



The Union of International Associations celebrates its 100th birthday!

The UIA is launching its centenary celebrations on November 23rd 2007 in Brussels. The celebrations continue for the next 3 years with a special series of public events on and for global civil society and the world of intergovernmental organizations.

On November 23rd 2007 at 5pm **the UIA is launching its centenary celebrations** with a strategic meeting: "Looking at the future of the UIA" at the International Associations Center in Brussels. Participants include the **UIA's partners**, its active and associate members, and invited representatives of **international associations and institutions**. Together we will reflect on ways and means for the UIA to enter its second century of service to the international community.

An **exhibition, "Past, Present, Future"**, culled from the UIA's rich archives, will take visitors from 1907 to 2007, a century of unprecedented activity and growth for **global civil society and intergovernmental organizations**.

The UIA was founded on June 1st 1907 in Brussels as the Central Office of International Associations and received its current name at the first World Congress of International Organizations in Brussels in 1910. Our celebration on November 23rd 2007 is just the first of a **series of public events planned for the centenary period, 2007 to 2010**. Fresh information on centenary events will be posted on the UIA's website.

Most of the centenary celebrations will take place in Brussels: the UIA's birthplace and its home for 100 years; the premier city for issues of **European governance and international relations**; host of the European Union, NATO, and thousands of other international organizations and societies. Brussels also ranks fourth in the world for international congresses (*source: UIA statistical report 2007*).

The UIA is the dream-child of two notable Belgians: **Henri La Fontaine, winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1913, and Paul Otlet, first Secretary-General of the International Institute of Bibliography**. Paul Otlet's vision contributed to ordering and coordinating multi-faceted approaches to human and social development and their impact on the planet. The UIA continues to identify and honour the wide range of **initiatives and preoccupations in the world today, both in isolation and within the complex networks of relationships between them**.

The UIA's early work contributed to the creation of the League of Nations and of the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, predecessor of UNESCO. In 1951 a special resolution of ECOSOC (the United Nations Economic and Social Council) confirmed **United Nations cooperation with the UIA for the preparation of the Yearbook of International Organizations**. In its *Yearbook* and related publications the UIA has been **documenting the activities of international associations** around the world since 1908; in 2007 it listed 60,000 organizations and 239,000 **international meetings**. By discovering, documenting and disseminating information on global civil society actors, the **UIA – a not-for-profit research institution, a-political, independent and non-governmental** – works to increase recognition of the role played by international organizations. It edits the *Yearbook of International Organizations* (on-line, CD-ROM and book), the *International Congress Calendar* (on-line and quarterly PDF), and the *Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential* (freely available set of databases on the UIA's website).

For more information, see: www.uia.org

Press Contact

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