial and ethnic harmony and cross-cultural understanding, and should discourage hatred, discrimination and violence. Thus all citizens of a country would be made to take an active part in its social, cultural, economic and political affairs.

### **Mr. Julio Carranza**

- Cultural Diversity
- UNESCO social and human sciences sector
- National Commissions as one of the main factors in the UNESCO system

Belize brought forward the necessity of having guidelines or information as to follow up actions, once an Indigenous group in a country receives the award for the Proclamation of Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. It is not clear whether once the country obtains this Proclamation, if the country has other responsibilities or obligations regarding this award or if UNESCO has additional responsibilities hereafter to do more. Unlike the World Heritage, the World Masterpieces do not have guidelines or are unknown.

Regarding the preliminary draft convention on the protection of the diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions Ms. Mirta Lourenço said that the second intergovernmental meeting of experts would meet until 12 February to examine the text of the drafting committee and consolidate a document with all received comments. Depending on the outcome of the expert meeting, the Director-General would submit to Member States, if possible around 3 March 2005, the preliminary report and preliminary draft convention to be examined at the 33rd. session of the General Conference.

It was also proposed that UNESCO should approach the European Committee to give full support for the Caribbean to participate in full observatory position. St. Vincent & the Grenadines suggested that UNESCO invite the other international organizations to participate in UNESCO meetings. UNESCO seems to find this difficult to realize. A point of concern brought forward was that there is a lack of dialogue with NatComs for vacant positions in the Executive Board.

### **Secondly was the INSIGHT FOR BEST PRACTICES FOR SECRETARIES-GENERAL - Mrs. Alexandra Burton-James**

- The Purpose
- Field Research
  - Challenge #1: Participation in UNESCO's projects/activities
  - Challenge #2: What of national expectations? How does one connect the multiplicity of UNESCO's universal goals to national development plans?
- Methodology – produce operational action plan for the National Commission. What structures/organizations can it establish to give me maximum outputs?
- Elements of New Zealand's strategic planning.
- Visibility of UNESCO and National Commission
- Identify partnership
- Insist on the proper and full role of National Commissions
- Decentralizations and National Commissions
- Build on your success
- Secretaries-General central in negotiating.

The Netherlands Antilles brought forward its concern for the fact that the Caribbean not only consists of the English speaking NatComs, but that there are also the Dutch, French

and Spanish. There should be more unity among the NatComs, and they should come forward as one. Good use should be made of this meeting to have one point of view on specific topics when attending the upcoming General Conference.

This point of view by the Netherlands Antilles was re-enforced by the UNESCO Kingston representative, Mr. Julio Carranza-Valdes, who stated the importance of re-enforcing collaboration within the cluster offices, e.g. Cuba and Quito.

NatComs can get help in reorganizing their Commission. Ms. Mirta Lourenço said that UNESCO helps National Commissions to discharge their functions and referred to Article VII of the Constitution and the Charter of National Commissions for UNESCO, which in its Article V.2 (a) mentions the possibility of assisting Member States, to the utmost of the Organization's ability and at their request, to establish or reorganize their National Commission. The request has to be officially made to the Director-General, for example in written form.

The Minister in charge, with the NatCom can send a request to the DG and the assistance received can be:

1. sending of a mission, or
2. sending the Secretary General to Paris.

Existing NatComs can also get help, e.g. through regional seminars.

A suggestion was brought forward for National Commissions for UNESCO to work closely with OAS and other international organizations. Ms. Mirta Lourenço said that, in virtue of the agreement between UNESCO and the United Nations, the Organization has to inform the UN about the nature and scope of any formal agreement with intergovernmental organizations. However, exchange of information and liaison, joint meetings or projects, etc. are more flexible and frequent, though they are usually undertaken through or with the participation of UNESCO's Secretariat.

Mr. Colin Nicholls proposed that the cooperation with the region should be regionally driven.

**The third presentation was on UNDERSTANDING AND ACCESSING UNESCO'S BUDGET: REGULAR BUDGET, PARTICIPATION PROGRAMMES, EXTRA-BUDGETARY PROGRAMME - *Mr. Colin Nicholls***

- Definition/explanation of regular budgets
- Explanation of participation programme
- UNESCO's funding sources 2003
- Reconcile volume and quality
- Rationale for extra-budgetary programme
- National Commission as fundraisers
- Objectives of presentation
- The main actors in UNESCO: the ideal distribution of labour
- Decentralization impact on extra budgetary activities
- The Division for Cooperation with Extra budgetary Funding Sources (ERC/CFS)
- National Commission's role in extra-budgetary programme
- Project-preparation
- The logical framework
- Main elements in a project document
- Resource mobilization

The regular programme budget is determined by member states. Participation project proposals may be approved, but no funds received because previous projects have not been financially completed. UNESCO will not comply, unless funds of the previous biennium have been accounted for.

Guyana's concerns are how to deal with organizations which have not submitted their financial reports. A possible solution could be not to give them all the funds, but in part. When they comply with the first part, they will get the second part. Also to avoid not getting the funds for other projects approved pending the financial completion of the former biennium, a letter could be sent to the Head of the Division for PP explaining the situation and asking permission to hand in the report at a later date.

A point of discussion brought forward by the Netherlands Antilles about retaining 5% from the approved PP project for administrative costs, will be included in the report of Mr. Colin Nicholls. It will be something to take into account for the future.

The National Commission of Suriname explained that they retain a certain percentage because they do not have other incoming funds from the Government.

During a meeting in Paris, it was stated that NatComs are not allowed to withhold a percentage. The applying agency/organization for funds must get the amount approved by UNESCO to execute their project. Approval from UNESCO is needed to withhold a percentage. A possible solution could be to reach an agreement with the organizations beforehand about the expenses of administration costs for them to incorporate this one way or the other in their budget when submitting future PP projects.

NatCom Belize would like to know what criteria is used as far as how many projects are approved for a country. It is suggested by HQ UNESCO to maintain contact with the PP Division with questions relating to the programme.

It is estimated that about 120,000 USD is allocated per country for the PP Project.

Ms. Mirta Lourenço informed that for the past 2 years, the biennium 2004 - 2005, 23 million USD were approved in the 32 C/5. She explained that the allocation for the Participation Programme is not a decision of the Secretariat but a decision of the Member States, that translates into a resolution adopted by the General Conference."

### **The final presentation of the first day was on the STATUS AND ROLES OF NATIONAL COMMISSIONS FOR UNESCO – Ms. Mirta Lourenço**

- National Commissions
- Purpose
- Functions
- Responsibilities
- Some key dates
- Other dates
- Support External Relations
- Future emphasis?

A representative of Suriname expressed concern that after 2008, UNESCO would not have any more projects on the Slave Route. It was made known that the member states

will be the ones to determine what happens to this project. It is not hard and fast that it will be discontinued, but 2008 was set as it marks the official end of two hundred years of the slave trade for some countries.

## **DAY TWO: 2 FEBRUARY 2005**

### **THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS, A CARIBBEAN EXPERIENCE – *Mr. Cornelis Pigot, Suriname Representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO***

- Elections of the Governing Body
- Composition Electoral Groups
- Prerequisites for the election
- Caribbean Representatives
- Composition of the Bureau
- Subsidiary Organs
- Frequency of Sessions – 2 years cycle
- Relation with Director General and Secretariat
- Documents and Debates
- Financial, Administrative Arrangements
- Working method Caribbean Representatives
- Relations in the Region and Country
- Future

St. Kitts brought forward its concern regarding why it was possible that there was no election, bearing in mind that the majority of small and poor countries have voting rights. It was explained by Mr. Pigot that Latin America was in a difficult position, since the contribution depends on the BPN and it would mean that their contribution will have to go up. It was not a good idea for people resident in Paris to get per diem. The matter was not voted on, it was handled in the corridor walk.

African countries waived because the amount of per diem received from UNESCO is less compared to what they get from their country. The British argued that all their expenses are paid by their government and they also waived. It was decided on that UNESCO would still pay the tickets.

The discussion will undoubtedly be raised again in the next Board, should governments pay for all expenses of their board members.

A question was raised by Mr. Pigot on who should be responsible for preparing the technical documents and in his opinion it should come from the NatComs.

Young people should be encouraged to work in international organizations besides UNESCO, e.g. WHO, FAO, etc. Also, for older professionals to get the opportunity for an international career. Why are all the good jobs not known? Maybe the University can do a survey to find out why.

There is a lack of requests from the Caribbean countries as to the names for the upcoming Executive Board. Other countries have already submitted their lists of names for this election.

A concern of the delegate of Jamaica was the lack of ambition from the member states and also the slowness of governments and National Commissions in taking actions

towards their own benefit. Mr. Pigot commented that governments do not really focus on international bodies as there are other more urgent and important matters to deal with.

A proposal by Mr. Kramp is for delegates at this seminar to network and produce a proposal regarding the positions that are becoming vacant on the Executive Board of UNESCO to be presented to ministers which can be used for further discussion at the upcoming CARICOM meeting on February 15, 2005. The proposal did not find complete consensus because it was considered by St. Kitts & Nevis and seconded by St. Lucia, that this was not the proper forum to discuss this matter. Ms. Mirta Lourenco proposed that the participants come together, express their concerns and suggestions and let it be included in the report of the Training Seminar and not as a draft official document to the minister.

It is a possibility that National Commissions can encourage their governments to put on the agenda at the next CARICOM meeting in Suriname, the election of the Executive Board of UNESCO. Mr. Pigot will forward the suggestion to his Head of State.

Another concern of where do associate members fit in with the Executive Board, was expressed by the Netherlands Antilles. It was clarified that associate members will be listened to once they express good arguments. Some lobbying may need to be done with other Small Island Development States or through the Netherlands or the Caribbean.

Antigua expressed that we as representatives of various countries must find strategies and ways in getting our ministers to understand the importance of UNESCO and other organizations that are willing to assist with the Small Island Development States with sustainable issues.

Belize expressed that the Caribbean needs to be more united, forceful and organized in our approach so as to achieve what we want or where we want to be.

**FOLLOW-UP TO MAURITIUS 2005 AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF SIDS – *Mr. Dirk Troost, Chief SC/CSI & Focal Point for B+10/M'05***

Highlights of UNESCO at Mauritius International Meeting:

- Special event on 'Youth Visioning for Island Living'
- 'Small Island Voice' (SIV) parallel event
- Millennium Development Goals

The Bahamas, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Dominica and St. Kitts & Nevis gave an oral report on the activities taking place in relation to the Sandwatch Project and Small Islands Voice.

In the Bahamas the youths from high schools presented resolutions on their concerns on:

- HIV-AIDS 15-19 years
- Cultural heritage: the fear of losing this
- Tourism impact on the environment
- Sustainable development

From the Mauritius meeting the participants came away with what to do as follow up on the growing threat of AIDS and going into schools.

In St. Vincent & the Grenadines the Sandwatch Project was done on the island of the Grenadines, Bequia. The Bequia Community High School students monitored beaches for:

- erosion
- litter volume
- seaweed wash up on the shore and its removal
- used broken bottles to make seats
- recycled bottles
- where able, to make the public more aware of the environment

Several awards were received, such as from the FAO and the Commonwealth Youth Forum. The project had positive effects on tourism and the children were able to learn from this.

Dominica has been involved in the projects since the first meeting in St. Lucia in 2001. Workshops were held for 10 primary schools. These schools monitored rubbish/garbage on the beaches. In a second workshop the activities were evaluated and a booklet was produced on what was done. The long term impact has caused more awareness in keeping the environment clean. Attention was also put on the project Small Islands Voice.

For St. Kitts & Nevis, there is a difference in the projects Sandwatch and Small Islands Voice. A national Coordinating Committee was established to oversee all activities. A programme was developed:

- Surveys on issues of concern to civil society
- Acquire computers
- Awareness of the general public
- Backchat groups in secondary schools with representation of three students per school.

Activities were held towards Mauritius in which 2 persons went to Mauritius. St. Kitts & Nevis are looking forward to continuation of the programme in St. Kitts & Nevis. New ideas have been documented and sent to the office of Mr. Troost, seeking funding.

### **DAY THREE: 3 February 2005**

#### **RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT (RBM) – *Mr. Phillipe Ratte, Senior Programme Specialist, Bureau of Field Coordination UNESCO Headquarter***

- A case for RBM
- UNESCO and RBM
- What is RBM?
- Results: a relation
- Involving stakeholders
- Featuring a problem
- The Project Cycle Revisted
- UNESCO 60+

RBM is a way of helping one choose the right way to reach the final goal. The use of RBM will help raise National Commission's capacity.

## **THE CARIBBEAN CLUSTER – Ms. Hélène Gosselin, Director UNESCO/Kingston and Representative of UNESCO’s Director-General**

St. Kitts & Nevis and the Netherlands Antilles brought forward the necessity of Secretary-Generals to meet before the General Conference in Paris to discuss common concerns.

Guyana and Grenada expressed their concern, since being newly appointed Secretary-Generals, about lack of documents and made an appeal for assistance and guidance in fulfilling their new posts.

Ms. Gosselin explained that the Cluster Office has no funds to organize meetings, but did suggest three solutions:

1. Video Conferencing twice a year
2. Secretaries-General going to Jamaica
3. Making use of the Participation Programme to organize either trainings or capacity building

The point was brought forward also to join forces with other organizations. The Cluster Office will approach Headquarters to have funds decentralized to the Cluster Office.

Madam Gosselin suggested that Secretaries-General assess concretely what their needs are and the Cluster Office will see how it can be of assistance.

In concluding, Madam Gosselin warmly welcomed the new Secretaries-General and extended continued excellent working relation with the Secretaries-General that have been in the UNESCO family for some time.

After three days of excellent presentations and information, the Training Seminar came to a close.

Ms. Irma Loemban Tobing–Klein gave the vote of thanks on behalf of the Suriname National Commission, while Mrs. Alexandra Burton James extended a warm thank you on behalf of the participants of the Training Seminar at Torarica, Paramaribo-Suriname. The final thank you on behalf of the Director-General and the Kingston Cluster Office was done by Madam Hélène Gosselin.

## Agenda

### Training Seminar for Second or Third Officials of Caribbean National Commissions for UNESCO 01 – 03 February 2005 Paramaribo, Suriname

#### Tuesday, 1 February 2005

- 10.00 a.m. - **Welcome remarks:** *Ms Anuradha Kamtasing, Secretary-General, Suriname National Commission for UNESCO*
- **Remarks:** *Ms Mirta Lourenco, Programme Specialist, Division of Relations with National Commissions and New Partnerships, UNESCO Headquarters*
- **Opening of the seminar** by *Hon. Mr. Walter Sandriman, Minister of Education & Community Development and Chairman of the Suriname National Commission for UNESCO.*
- 10.20 a.m. Coffee Break
- 10.35 a.m. **The Importance of UNESCO's Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the Preservation of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Caribbean as Major UNESCO Priorities for the Twenty-First Century**
- *Mr. Andre Kramp (Former Chief of the Slave Route Project, UNESCO Project, Executive Director of the Foundation for Sustainable Development in Suriname)*
- *Mr. Julio Carranza-Valdes, Programme Specialist UNESCO/Kingston,*
- 11.15 a.m. Discussion
- 12.00 a.m. **Insight for Best Practices for Secretaries-General**
- *Ms. Alexandra Burton-James, Secretary-General of Dominica National Commission for UNESCO*
- 1 p.m. Lunch
- 2.30 p.m. **Understanding and Accessing UNESCO's Budget: Regular Budget, Participation Programme, Extra-budgetary Programme**
- *Mr. Colin Nicholls, Programme Specialist, Division of Cooperation with Funding Sources, UNESCO Headquarters*
- 4 p.m. Coffee Break
- 4.15 **Status and Roles of National Commissions for UNESCO**
- *Ms. Mirta Lourenço, UNESCO, Programme Specialist, Division of Relations with National Commissions and New Partnerships, UNESCO Headquarters*
- 6 p.m. Announcements
- 8.00 p.m. – 10.00 p.m. **Cultural Presentation and Reception hosted by the Minister of Education and Community Development**

### Wednesday, 2 February 2005

- 10 a.m.      **The Executive Board, Responsibilities and Functions, A Caribbean Experience**  
*Mr. Cor Pigot, Suriname representative on the Executive Board of UNESCO*
- 11.15 a.m.    Coffee Break
- 11.45 a.m.    **Discussion**
- 1 p.m.        Lunch
- 2.30 p.m.     **Follow-up to Mauritius 2005**  
*Mr Dirk Troost, Chief SC/CSI & Focal Point for B+10/M'05, UNESCO Headquarters*
- 4 p.m.        Coffee Break
- 4.15          **Follow-up to Mauritius 2005**  
*Mr Dirk Troost, Chief SC/CSI & Focal Point for B+10/M'05 UNESCO Headquarters*
- 5.15          *Video Session*
- 6 p.m.        Announcements

### Thursday, 3 February 2005

- 10 a.m.       **Results-Based Management**  
*Mr. Phillipe Ratte, Senior Programme Specialist, Bureau of Field Coordination, UNESCO Headquarters*
- 11.15 a.m.    Coffee Break
- 11.45 a.m.    **Results-Based Management**  
*Mr. Phillipe Ratte, Senior Programme Specialist, Bureau of Field Coordination, UNESCO Headquarters*
- 1 p.m.        Lunch
- 2.30 p.m.     **Results-Based Management**  
*Mr. Phillipe Ratte, Senior Programme Specialist, Bureau of Field Coordination, UNESCO Headquarters*
- 4.00 p.m.     **The Caribbean Cluster**  
*Ms. Hélène Gosselin, Director UNESCO/Kingston and Representative of UNESCO's Director-General*
- 4.45 p.m.     **Vote of thanks and closure**

5.30 p.m – 6.30 p.m

**Farewell drink**