

**Canadian UNESCO News**  
**Commission canadienne pour l'UNESCO /**  
**Canadian Commission for UNESCO**  
**350 Albert, C.P. / P.O. 1047, Ottawa, ON, K1P 5V8**  
**Tel: (613) 566-4414 / 1-800-263-5588, X 5517**  
<http://www.unesco.ca>

**Autumn 2009**

**1- 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference, Paris**

The 35th session of the UNESCO General Conference was held in October 2009, at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. As part of the debates on Natural Sciences programme priorities for 2010-2011, a Draft Resolution submitted by Germany and co-sponsored by Canada on "The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme and the World Network of Biosphere Reserves' Contribution to Sustainable Development" was unanimously approved (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001849/184936e.pdf>).

Richard Murzin's recommendation expressed at the last Natural, Social and Human Sciences Sectoral Commission meeting of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (Ottawa, May 2009), to recognize the role Biosphere Reserves play in bringing together communities, researchers, and decision-makers, was reflected in the Resolution.

While the Resolution does not have budgetary implications, the 33 countries that took the floor to highlight the value of Biosphere Reserves sent strong signals of support for the programme. This is particularly important in light of the on-going budget cuts experienced by MAB over the past years.

Following the debate on MAB, Mr. Natarajan Ishwaran, Director of Ecological and Earth Sciences, UNESCO, responded that the Man and the Biosphere programme (MAB) will continue to place a strong focus on Biosphere Reserves. He indicated that while the Urban Biosphere or URBIS Initiative is of interest, UNESCO will not contributing to the development of a new network focussing solely on urban model areas, particularly when several Biosphere Reserves already contain major urban areas.

Ms. Irena Bokova was elected Director-General of UNESCO by the General Conference, and is the first woman and the first person from an Eastern European country to hold this position. Her vision and priorities for UNESCO are accessible at: <http://www.unesco.org/en/director-general>

## 2- EuroMAB 2009

Held from October 27 - 30, 2009 in Tatry Biosphere Reserve, Slovakia, EuroMAB 2009 "Doing Together, Learning Together" brought together key actors of the MAB programme from the Europe Region, including Canada. Over 100 Biosphere Reserve managers, representatives of national MAB committees and researchers focused discussions on the topics of networking (co-building a clearing house for connecting the World Network of Biosphere Reserves); sharing experiences and building a learning community (periodic review, ARDI methodology, zonation); implementing the EuroMAB and Madrid Action Plans; and building partnerships.

The eight Canadian participants played an active role in the meeting: Stan Boychuck and Claude Letarte (Charlevoix) presented in plenary on "Climate Change and Biosphere Reserves: Challenges and Opportunities" on behalf of Adam Fenech (Environment Canada), René Raiche and Christian Hart (Lac St-Pierre) presented on Biosphere Reserve Sustainable Development Charters, Jean-Philippe Messier (Manicouagan-Uapishka) introduced the discussion on the web platform, Rebecca Pollock (Georgian Bay) was a member of the core team responsible for the participatory approach of the meeting and Dominique Potvin (Canadian Commission for UNESCO) acted as meeting facilitator.

## 3- World Map of Biosphere Reserves

Paper copies of the map are being mailed to each Canadian BR and to the CBRA office. The electronic version is accessible at:

[http://www.unesco.org/science/doc/Carte\\_RB\\_2009.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/science/doc/Carte_RB_2009.pdf)

## 4- Involving Youth

On a regular basis, the Commission prepares a Youth Bulletin to provide information on upcoming youth-related activities across the country and/or abroad. Individuals who are interested in receiving the bulletin, including youth in your Biosphere Reserves, should contact Marie-Christine Lecompte, Programme Officer for Youth at the Commission, at [marie-christine.lecompte@unesco.ca](mailto:marie-christine.lecompte@unesco.ca) and request to be added to the mailing list. For more information, please see our webpage <http://www.unesco.ca/en/interdisciplinary/youth/default.aspx>

## 5 - French Masters Student Seeking Canadian Internship

Mr. Alexis Marcadet, a bilingual Masters student from France and referred to us by the French MAB national Committee, is seeking an internship related to biodiversity in Canada. He has his own funding and would be available by March. Should you be interested, please see the email attached and contact him directly at: [alexis.marcadet@etu.upmc.fr](mailto:alexis.marcadet@etu.upmc.fr)

## **6- Conference on World Heritage and Tourism**

A Conference on World Heritage and Tourism: Managing for the Global and the Local, will be held in Quebec City, 3-4 June 2010. The call for papers is open until December 15, 2009.

<http://www5.fsa.ulaval.ca/sgc/faculte/evenements/pid/14723>

## **7- 50th AGM of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO**

The 50th AGM of the CCU will be held May 6 - 8 in Quebec City. While more detailed information will be available during the upcoming months, please mark these dates on calendar now.