

Newsletter for November 2012

Issue 1, November 2012

Universal Esperanto Association organizes seminar on United Nations and UNESCO

Hanoi, Vietnam. The Universal Esperanto Association's 97th World Congress of Esperanto in Hanoi, Vietnam, July 28 – August 4, 2012, was the setting for a seminar (conducted in Esperanto) on the work of the United Nations and UNESCO. The seminar, conducted by Humphrey Tonkin and Neil Blonstein, representatives of UEA at UN-New York, and Renée Triolle, representative of UEA at UNESCO, provided an overview of the structure of the two organizations and particularly their humanitarian and human rights activities. The seminar's purpose was to promote the UN in the Esperanto-speaking community. Some forty people participated in the seminar from a wide range of countries and representing a wide range of professions, including teachers. Materials from the seminar are available on the website of Esperanto por UN, at www.esperanto-un.org, where Esperanto translations of important UN documents are available, along with a glossary of UN terms in Esperanto and a description of the structure of the UN.

Proposal to create working group on Language and the United Nations

As a follow-up to its Symposium on Language and the United Nations, which brought together almost one hundred UN officials, NGO representatives, academics, and members of the public on May 1 of this year, the Association is in the process of forming a Working Group on Language at the United Nations to examine the ways in which multilingualism is practised at the UN, how language policies are applied, and how ad hoc arrangements are made to deal with language difference in emerging situations. "We are eager to hear from academics and professionals with an interest in this field," commented Professor Humphrey Tonkin, representative of the Association at the UN; "they should contact us for further information."

English-language anthology of Esperanto literature published

Star in a Night Sky, an anthology of Esperanto literature, has recently been published in the UK. The new anthology makes the broad sweep of literature in the international language Esperanto available to the English-speaking public for the first time. Created in 1887, Esperanto has been characterised by an abundance of creative literature in the language from its earliest beginnings. Novels, short stories, essays, and poetry all exist in Esperanto, and numerous books are published in the language every year. The new volume, edited by Paul Gubbins and published in London by Francis Boutle, offers 400 pages of bilingual texts covering all literary genres (see www.francisboutle.co.uk). The book complements Geoffrey Sutton's English-language Concise Encyclopedia of the Original Literature of Esperanto, published in New York in 2008 (see <http://www.librejo.com/enciklopedio/>).

Interlinguistics study programme at Poznan University begins its fifteenth year

The interlinguistics programme at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, recently entered its fifteenth year with the regular autumn session of the partly residential, partly distance-learning programme. The field of interlinguistics covers the study of planned language. Students in the current cohort, from Brazil, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Russia and Switzerland, gathered in Poznan for four intensive courses in Esperanto literature, Esperanto semantics and morphology, Esperanto syntax, and planned languages. This cohort, in its second year, has now returned to its home countries for the distance-learning segment of the programme.

Esperanto news programmes expand their reach

The website Novaĵoj (novajhoj.weebly.com) offers news from around the world in the Esperanto language on a daily and constantly updated basis. Reports in Esperanto from the world press, along with video stories of breaking news (also in Esperanto) are available at the site – covering politics, economics, radio and TV, science, and culture, and also offering news from the Esperanto-speaking community. Coverage is constantly expanding and the number of regular viewers is increasing. Also regularly available on the web is an Esperanto version of the French-language current affairs journal *Le Monde diplomatique* (<http://eo.mondediplo.com/>).

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