



United Nations Association  
of the United States of America  
New York Chapter

801 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
212-907-1353  
212-682-9185 fax  
info@unanyc.org

*We Bring the U.N. to You*

*Winter/Spring 2008*



## UNA-NY Fall Gala Sponsors Wells in Afghanistan!

The UNA-NY 2007 Annual Gala was held on October 25 at the United Nations Delegates' Dining Room. Over 200 people attended the black tie dinner. The theme was "The Global Water Crisis." Our 2007 UNA-NY Humanitarian of the Year Awards recognized significant efforts to bring clean water for drinking and sanitation to the estimated one billion people without access to clean water around the world. A portion of the Gala proceeds went to constructing village wells in Afghanistan in partnership with the UN High Commission for

Refugees (UNHCR). The wells will materially improve living conditions in their respective areas for people in the war-ravaged region. To learn more about the UNHCR project, *Safe Water in Afghanistan*, visit <http://www.unanyc.org/news/safewaterinafghanistan.pdf>

Our 2007 Award honorees were Antony Burgmans, former Chairman of Unilever, Wilfrid Wilkinson, President of the Rotary International and Guy Laliberté, Founder of Cirque du Soleil and the One Drop Foundation. Highlights of the evening included an address by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon and a spectacular performance by Cirque du Soleil. To see Gala photos, visit <http://www.unanyc.org/news/2007unday.html>

UNA-NY Vice President, Sherrie Murphy produced a booklet about the extent and magnitude of The Global Water Crisis. Download a copy of *Useful Facts About the Worldwide Water Crisis* at <http://www.unanyc.org/news/waterfacts.pdf>



## UPDATE!

### Worldview Institute Completes First Semester

*“The Worldview Institute offered a unique opportunity to get up close and personal with senior diplomats, scholars and business leaders. The series provided a great forum for debating world politics and international affairs. A fantastic learning experience.”*

Robin van Puyenbroeck, Vice President,  
ING Bank NV



*“I walked away from each session having a clearer picture of how to conduct business helping me strengthen leadership skills and approach goals in a more holistic and sustainable manner. I am looking forward to signing up for the next session and encourage other young professionals to do the same.”* Alycia Gilde,  
Environmental Specialist and Human Rights Advocate

Twenty four early and mid-career professionals from New York City spent last fall studying at the ten seminar sessions of the Worldview Institute. It was, as one participant put it, the “perfect end to a business day in New York.” Each session provided an opportunity to discuss global business issues with ambassadors and corporate leaders over a light supper followed by a presentation and seminar.

UNA-NY instituted the Worldview Institute with a seed grant from several sponsors to address the growing need for education on global issues. The target audience is professionals seeking to build their careers in a global business environment. The programs covered a broad spectrum of topics ranging from the environment to geopolitics to statutory and compliance issues relating to world trade. The semester ended in January. After the huge success of the pilot session, we plan to make this a permanent part of our outreach mission and to scale it up significantly. We are presently sifting through various suggestions and feedback to broaden and sharpen effectiveness and appeal. Enrollments for the spring semester will start in mid March. For information about the Worldview Institute and other photos, visit <http://www.unanyc.org/worldview/wiinfo.html>



### With Your Help, Our School Visits to the United Nations Continue

Confirming New York as the most cosmopolitan city in the world, wives of several ambassadors to the UN donned national dress and greeted students from Kent Place School, New Jersey when they visited the United Nations on February 19. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students greatly enjoyed this opportunity to visit the United Nations chaperoned by gracious and hospitable “country guides.” Mrs. Anna Birgis Hannesson, wife of the ambassador from Iceland, Dr. Helen Yousfi, wife of the ambassador from Algeria and Mrs.

Hadiza Abani, wife of the ambassador from Niger were the keynote speakers. They introduced the students to their respective countries and spoke about their fascinating lives and careers.

The UNA-NY hosts school visits to the United Nations as part of our educational outreach. Please email [info@unanyc.org](mailto:info@unanyc.org) to recommend schools that would be interested in visiting the UN.

## Looking Forward: 2008 Spring Programs

One of our most highly subscribed programs this year was held on January 21 at the Polish Consulate with over 70 people attending. The speaker was Masood Haider, UN Correspondent for *The Daily Dawn*, the largest English daily in Pakistan. Mr. Haider had returned from Pakistan a few days before and gave us his assessment of the political situation following the assassination of Benazir Bhutto.

On February 21, another well-attended program was conducted by Professor Diane Snyder from Princeton University.



Her presentation focused on recent events, the media, national security and intelligence. She is a graduate of the CIA's elite Career Training Program and has served on assignments in Washington DC and overseas.

Save the Dates:

- March 20 "Human Rights in Venezuela: From Concern to Crisis," Thor Halvorssen
- April 17 US Air Force on cyber warfare, Lt. Col. David Fahrenkrug, Chief of Strategy and Cyber Command, US Air Force
- May 15 Annual Meeting with keynote speaker Michele Montas, Spokesperson for the Secretary General
- June 12 UNESCO (UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)
- October 23 Annual Gala – "Environment and Climate Change – A Call for Action"

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!** Visit <http://www.unanyc.org/membership/joinuna.html>

---

## Ambassador Series

The United Nations Association of New York and  
The Columbia University Club of New York  
Are Pleased to Announce the Ambassador Discussion Series



This Spring and Fall we will be hosting the Ambassador Series in partnership with the Columbia Club of New York. Several Ambassadors to the United Nations from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe will meet in the Columbia Club to discuss current events in these regions. US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad will be our keynote speaker and will open the series on April 9.

Details of each program will be made available as soon as possible. Due to the ambassadors' schedules and priorities, please be aware that we cannot always offer a long lead time to register and some programs may have to be rescheduled. Seating is limited and since the objective of the Ambassador Series is to have a candid and intimate discussion, numbers will be strictly controlled. So, please register as soon as an event is posted. The Series will be held at the Columbia Club.

## Message from the President

PETER V. RAJSINGH

Greetings All:

We have had a very successful and productive season. Highlights of last year include the launch of the Worldview Institute to help educate young leaders about global issues and also our Gala which was widely acclaimed for both its rich content and elegant ambiance. Many thanks to Board members and supporters who made all of this possible. And special appreciation goes to Ann Nicol, our Executive Director, who is the implementing force behind everything we do.

We have several exciting new initiatives that expand upon our mission. In addition to a substantive roster of programs that will touch a variety of constituencies, we are also widening our focus on UN Millennium Development goals. Last year our major theme was "The Global Water Crisis" and in 2008, in a similar vein, we address "The Environment and Climate Change." Under this rubric, we will also continue to promote sustainable water initiatives.

On climate change, there was a perplexing moment at a White House Press Briefing last October. Press Secretary Dana Perino told the assembly, "...there are public health benefits to climate change, as well..." When pressed, she continued: "In some cases, there are—look, this is an issue where I'm sure lots of people would love to ridicule me when I say this, but it is true that many people die from cold-related deaths every winter. And there are studies that say that climate change in certain areas of the world would help those individuals."<sup>1</sup>

Cut to a polar bear floating upon an ice floe in the melting Arctic! Apologies to Ms. Perino for setting her up as a straw man, but only the truly perverse would welcome global warming as a boon to our existence. At present, the UN is working assiduously on initiatives to combat climate change. Among other things, a UN Climate Change Conference with more than 10,000 participants was held in Bali, Indonesia, on December 3-14, 2007. Goals of the conference included trying to provide a groundwork for ongoing intergovernmental cooperation beyond the Kyoto Protocol.

U.S. lead climate negotiator Paula Dobriansky elicited boos and hisses when she would not accept language calling on industrialized nations to supply measurable and verifiable assistance to the developing world. Then, Kevin Conrad, Papua New Guinea's Ambassador for Climate Change became something of a hero when he implored, "if you are not willing to lead, leave it to the rest of us. Get out of the way." The U.S. then caved and agreed to join the consensus.

The Bali Roadmap and Bali Action Plan are a step in the right direction but by no means conclusive. Hopefully, negotiations will continue to institute an efficacious regime of concrete steps to combat climate change by the target date of 2009. We'll keep you posted.

Thank you for your ongoing support of UNA-NY and we look forward to a successful year ahead.

## Message from the Executive Director

ANN NICOL

***With You, We Can Do Wonders!  
See How Your Gift Has Changed the World!***

With your generous help and support we have been able to broaden our outreach and present many UN-related issues to the New York public. Our courses, programs and receptions have been very well received. The Ambassador Series, a collaboration between UNA-NY and the Columbia Club of New York, will reach many more New Yorkers. Thank you for your support. If you have not joined us yet, I would like to invite you to attend one of our upcoming events.

The Worldview Institute, the Ambassador Series, our monthly programs, the school visits to the UN and our water initiative are all possible because of your generous support. We start the year confident that you, our membership, will continue to be actively engaged. We welcome your feedback to let us know what aspects of the UN and international affairs interests you most. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at [anicol@unanyc.org](mailto:anicol@unanyc.org).

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/10/20071024-8.html>

## Did You Know?

- The UN and its agencies have improved the health of millions – immunizing the world’s children, fighting malaria and parasitic disease, providing safe drinking water and protecting consumers’ health. As a result, longevity and life expectancy have increased worldwide.
- More international law has been developed through the UN in the past five decades than in the entire previous history of humankind.
- UN relief agencies together provide aid and protection to some 25.7 million refugees and displaced persons worldwide.
- The UN has helped strengthen the democratic process by assisting elections in nearly 80 countries.
- The World Food Programme – the world’s largest food-aid organization – provides about one third of the world’s food aid each year.

---

## *In the News...*

### **UNA-NY Government Relations Committee Urges U.S. to Take Action in Darfur Genocide and Human Trafficking**

This Committee promotes the Chapter’s efforts to educate the NYC and larger community about the importance of the UN’s role in addressing challenging international concerns. An important Committee goal is to garner the support of Federal and State legislators, both for the United Nations itself and for the taking by the US government of effective action to resolve these concerns in concert with other committed UN member nations. In 2007 the Committee drafted and sponsored two resolutions which were adopted at the UNA-USA Biennial Convention, calling for strong US governmental action in the face of humanitarian crises: one addressed the genocide in Darfur, the other the illegal international trafficking in men, women and children. (The resolutions may be viewed via links on the Committee’s page of the Chapter’s web site at <http://www.unanyc.org/committees/grc.html>). In 2008 the Committee will continue to focus its efforts on these issues, as well as on other human rights advocacy efforts. These include urging the US Senate to ratify the Treaty for the Rights of Women, and calling on the President to submit to the Senate the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In addition, the Committee will strongly encourage US participation and leadership in the UN-led effort to negotiate a new UN climate treaty.



## **WE NEED YOU!**

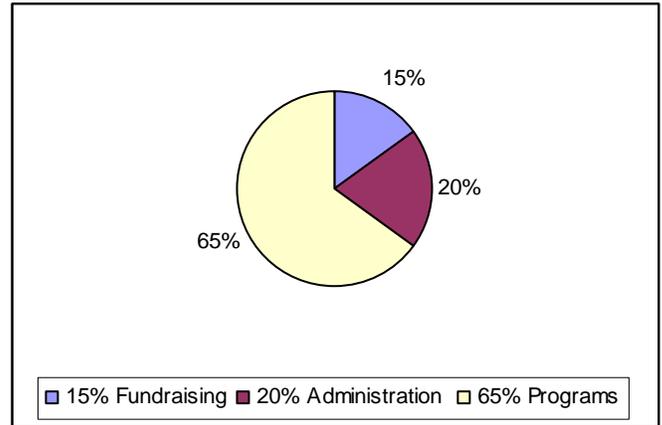
### **Bring a Friend to Meet Us!**

Our Membership Committee is having a Membership Drive in the month of April. Make a date with a friend and bring them to our monthly program on April 17.

---

### **FYI**

The United Nations Association of New York spends a minimum on administrative costs and the maximum on delivering services to its members and the community.



### **The TAP Project Launches on March 16th**

Clean and safe water is a daily privilege that millions take for granted. Yet, lack of clean drinking water is the second largest killer of children under five, worldwide. The Tap Project, which launches nationwide on March 16, 2008 and runs through World Water Day on March 22, 2008, will support UNICEF's efforts to ensure that all children have access to clean, safe drinking water. Only \$1 provides one child with safe drinking water for 40 days.

To participate in the Tap Project, please go to <http://www.taproject.org>