Activity Report of the UNA of Hungary for 2013

The UNA of Hungary has launched again its successful specific programme: the UN ACADEMY. The Academy (held every fourth year, depending on the funding) is dealing with major issues facing the United Nations. It usually consists of an Opening Conference that is followed by a series of 10 lectures and consultations (once in a week) and a closing conference. It is held in the late afternoons during the teaching periods of the universities and colleges. The lecturers are excellent, well known Hungarian and foreign experts and researchers. The aim of the UN-Academy is to provide for national capacity building, to transfer the necessary knowledge for human resource development and to influence public opinion.

Since the year 2011 the Academy is run in a new, so called "mobile" format. Earlier it was concentrated to Budapest, now we are moving from town to town holding the lectures at major universities outside of Budapest. The guiding subject is "Europe, World Crisis and the UN". Besides the leaders of the UNA professors of the given university also have the possibility to lecture. So far we had it in Budapest, Győr, Pécs, Szeged and Debrecen. The next towns are Kaposvár, Miskolc and Eger.

In the framework of our UN Forum programme we have invited representatives of UN Agencies in Budapest. These include Irina Iavashenko, representative of IMF here.

2013 is the International Year of Water Cooperation. This year in October the Hungarian Government intends to hold an International Conference in this theme. To raise public awareness the UNA will organize a series of events as part of the preparation activities.

In the framework of the UN Forum we invite ambassadors (accredited to Hungary) to speak about their country's policy toward the UN. The next ambassador is the American.

Our relationship with the UN Information Service in Vienna is exceptionally important. UNIS plays an important role in our information activities. Mr. János Tisovszky, newly appointed Director will lecture on "The UN with no Taboos".


Post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development. Public debate on these issues.

The role of the UN and its specialized agencies in the present situation created by the world economic crises with particular attention to the world's social problems.

Other important issues on the agenda: peacekeeping, human rights, proliferation of nuclear weapons, drug abuse etc.

With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary and UNIS Vienna the UNA has published the latest edition of "Basic Facts about the United Nations" in Hungarian in 1200 copies (a 380-page UN publication). The book is distributed free of charge. Copies are being sent to all major libraries in Hungary including all university and college libraries. It is also available on the web site of the UNA.

As every year, in 2013 we have commemorative events on many UN-days.

Cooperation with UN Association in the framework the European Meeting of UNAs and WFUNA.

April, 2013

Dr. Ervin Gömbös
Secretary-General