

Newsletter

Vol. 37: No. 1 (Winter 2007)



United Nations Association of Pomona Valley

Outgoing Secretary-General Kofi Annan Honored, Statement by Successor Ban Ki-Moon

On December 14, 2006, the United Nations General Assembly paid tribute to Secretary-General Kofi Annan's "exceptional contribution to international peace and security...and his outstanding efforts to promote and protect human rights" during his 10-year leadership of the United Nations, and swore in his successor, Ban Ki-moon, who takes the helm of the world body on 1 January 2007.

The 192-member Assembly adopted by acclamation a resolution that took special note of Mr. Annan's many "bold" political, diplomatic and organizational initiatives, and his many important achievements, particularly with respect to the Millennium Development Goals, peace and security issues, the environment and United Nations reform.

The highlight of today's ceremony was the swearing in of Mr. Ban, of the Republic of Korea, as the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations.

In their respective statements to the diplomats and other dignitaries, both Mr. Annan and Mr. Ban stressed the indissoluble links uniting security, development and human rights as the three pillars of the United Nations, without any one of which world peace will not be achieved. A former foreign minister, Mr. Ban, 62, was selected by the 15-member Security Council in mid-October and then quickly approved by the General Assembly as the first Asian head of the Organization in 35 years.

"I depart convinced that today's UN does more than ever before, and does it better than ever before," Mr. Annan said, adding that in a time of sweeping change and great challenge, the United Nations had remoulded and reoriented itself. It had become more transparent, accountable and responsive. It

had begun to better address the needs of individuals worldwide. Despite many difficulties and some setbacks, "we have achieved much that I am proud of," he said of his decade-long tenure. "Yet our work is far from complete -- indeed, it never will be," he said, adding: "It falls to my successor to carry forward the UN's valuable mission."

Saying that he was honoured to follow Mr. Annan, whose "courage and vision have inspired the world", Mr. Ban pledged to be a "bridge-builder" and do everything in his power to ensure that the United Nations lived up to its name and was truly united, "so that we can live up to the hopes that so many people around the world place in this institution, which is unique in that annals of human history".

He said that one of his core tasks would be to breathe new life and inject renewed confidence into the "sometimes weary" Secretariat. "The good name of the United Nations is one of its most valuable assets -- but also one of its most vulnerable," he said, adding that the Charter called on all staff to uphold the highest levels of efficiency, competence and integrity, and so he would "seek to ensure that we build a solid reputation for living up to that standard." He pledged to lead by example and to enhance morale, professionalism and accountability among the staff. Earlier, Sheikha Haya said that Mr. Annan's career had been unique. "He has risen through the ranks of the United Nations and devoted his life's service to the Organization. So, today we are not only bidding farewell to the current Secretary-General, but also to one of the longest serving officials of the United Nations." She stressed that Mr. Annan had guided the United Nations into the twenty-first century with vision and leadership. As a result, the multilateral system is stronger.

Statement by Secretary-General-Designate

United Nations Secretary-General designate Ban Ki-Moon said he stood today before the world's nations

mindful of the words of the oath he had just taken and that those sentiments -- "loyalty", "discretion" and "conscience" -- together with the principles of the Charter, would be his watchwords as he carried out his duties. He said that he was all the more humbled to be succeeding Secretary-General Kofi Annan in what Mr. Annan had described as "the world's most exalting job".

Honoured to follow in the footsteps of one whose tenure as United Nations chief had been marked by high ideals, noble aspirations and bold initiatives, he told Mr. Annan: "Your courage and vision have inspired the world." Mr. Annan had also led the United Nations firmly into the twenty-first century and given the Organization new relevance to the people of the world. He noted that, because the Security Council had wrapped up the appointment process early, he had had the unprecedented privilege of more than two months' preparation before taking office -- a time he had spent listening to and learning from his future colleagues in the Secretariat, Member States and the wider United Nations family.

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He said that his first priority as the Organization headed towards that goal would be to restore trust. He would seek to act as a harmonizer and a bridge-builder. He sought to become known to Member States and staff alike as a Secretary-General who was accessible, hard working and prepared to listen attentively. He would do everything in his power to ensure that the United Nations could live up to its name and be truly united, "so that we can live up to the hopes that so many people around the world place in this institution, which is unique in that annals of human history".

From www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2006/ga10556.doc.htm

Special Contributions Sought and New Meeting Time for the Pomona Valley UNA Board

UNA-USA Chapter President Mel Boynton has invited chapter members to make a special contribution to our chapter education and advocacy efforts for 2007. He asked members and friends to write a special contribution check to "Pomona Valley UNA-USA."

President Boynton also announced that the regular monthly chapter meetings are now at 5:30 PM on the third Tuesday of the month (e.g., January 16 and February 20) at Porter Hall at Pilgrim Place in Claremont. Members, friends, and the public are always welcome to our program and meeting. There is no charge.

Regarding the special donation drive, Mel said, "We live in a great community that understands education and the role of citizens in shaping international policy. The year 2007 will be a special year of opportunity for the Pomona Valley Chapter UNA-USA. I hope we can reach more schools and respond to more issues with added funding from our loyal supporters." Checks in any amount are welcome during this special drive. Please make checks payable to Pomona Valley UNA-USA and send to Vice President Richard Harris, 620 Plymouth Rd, Claremont, CA 91711.

Local Students to be Honored in 2007 National UNA-USA Essay Contest

Claremont High School teacher and local UNA-USA member Jane Purcell continued her exemplary leadership again this year - guiding over 50 high school students entrants to the 2007 National UNA-USA Essay Contest. This year's essays - in the form of a letter to President Bush - address the UN Millennium Development Goal #5 regarding improvement of maternal health.

Maternal Health is a problem that takes the lives of over 500,000 women each year. The women die from complications stemming from pregnancy and childbirth, 99 percent of them in the developing world. Inexpensive interventions could be provided if the developed countries would make maternal

health a priority for international assistance. The top three or four local essay authors will earn cash awards totaling \$600 and will be recognized at the January 28th annual potluck. The prize money was generously donated by the University Club of Claremont. Essay entries received in mid-December will be judged by Pomona Valley UNA Chapter Board members Jaideep Sahai, Emily Burch, Art Sutton, and Marilee Scaff. The judges will determine the top essays by the second week in January. The best local chapter essay will be forwarded to the National UNA Essay contest and will be eligible for national recognition and up to a \$3000 cash award.

Pomona Valley UNA-USA Chapter President Mel Boynton said, "I've had the opportunity to speak to Mrs. Purcell's classes at CHS again this year and we have some of the best entries we've ever seen. We received 53 entries for 2007; up from 32 last year. The students have really done their homework on the vital issue of Maternal Health and I hope President Bush will read some of these letters."

Millennium Development Goals

Perhaps you've noticed a white armband worn by several of our board members. The band says,

"Voice Against Poverty – No Excuses 2015" It's a reminder of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted by all UN member states in 2000, a set of clearly-defined, measurable and broadly-endorsed developmental goals to alleviate poverty, hunger, and environmental degradation by 2015.

The MDGs are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal primary education.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

We're almost half way to 2015 and some progress has been made, but we will not achieve the goals unless we take action to mobilize opinion and policy to better fund efforts by non governmental organizations and the UN. The UNA-USA can help by focusing our programs and advocacy around these eight MDGs.

UNA-USA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (Pomona Valley Chapter)

Name: (Please Print) _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Annual Membership (Please Select One)

Introductory Individual	_____ \$25	Student	_____ \$10	Patron	_____ \$500
Individual Renewal	_____ \$35	Organization	_____ \$40	Lifetime	_____ \$1,000
Family	_____ \$40	Sponsor	_____ \$100		

Yes! I want to make a donation of \$ _____ to help the work of Pomona Valley Chapter.
All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to: UNA

My check is enclosed in the amount of\$ _____

Charge my credit card the amount of\$ _____ Expiration Date _____

Name on Credit Card _____

Billing Address _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Circle One: AMEX MasterCard VISA

Signature _____

ANNUAL MEETING

Pomona Valley Chapter, United Nations Association - USA
Decker Hall, Pilgrim Place, 665 Avery Road, Claremont
909-399-5561

Sunday, January 28, 2007

5:00 Potluck – Enjoy the great variety you all have supplied.

6:00 Brief Business Meeting – Vote new officers, board, budget.

6:30 Thank you to Teacher Jane Purcell and Claremont High School students who won the local chapter awards for the Annual High School Essay contest for UNA-USA.

Honoring NGO's for International Outreach

Peace Corps – Allan Paloutzian, Regional Recruiter, LA

The **Peace Corps** is an independent federal agency of the United States . The Peace Corps was established by executive order in 1961 in response to the Chinese and challenge to Western influence in the widely open arena of superpower competition. More than 187,000 people have served in 139 countries with the Peace Corps.

YouthInkWell – Jennifer Sarja, Founder & Executive Director, Pasadena (and students)

Founded in September, 2005 as a nonprofit organization, The Well Project enlisted ten young people who work to build six wells in Ethiopia and Uganda, helping to make 60,000 people's lives much better, raising the money by making and selling books: *When Watute Wants Some Water; How To Cook With A Pencil*.

For more info call 909-621-7337 or e-mail <unacal@earthlink.net>

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