



ESCWA Hosts Lecture on EU and Democracy Building



ESCWA Staff Council organized a lecture on “The European Union and democracy building: perceptions from around the world,” given by Ingrid Wetterqvist of the Sweden-based intergovernmental organization IDEA which supports sustainable democracy worldwide.

The lecture, held on 26 November, highlighted the findings of an IDEA report entitled “Democracy in Development: Global Consultations on the European Union’s Role in Democracy Building.” Wetterqvist, the Director of Planning and External Relations at IDEA, summarized the main findings of the report and presented recommendations emerging from multi-regional consultations with several counterparts and partners of the EU from around the globe.

One of the recommendations urges the EU to build on its strengths in order to improve its policies, practices and partnerships in four ways:

1. The EU needs to articulate its own experiences of democracy building in order to respond to the great interest in the EU story and to inspire political dialogue and shared learning across regions.
2. The EU should reflect its internal achievements

in its external actions. The broad understanding of democracy as integrating political, social and economic rights, which has been so successful in Europe itself, should be reflected in the EU’s external actions as well.

3. The EU needs to stand by its basic principles, reaffirming its long-term commitment to democracy, even in situations where short-term interests might lead to difficult compromises.
4. The EU must turn its partnership rhetoric into reality if progress on democracy building is to be achieved.

IDEA presented the report as the first ever peer review of the EU’s external policies and practices on support for democracy and democracy building around the world. With the support of Sweden that will hold the incoming EU presidency, the organization engaged several counterparts and partners of the EU in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arab world, South Asia and South-east Asia in a series of multi-regional consultations to get their feedback on the impact of these policies on democracy and democracy building in their respective regions. ■

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UN Physicians Train at ESCWA

ESCWA hosted between 9 and 13 November 2009 the Annual Meeting for the UN Dispensary Physicians, held for the first time in Beirut. The meeting featured training on Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) and Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) response for 36 UN physicians.

The training was successfully conducted by instructors from both UN DSS from the New York Headquarters (medical mobile team), as well as from Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (EMTP) in USA. Other important activities included the table top



UN Physicians Train at ESCWA (Cont.)

exercise in light of the anticipated second wave of the novel A H1N1 influenza pandemic, as well as an update on the post-exposure preventive PEP-kit for HIV with the UN Cares, the UN system-wide workplace program on HIV.

All themes were part of the UN medical strategy to improve the capacity of field physicians to respond to medical emergencies, in line with the recommendations of the high-level committee on management. Moreover, the physicians had the opportunity to visit some of the important medical evacuation centers in Beirut. The joint medical service at UN ESCWA participated and team members said they benefited from this important training. ■



ESCWA Considers Science, Technology & Innovation Observatories

ESCWA organized the first phase of the workshop on science, technology and innovation observatories (STI) in ESCWA member countries earlier this month in Beirut. In this initial phase, the workshop addressed the creation of national and regional STI observatories, and made several recommendations to this end.

The workshop was attended by high-level decision makers and experts in STI methodologies and policies, who worked on assessing the impact of STI on socio-economic development, highlighting the role of STI observatories and methods for their establishment, as well as the guidelines for setting up national and regional observatories and fostering regional cooperation among STI policymakers in the region.

Participants in the workshop came from Egypt, France, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Sultanate of Oman and The Syrian Arab Republic. Deliberations and discussions resulted in a number of recommendations towards the establishment of national and regional STI observatories in the region. They included building appropriate STI capacities that enable the attainment of poverty reduction and local economic development, fostering entrepreneurship that contribute to STI capacities, ensuring strong political support and consent of stakeholders as the starting step for launching STI

observatories, establishing a well-defined plan of work and implementation based on the available and necessary resources, and allocating the necessary financial resources that meet the needs of work.

The second phase of the workshop will address the implementation of STI observatories and the development of STI indicators. It will be held in December 2009, with the participation of specialists and technology experts from the institutions that took part in the first phase and are involved in the establishment of STI observatories. ■



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