New Director-General of ACCU Appointed

Mr. Sato Kunio was newly appointed as Director-General of ACCU on 1 October 2002 to succeed Mr. Kusaba Muneharu.

Born in Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in 1937, and after having completed the graduate course of Kyoto University, Mr. Sato joined the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and assumed several important posts in the Ministry, as well as in UNESCO Headquarters and UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. Since 2001, he has been Professor of National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo.

Based on all the experience he has acquired in the fields of educational and cultural cooperation in international setting, he is determined to do his best to develop ACCU activities in Asia and the Pacific, in close linkage with UNESCO and its Member States in the region. He sincerely hopes that ACCU would serve as a small but effective instrument to promote mutual understanding and co-operation among the people in the region.

Winning Works for 2002 ACCU Photo Contest Depicting “Joy of Sport” Selected

The 2002 ACCU Photo Contest in Asia and the Pacific was organised under the theme “Joy of Sport”. ACCU received 2,153 photographs from 21 countries, many of which depicted scenes of children enjoying themselves immensely.

The Jury Meeting was held from 2 to 4 September 2002 in Tokyo, with 7 jury members from China, India, Japan, the Philippines, and ACCU. After careful consideration, the jury selected the 100 prize-winning works including 3 Grand Prix and 10 Special Prizes.

For the promotion of international understanding through photographs, these prize-winning works will form the Travelling Photo Exhibition which will be available for display upon request from each of the Member States in Asia and the Pacific. The first exhibition will be held in Tokyo in 2003.

Prize Winners and Winning Works

Grand Prix (3 works)
Md. Shahid Faruquee (Bangladesh)
The Muddy Foot-Ballers
Fan Jiashan (China)
Happy Childhood
Ito Yoshinori (Japan)
Man with his Child just before the Goal

Special Prize, © Korenchuk Valery (Kazakhstan)
Special Prize, © Mohammad (Shabab) Golchin (Iran)
Participants of 2002 ACCU-APPEAL Joint Planning Meeting, Tokyo

Information Communication Technology in Non-Formal Education

With an emphasis on effective information communication technology (ICT) use in non-formal education (NFE), the 2002 ACCU-APPEAL Joint Planning Meeting on Regional NFE Programmes in Asia and the Pacific was jointly held by ACCU and UNESCO Asia-Pacific Programme of Non-Formal Education (APPEAL), in cooperation with the Asian-Pacific Regional Co-operation (ACCU) Association for Education, in Tokyo from 9 to 13 July 2002. 23 governmental representatives from 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific, 5 representatives of partner organisations, and one resource person, had active discussions across all the objectives.

1. To discuss and share NFE initiatives of the participating countries
2. To review and plan ACCU and/or APPEAL NFE regional programmes
3. To consult the participating countries in the planning of regional NFE programmes for ICT application in NFE
4. To discuss future regional NFE strategies to achieve Education for All (EFA) goals

Effective ICT use in NFE was the common agenda through discussions and presentations, cutting across all the objectives. The participants shared their ideas on how ICT could better contribute to the activities of their national programmes. The discussion was a good indicator as to how the future ICT-related programmes in the region should be.

One of this year’s specific meeting agendas was the UN Literacy Decade. The decade was adopted in the 59th session of the UN General Assembly in 2001, and announced for the period between January 2003 and December 2012. Just half a year ahead of the inauguration of the UN Decade, the aims, concept and planned activities were explained by a delegate of UNESCO headquarters, followed by an active exchange of views among participants.

Another feature of this Meeting was Afghanistan participation. After almost 6 years’ absence since 1996, two Afghan delegates returned to ACCU’s programmes and were welcomed by all the participants. They reported to the Meeting on the war-battered educational system of Afghanistan and stressed the necessity of NFE projects. Promotion of literacy/NFE in Afghanistan was taken up as an agenda. UNESCO, ACCU and the participants agreed to bring in regional resources and wisdom to assist the promotion with the Afghan authorities in the field of material development and capacity building.

The meeting was closed with many fruitful results and concrete recommendations regarding on-going and future NFE programmes by ACCU and APPEAL.

ACCU Rewarded UNESCO’s International Literacy Prize of the Year 2002

On a large screen on the stage of Room I, UNESCO Headquarters building, the smiling face of Mina was projected before the audience. In the digest version of ACCU’s literacy promotion video Mina Smiles, an illiterate village woman, Mina, having realized the harsh reality of not being able to read or write, goes to literacy class, gains confidence in herself, and begins to have a positive impact on her own family and even on the whole village.

It was 10 September 2002, at the Literacy Prize Award Ceremony. The Master of Ceremonies, Mr. John Daniel, Assistant Director-General for Education, introduced ACCU’s Asia-Pacific Regional Co-operative Literacy Programme, commenting that ACCU’s way of working—concrete, easy to understand, and appealing to the audience—is well exemplified by such work as Mina Smiles.

ACCU was one of the nine laureates of the UNESCO Literacy Prizes 2002, together with government/non-government organizations of such countries as Eritrea, Uganda, Pakistan, Egypt, Canada, Thailand, Spain, and Cuba.

A diploma of the Honourable Mention of the King Sejong Literacy Prize was personally presented by Mr. Matsuura Koichiro, Director-General of UNESCO, to Mr. Miyauchi Mitsuyoshi, Director-General a.i. of ACCU.

Mr. Miyauchi, in his speech, stressed the unique “joint working mechanism” of ACCU, under which participating countries jointly conduct planning, implementation, evaluation and sharing of results, thus nurturing the sense of ownership of “Our Programme.” It characterises, he said, ACCU activities not only in the literacy programmes in the field of materials and, human resource development and network building, but also in culture and book development.

He also emphasized the need for ACCU to take on new challenges, while keeping up the good tradition. As one example, he indicated cooperation in Afghanistan under the leadership of UNESCO for the promotion of literacy/non-formal education in that country.

ACCU, with the renewed determination inspired by this international recognition, will further strengthen its regional literacy and non-formal education activities.