



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research



Achievements 2007-2009

Outlook 2010-2012



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Encompassing the spectrum of issues



The transformative potential of training - for individuals, institutions and societies - is being acknowledged as never before. Nearly 40 per cent of official development assistance is earmarked for capacity development. The Copenhagen Accord and Green Climate Fund announced at last December's climate change conference also place significant emphasis on capacity building -- just the latest examples emanating from a series of international conferences and summits over the past few years.

The increasing frequency and diversity of references to capacity development reflects the many contexts in which it takes place. Training is just as important for senior government officials as it is for the staff of a small community-based organization; and just as relevant for governance as it is for our efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research has responded to the growing focus on human capital by forging more strategic

partnerships, rationalizing its organizational structure and strengthening its own capacity to provide training and continuous learning opportunities. Those efforts encompass an expanding spectrum of issues, from the environment and governance to peace, security and diplomacy.

In era of multiple crises and ever-more-complex challenges, the need for greater investments in capacity development is clear. UNITAR now serves more people than at any time in its history, and its Board of Trustees now includes mayors, ministers, scholars, diplomats and a winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace. The Institute is strongly committed to the professional development of the men and women who turn to the Institute to help them and their countries realize their aspirations for a better world.

Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
of the United Nations

Being at the forefront of knowledge



This report presents UNITAR's achievements since it started major reforms in 2007. The format tries to capture succinctly the diversity of the Institute in terms of areas of expertise, constituencies and partnerships.

Since it was established, in 1965, UNITAR strives to respond to demands for training and capacity development in the fields of Environment; Peace, Security and Diplomacy; Governance, as well as result-oriented research, in particular, on knowledge systems.

UNITAR engaged in a strategic reform process in view of strengthening both the Institute's institutional capacity for training and research and its ability to fulfil current and emerging needs. UNITAR has identified knowledge systems as a differentiating edge to enhance its capabilities in offering innovative training for the development of capacities of adult learners. The development and utilization of modern instructional design pedagogies, the implementation of blended learning approaches through partnerships with emergent South-based institutions, constitute a major achievement.

In 2008-2009 alone UNITAR has conducted 692 events reaching out to more than 73,000 national and local government officials of Member States and representatives of civil society. With over 100 events organized in UN headquarters in New York, Geneva, UNITAR is particularly known for the provision of executive training for diplomats. It is the most used asset of those accredited to the UN, contributing to strengthened awareness, knowledge and skills for effective performance of the multilateral system.

The Institute's interaction with the UN system is becoming more strategic. Recently we have been entrusted with the responsibility of convening inter-agency initiatives such as the chair, and member of the troika governing the UN Global Migration Group (GMG), the establishment of the common UN platform for climate change training (UNCC:Learn), the chair of the Strategic Approach for International Chemicals Management (SAICM), or the organization of top leadership meetings involving the Secretary General. Important agreements were signed with key UN agencies for UNITAR to help develop training packages in various new emerging areas such as human rights, environmental law, peace keeping trends or multilateral negotiations.

In the last years UNITAR did not just proven its convening capacity. It has also continue to be ahead of the UN's targets with the most gender balanced score, the youngest staff and an aggressive climate neutral policy, praised by UNEP. The number of fellows, advisers, interns and other collaborators, together with the larger network of CIFAL local authority associated centers of UNITAR multiply the Institute's staff capabilities considerably. One can talk of a UNITAR

family, the only possibility for an institution with such a huge demand to cover.

Building on recent achievements, UNITAR is now moving towards a new financial model that will introduce paid courses and other self generated income modalities that shall increase the Institute's autonomy. The 2010-2012 Strategic Plan reflects an outward vision for the years to come. It is expected to guide the Institute as it strives to become a world renowned centre of excellence in the provision of high-quality executive training on UN themes, and research on knowledge systems, from methodologies of learning, to capacity development to satellite imagery interpretation.

The transformation of UNITAR has been made possible by the generosity of its donors and partners: governments, UN agencies, private sector and philanthropic foundations, and non-governmental organizations. They provide financial or in-kind contributions and support our activities with enthusiasm and trust. That explains our exponential growth over the last years.

I wish to thank the support received from our Board of Trustees, the Secretary General, and the hard work of the Institute's staff who merit much credit for the achievements reported here. Gratitude is also extended to UNITAR's beneficiaries who are our most fervent promoters.

Carlos Lopes
Assistant Secretary-General
of the United Nations
Executive Director, UNITAR