

World Philosophy Day 2006
16 November 2006

Events organized in the world

1. Benin

□ *Benin Society of Philosophy*

The Society organized a series of lectures and debates including on the topic “Reflection on the teaching of philosophy and training for competence”, as well as an open debate on “Scientific research in Benin: State of the art and perspectives”.

2. Belgium

□ *Communauté française de Belgique*

The Community organized a debate on the Palestinian question and its impact on the Israeli economy.

□ *VEFO (Flemish Network for Contemporary Philosophy Education)*

The Network organized on 18 November 2006 in Antwerp, a philosophical meeting on the topic "Philosophizing = Creating Chances".

3. Burundi

□ *UNESCO Bujumbura*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

4. Cameroun

□ *UNESCO Yaoundé*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

5. Canada

□ *Philosophical Society, University College of Saint-Boniface, Winnipeg*

On the occasion of World Philosophy Day, the Philosophical Society organized its Second Congress, which took place at the University of Winnipeg.

□ *UNESCO Chair in Philosophy (University of Quebec in Montreal), Canadian Chair of Research in Quebec and Canada Studies and Hector-Fabre Chair in History of Quebec*

On the occasion of World Philosophy Day 2006, the UNESCO Chair in Philosophy in collaboration with the Canada Chair of Research in Quebec and Canada Studies and the Hector-Fabre Chair in History of Quebec, organized on 15 November 2006 the 7th CREQC Symposium on the topic “History facing cultural diversity: new forms of cosmopolitanism?”, with sessions on “Cosmopolitanism, cultural diversity and post-nationalism”, “Writing history today”, “A teaching program on: History and education to citizenship» and « Time, memory and democracy».

New publications were presented in conclusion of the Day’s events, including: Frédéric Bastien, *Le poids de la coopération: le rapport France-Québec* (Quebec America); Stéphane Paquin in collaboration with Louise Beaudoin, *Histoire des relations internationales du Québec* (VLB); Josiane Boulad-Ayoub and Paule-Monique Vernes, *La Révolution cartésienne* (PUL); and the first publications of the Verbatim collection (PUL).

□ *Philosophy Department, Cegep of Lévis-Lauzon*

On 16 November, on the occasion of World Philosophy Day, the Philosophy Department of Cegep in Lévis-Lauzon organized several round tables and

lectures around the issue of dialogue, and more specifically on the following topics: “Will the globalization of communications cause the disappearance of cultural differences?”; “Does communication through Internet dehumanize dialogue?”; “Job opportunities for philosophy students”; “Can dialogue regulate all conflicts?”; and “Dialogue: thinking with the Other”. A musical show was also organized on this occasion.

6. Central African Republic

□ *Central African Philosophy Association*

In the Central African Republic World Philosophy Day was inaugurated on 16 November 2006 by a message from the Minister of National Education. The 17 November, a series of radio and TV debates took place on the topic “Philosophy and the culture of peace”.

7. Columbia

Events were organized in Barranquilla on the topic “Philosophy, Marginality and Development in Barranquilla”, including conferences, an inter-collegiate forum and a young artists’ exhibition.

8. Congo – Brazzaville

□ *UNESCO Brazzaville*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

9. Ethiopia

□ *Department of Philosophy, Addis Ababa University*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

□ *UNESCO Addis Ababa*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

10. Fiji

□ *Fiji National Commission for UNESCO*

Activities were organized on 3 October 2006, involving twenty schools from the Suva-Nasouri area.

11. Finland

□ *AIIPh Baltic Sea net, Finnish UNESCO ASPnet, Finnish Association for Teachers of Philosophy and Philosophy of life, Societas Philosophica Fennica*

The associations cited above organized on the occasion of World Philosophy Day a philosophical essay event for secondary school students in countries around the Baltic Sea. In Finland the essay event also functioned as a selection for the Philosophy Olympics in 2007. The most philosophically illuminating papers were awarded with material from the field of philosophy and world heritage. The names of the awarded participants were announced on Philosophy Day, and the best essays have been published on the Internet on the following addresses: www.unescokoulu.fi and www.feto.fi.

12. Germany

□ *German department of the UNESCO Chair in Philosophy (Paris), Bremen University*

On 1st December on the occasion of the World Philosophy Day 2006, an event on “Human dignity as basis for fundamental and human rights” took place at the House of Sciences in Bremen. The invited participants presented and exchanged with the audience on the following topics: “...A value without price - Foundations

on human dignity in the history of philosophy: Kant and Fichte” (Professor Georg Mohr, Bremen University); “The human dignity idea from a Christian theological perspective” (Professor Konrad Hilpert, Munich University); “Human dignity as a juridical principle” (Professor Karl-E. Hain, Mayence University); “Human dignity and the total interdiction of torture?” (Professor Reinhard Merkel, Hamburg University); and “Does human dignity resist to any discussion? The recourse to the argument of human dignity in applied ethics” (Professor Dagmar Borchers, Bremen University).

13. Ghana

□ *UNESCO Accra*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

14. Guatemala

Activities were organized on the theme of Maya philosophy.

15. Italy

□ *Centre for Philosophy Research and Didactic, Savona*

On the occasion of World Philosophy Day on 16 November 2006, a conference-debate on the topic “Ethics and politics: What relation?” took place in Savona, with the participation of Judge Giancarlo Caselli. The event was organized by the Centre for Philosophical Research and Didactic, in collaboration with the Italian Philosophical Society (*SFI*), the International Association for Philosophy teachers (*AIPPh*) and the *Società Filosofia Ligure*.

16. Kenya

□ *UNESCO Nairobi*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

□ *Institute for African Ecology and Philosophy, Nairobi*

World Philosophy Day 2006 was celebrated in Kenya on 15 November 2006 by the Institute for African Ecology and Philosophy, with a seminar on the topic “Philosophy and the Condition of Modern Man”. The seminar took place at the Kenyatta International Conference Center and was chaired by Dr H. Boaz Adhengo of the Institute for African Ecology and Philosophy and Mr Salim Ongwae of Project Nabuur. Celebrated for the fifth time since 2002, World Philosophy Day in Kenya provided a space for reflection on various topics of particular importance, such as “Cultural Philosophy, Diversity and Communication”, “Modernity and the Condition of Women”, “Philosophy and Obstacles to the Alliance of Cultures”, “Philosophy: Teaching, Discussing and Translating”, or “Philosophy and North-South Dialogue: What Difficulties? What Future?”.

17. Lao People’s Democratic Republic

□ *Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS), National University of Laos (NUOL)*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

18. Latvia

□ *Association of Students of Philosophy of the University of Latvia, Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, Institute for Philosophy and Sociology of the University of Latvia, Student’s Council of the University of Latvia, and Philosophy Assistance Fund of Latvia*

Latvia celebrated World Philosophy Day on 16 and 17 November 2006, with different activities organized by students and professors of the University of

Latvia, with the support of several non-governmental and governmental institutions. The Association of Students of Philosophy of the University of Latvia, the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO, the Institute for Philosophy and Sociology of the University of Latvia, the Student's Council of the University of Latvia and the Philosophy Assistance Fund in Latvia, were all involved in the preparation of Philosophy Day events.

The Association of Students of Philosophy presented at the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of the University of Latvia a philosophy portal (www.fsb.org.lv), which has been created for the communication and creative expressions of intellectuals and students. The presentation was followed by discussions about the philosophical activities of students.

The Faculty of History and Philosophy organized a screening of the film "Tuvalu" by Veit Helmer (2000), which was followed by a live discussion between philosophers on art and its interpretations, language, utopia, freedom, etc.

On 17 November, a conference took place on the work of the Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, organized on the occasion of the launching of the publication "Existence and Communication". This publication is the first in the series "Philosophical Library".

The events were concluded in the evening of 17 November by a costume ball on the theme "Philosophy and erotic", with a staged conversation about love and the love of wisdom.

19. Mali

□ *UNESCO Bamako*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

20. Mexico

□ *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Universidad Autónoma de Sinaloa, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Unidad Iztapalapa*

Activities to mark World Philosophy Day 2006 were prepared in the three above-mentioned universities.

□ *University of Guadalajara*

The Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities of the University of Guadalajara organized on 2 December 2006 a Second International Banquet of Philosophy, which took place also in the framework of the International Book Fair in Guadalajara. The theme of the banquet was the dialogue between Andalusian and Mexican philosophers, with participants reflecting on the topic "Philosophy and Religion: Fundamentalism in Hispanic America and Spain?". The event included a debate on the thought of María Zambrano and a presentation of a Foundation carrying her name, as well as a presentation of the publications "*Esbozo histórico de la filosofía en México (Siglo XX)*" by Gabriel Vargas Lozano and "*El imaginario. Civilización y cultura del Siglo XXI*" by Miguel Rojas Mix.

□ *Faculty of Letters, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey*

The Faculty of Letters organized on 10 November 2006 and jointly with the Itinerant UNESCO Chair "Edgar Morin" (*CIUEM*), a conference on "The challenges for the teaching of philosophy today". The conference was presided over by the director of the Chair, Mr Raúl D. Motta.

21. Morocco

□ *Association Philosophique Tétouanaise (AFT)*

On the occasion of World Philosophy Day 2006, the Association imagined a programme for the month of November under the motto "Philosophy in Our

Days”. On this occasion, conferences in the high schools of Tétouan as well as a round table on the past and the future of philosophy in Morocco, France and Spain, were envisaged.

22. Namibia

□ *UNESCO Windhoek*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

□ *University of Windhoek*

Activities were organized by the University on 23 October 2006.

23. Nepal

Little Moon Secondary School, Faika, Kapan

Activities were organized at the Little Moon Secondary School in Faika, Kapan.

24. Nigeria

□ *UNESCO Abuja*

The UNESCO Office in Abuja organised a seminar on "Reflections on Indigenous Philosophical Thought and its Contribution to Tolerance in Society ", chaired by Mr Abhimanyu Singh, Director and Country Representative, UNESCO Abuja. Scholars presented papers on the subject, followed by a discussion based on the Nigerian context. The papers and a summary of the discussion will be published by UNESCO.

25. Panama

□ *Nueva Acrópolis Panamá*

Nueva Acrópolis Panamá celebrated Philosophy Day with a conference on “Plato for the XXI Century”.

26. Philippines

□ *De La Salle University, Manila*

The Students of Philosophy in Action (SoPhiA) - a professional student organization of De La Salle University, Manila - organized a number of activities to celebrate the World Philosophy Day 2006.

27. Senegal

□ *UNESCO Dakar*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

28. South Africa

□ *Department of Philosophy, University of South Africa (UNISA)*

UNISA celebrated World Philosophy Day with a series of public lectures that took place from 13 to 21 November 2006 on the general theme “Philosophy and Africa’s 159 years of independence”. The speakers invited were Professor M.O. Hinz (University of Namibia), who spoke on the themes “Revisiting Antony Allot's Limits of Law”, “The World Trade Organization in jurisprudential perspective”, and “The making of customary law. Legal pluralism in practice”; and Prof J.O. Oguejiofor (Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria), who prepared lectures on “Theophilus Okere and the possibility of a history of African philosophy”, “Negritude as hermeneutics: A reinterpretation of Leopold Senghor’s philosophy” and “In search of elusive humanity. Philosophy and Africa’s 159 years of independence”.

29. Sri Lanka

□ *National Science Foundation*

An event to celebrate World Philosophy Day 2006 took place in Colombo on 21 and 22 November 2006.

30. Tanzania

□ *UNESCO Dar-es-Salaam*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

31. Turkey

□ *Bilkent University*

The Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Humanities and Letters organized a conference on 17 November 2006.

□ *University of Dicle*

The Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Sciences and Letters hosted a philosophical event on 16 November 2006.

□ *Gazi University, Ankara*

To celebrate World Philosophy Day, the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Sciences and Letters organized a week-long series of activities for students and the wider public, notably conference-debates on the topics « Philosophy, Education and Media » and « Facing Life and Death: Philosophy, Art and Science ».

□ *Hacettepe University*

The Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Letters hosted on 16 November a panel entitled “Philosophy in the New Century”. The speakers of the panel were Prof. Dr. Sabri Büyükdüvenci, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Levent Aysever and Assistant Prof. Dr. Ertuğrul Turan.

□ *Istanbul High Schools Philosophy Clubs Platform*

In celebration of World Philosophy Day 2006, the Platform organized events that took place on 16 November.

□ *Maltepe University*

The Faculty of Science and Letters celebrated World Philosophy Day last 12 November with a panel discussion followed by a philosophical café. The participants of the panel were Prof. Ioanna Kuçuradi, Prof. Betül Cotuksöken, Prof. Dr. Serji İyi and Dr. Kan Özkan. The launching of the co-edited book by the faculty of the Maltepe University Department of Philosophy entitled “Philosophy for whom?”, also took place on the same day.

□ *Pamukkale University*

On 13 November 2006, the Faculty of Sciences and Letters of Pamukkale University organized a conference around the theme “On Man” with the participation of Prof. Dr. Ali Osman Gündoğan.

32. United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates celebrated World Philosophy Day 2006 by organizing on 12 November 2006 in Abu Dhabi a debate on « Critic of Arab reason, Critic of Occidental Reason ? », with the participation of Mohammad Abid Al-Jabri and Motareh Safadi.

33. United State of America

□ *St. John Fisher College, Rochester, NY*

Two conferences took place on 15 November, with lectures by Mary McHale-Woodruff on the topic “Existential Therapy in Action”, based on the teachings of Frankl, May, and Yalom; and by Father Leo Hetzler CSB on “Max Brand: The Poet/Philosopher and Writer of Western Novels”. The Day’s celebrations

continued on 16 November with seven rounds of tables during which were discussed the relation between philosophy on one hand and education, science fiction, popular culture, communication, creative arts, emotions and the 21st century, on the other.

34. Uruguay

□ Association *Nueva Acrópolis*

The Association organized a conference in Montevideo on the topic “Why Philosophy?”.

□ *National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC), ANEP-CODICEN*

To celebrate World Philosophy Day, the Uruguay National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Education and Culture and ANEP-CODICEN organized an interactive video conference on the topic « The young, knowledge and the function of philosophy », with the participation of the *Inspección de filosofía*, the Philosophical Association of Uruguay (AFU) and the Bioethics Program “*Acá-bioética*”. Chaired by Fernando Lema (Uruguay National Commission for UNESCO), the conference panel was composed of Mauricio Langon (Bioethics Project Coordinator), Marisa Bertolini (philosophy researcher), Ricardo Viscardi (Professor, Philosophy Institute, UDELAR), Stella Cerruti (President of the Commission for Sexual Education, CODICEN) and Carolina Macedo (President of AFU). The video conference was transmitted in 20 rooms of ANTEL, the National Telecommunications Administration, across the country.

35. Viet Nam

□ *Faculty of Philosophy, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, (Hanoi National University)*

The University of Social Sciences and Humanities of the Hanoi National University commemorated World Philosophy Day on 16 and 17 November 2006 with a conference on the topic “Problems of Western Philosophy in the 20th Century”; and the publication of “Vietnamese Philosophical Thoughts in the Context of the Introduction of Eastern - Western Thoughts into Vietnam in the First Half of the 20th Century” - proceedings of the conference organized on the occasion of World Philosophy Day 2005. The events, organized also in the context of commemorations of the 30th anniversary of the foundation of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Hanoi University of Social Sciences and Humanities and of the 30th anniversary of the death of Martin Heidegger, were open to researchers, professors, teachers and representatives from institutes, colleges, institutions, ministries and agencies, to overseas scholars and to students of the University.

36. Zimbabwe

□ *UNESCO Harare*

Organized activities to celebrate the Day.

**Member States that have expressed interest in the Day
(requesting information, materials, posters, etc.)**

27. Dominican Republic

- *Permanent Delegation to UNESCO*

28. Switzerland

- *Haute école valaisanne*

29. Nigeria

- *Department of Philosophy, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka*

30. United States of America

- *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*