



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organisation

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

UNESCO Chair on Comparative Studies
of Spiritual Traditions, their Specific Cultures
and Interreligious Dialogue

Кафедра ЮНЕСКО по компаративным исследованиям
духовных традиций, специфики их культур
и межрелигиозного диалога



UNESCO Chair in Comparative Studies of Spiritual Traditions, their Specific Cultures and Interreligious Dialogue, basing upon the St.Petersburg branch of the Russian Institute for Cultural Research, and Institute of Humanitarian Education in St.Petersburg, Russia announce a meeting dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development,

implemented by the decision of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization.

The meeting would be conducted on **May 21st, 2012, from 10:30 a.m. till 1 p.m.**, basing on the facilities of Institute of Humanitarian Education (Liflandskaya street, 4), which is one of the most respected non-governmental educational institutions, acting in the city of St.Petersburg, Russia. The meeting would gather a number of leading representatives of both scientific research, and educational institutions of St.Petersburg.

The program of the meeting includes primarily a scientific conference, centered upon the following focal topics:

1. Cultural diversity and the dialogue between civilizations, cultures, and religions in the framework of the cultural strategy of UNESCO;
2. Cultural diversity as a focal component of present-day cultural policies: theory and practice;
3. Cultural diversity in the framework of a contemporary urban agglomeration (basing upon the example of St.Petersburg);
4. Cultural diversity in educational practice of state and of non-governmental high schools: common and specific aspects.

The program of the meeting includes presentation of the following two strategic research and publication projects, elaborated in the framework of the UNESCO Chair in Comparative Studies of Spiritual Traditions, their Specific Cultures and Interreligious Dialogue:

1. International collective monograph 'World Religions in the Context of the Contemporary Culture: New Perspectives of Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. Christianity and Islam in the Context of Contemporary Culture: New Prospects of Dialogue and Mutual Understanding in the Russian Federation and Eastern Europe, in Central Asia and the Caucasus' / Eds. D. Spivak, S. Shankman. — St. Petersburg: St. Petersburg Branch of the Russian Institute for Cultural Research / Russian Baltic Information Center "Blitz", 2011. — 208 p. This book was prepared and published in two languages (English

and Russian), in cooperation and with the financial support of the UNESCO Moscow Office and the UNESCO Office in Almaty, in the framework of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Interreligious Dialogue for Intercultural Understanding.

2. International scientific forum 'Culture of the Mongolian-speaking People in the Globalized World', which would be conducted on October 25–26, 2012, at the city of Elista, Kalmyk Republic, Russian Federation.

The first of the aforementioned projects was directed at the research of problems and prospects of interfaith dialogue between Christianity and Islam in the contemporary globalized world; the second one includes actual prospects of dialogue with Buddhism, especially of the Mongolian-speaking people in its manifold forms and directions.

The program of the meeting includes a videoconference dedicated to the topic 'Cultural Diversity and Dialogue between Civilizations, Cultures, and Religions, conducted with a number of keynote specialists in the field, who would gather in Moscow, Russia. The Moscow part of the meeting would be conducted basing upon the premises of the Russian Institute for Cultural Research, with participation of representatives of a number of Moscow research institutions, and educational organizations.

The Day would be concluded by a concert, provided by young artists of St.Petersburg, with the support of the St.Petersburg N.A.Rimsky-Corsakov State Conservatoire (Academy). Along with classical European music, it would include Indian and Tuvin pieces, in order to celebrate the multicultural character of the present-day world.

For more detailed information, concerning the program of the meeting, and contact information of its coordinators, see web site <http://www.unesco.spbric.org>.