

China News Bi-Monthly Newsletter

United Nations Development Programme

12 November 2013



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Resident Representative's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you the UNDP China Bi-monthly Newsletter. This regular publication is a collection of some of the highlights of our Country Office's work over the last two months, as well as a glimpse into some of the other goings-on in our office community and a preview to upcoming events. We hope you find this update useful.



Renata Dessallien
UN Resident Coordinator
UNDP Resident Representative



UNDP Uses Social Media to Inspire People to Action

Social media is the method du jour for determining cutting-edge ways to enhance development. As part of the Green Consumption campaign, UNDP has digitally crowd-sourced and created an interactive hub of knowledge and tips, ready-made for empowering eco-friendly initiatives in real life.

Following the initial online campaign, which ran throughout October, a list of 20 best practices was compiled by collating content submitted by UNDP Weibo and WeChat followers and Guokr.com visitors. Online communities tackled topics like food waste and paper waste. One participant composed a memorable, in-depth opinion piece entitled "Persecution of Trees," demonstrating the public's growing knowledge and passion towards environmental protection and sustainable practices.

UNDP China also took strides to be greener at work. An e-poster was made detailing UNDP's earth-friendly practices including the UN bike pilot programme and the office's participation in World Environment Day.

The Green Consumption movement stresses that simple lifestyle changes can make a big difference if the global community joins together and adheres to a more environmentally conscious way of living. The campaign will culminate in an animated Public Service Announcement, featuring UNDP Goodwill Ambassador Zhou Xun - who will lend her voice and image for a cartoon character to be made in her likeness - and unique, Internet-friendly content for maximum public impact.

"The core of the Chinese Dream is social justice. The main concept, 'enabling everyone to build better lives,' is in line with the UN's mandate, as is the harmonious development of society."

UNDP RBAP Director Xu Haoliang
Beijing, 06 November 2013

Recent Events September - November

Top Story 23-25 October 2013, Beijing

UNDP RBAP Director Xu Haoliang visits China

Newly-appointed UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Asia-Pacific Bureau Director Xu Haoliang visited China for the first time since taking office. His busy itinerary included meetings with a wide range of Chinese government officials, including high-level representatives from the Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During discussions, Mr. Xu emphasized the importance of China's engagement in South-South Cooperation, action on climate change, and work on poverty alleviation.

While in Beijing, Mr. Xu took the opportunity to liaise closely with the UNDP team. He shared his views on UNDP's priorities under the new Strategic Plan and his vision for UNDP's role in the Asia-Pacific during an office-wide talk. He then met with each programme team individually and listened carefully to presentations on major ongoing projects. Mr. Xu also met with a series of bilateral donors and held an exclusive interview with Xinhua News Agency on UN Day. He shared his social media strategy and personal philosophy, stating, "People have many expectations for the UN, and in return, the UN needs public support. As a UN official living in a big-data society, it is important that I know the ideas and opinions of Internet users."



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16-19 October 2013, Beijing

UNDP Assistant Administrator Rebeca Grynspan urges anti-poverty action at global forum

UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator Rebeca Grynspan's three-day visit to Beijing, Hong Kong, and Macao included participation in the 2013 Global Poverty Reduction and Development Forum, held in observance of the 21st International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. She addressed over 300 representatives and international guests, including Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang and Nobel Laureate Robert Mundell.

In her keynote speech, Ms. Grynspan highlighted China's unprecedented surge of urbanization and accompanying challenges such as rural-urban migration, new types of poverty faced by disadvantaged groups, and how to improve public policy in a rapidly evolving development landscape. She called for balance in development, stating "We must recognize the intrinsic inter-linkage between poverty eradication and sustainable development. There is a need for a coherent approach which integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social, and environmental."

Following the Forum, Ms. Grynspan traveled south, where she participated in a roundtable discussion on sustainable development at Macao Polytechnic University and gave a keynote speech on urbanization at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



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Recent Events September - November

08 November 2013, Beijing

UNDP Supports China Right Here Awards

The China Right Here Award Ceremony, a TV event recognizing the outstanding achievements of expats living in China, this year focused on promoting poverty reduction, health, and rights for disadvantaged groups. Winners included: Michael Hermann, chief representative of Humana People to People and poverty alleviation champion; Natascha Prigge and Yvonne Gerig, founders of Crazy Bake, a mental patient rehabilitation project which uses bread-baking to help recovery; and Lyn Gould, founder of Butterfly Home, China's first hospice and palliative care facility for abandoned and sick children. Deputy Country Director Steven Sabey represented UNDP and presented the award to Ms. Gould, stating "Butterfly Home provides another chance at life to children who have experienced great pain and loneliness. Their work inspires more people to respect human dignity and strengthens our commitment to building better lives."



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22-23 September 2013, Shenzhen

UNDP Co-hosts 2013 Social Good Summit

The China chapter of the 2013 Social Good Summit ran under an interactive theme of "Youth + Technology" and engaged the public in idea-sharing via social media. The event convened representatives from major non-profits, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and One Foundation, and honoured individuals who have made positive contributions to the social good. UNDP Deputy Country Director Patrick Haverman delivered a speech at the opening ceremony, acknowledging the importance of new media in modern development: "Our future looks to be one that will embrace big conversation and tap into the synergies enabled by technology – I hope this translates into a similarly good outlook for the social good."



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This year's Summit was held alongside the China Charity Fair, wherein UNDP also had its own exhibition area and led multiple seminars on crisis management and poverty reduction initiatives for ethnic minorities.

22 September 2013, Beijing

UNDP Leads Discussion on Public Sector Reform

The Seminar on Systems and Reforms of Social Public Services brought together government officials and leading scholars from different countries to share insights on public sector reform and social service system upgrade. UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Renata Dessallien participated in the event and also took the opportunity to discuss focus areas for China's public administration reform process.



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Inside Story

Contributions, ideals, and aspirations honoured on UN Day

The office came together to celebrate on the UN's 68th birthday commemoration. All personnel hit pause on their busy work schedules to remember what the UN stands for and what our work is all about. UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative Renata Dessallien gave welcoming remarks, in which she highlighted the essence of the UN's mission and thanked staff for their contributions.



In the spirit of the day, we asked social media users what they thought of the UN. We received many heart-warming replies on our official Weibo account from both staff and the public:

"UN is an organization which helps the poor, soothes pain and delivers positive energy."

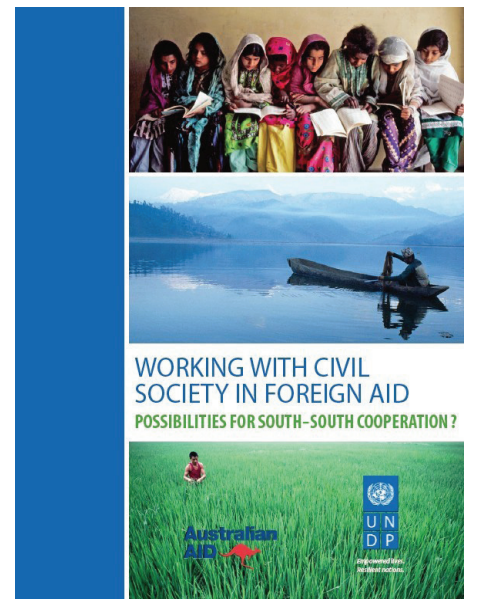
"UN is an organization that spreads love, freedom, and justice through the joint effort of world citizens."

"UN is the executive council of the global village which serves its villagers selflessly."



Recent Publication

E-Book: Working with Civil Society in Foreign Aid



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Upcoming Events November-December

17 November 2013, Beijing

The 6th Multinational Corporations Leaders Roundtable

Supported by UNDP, the roundtable will focus on multinational investment, corporate social responsibility, and sustainable development. Representatives will discuss how investment improves the quality and standard of economic development for developing countries and how ethical business strategies can help achieve the "win-win" mindset endorsed by the United Nations Global Compact.

11-22 November 2013

UN Conference on Climate Change

The annual conference will be held this year in Warsaw, Poland. Participants will come together to assess progress in dealing with climate change and further consider amendments to the Kyoto Protocol to hold developing countries like China, India, and Brazil more accountable for carbon emission reduction.



International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
25 November