



UNECE Weekly

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Issue N° 58 – 8-12 March 2004

It's just happened ...

Perspectives from the UN Regional Commissions



During the 59th session of the Commission, Yves Berthelot, a co-director of the United Nations Intellectual History Project (UNIHP) and former Executive Secretary of the UNECE, officially launched the book "*Unity and Diversity in Development Ideas: Perspectives from the UN Regional Commissions*". As explained by Mr. Berthelot, the Project examines the history of ideas and how they were launched or nurtured by

the United Nations. The above-mentioned volume, edited by Mr. Berthelot, is one in a series being prepared in the context of UNIHP and retraces the contributions of each of the UN's five regional commissions to UN development thinking and considers the adaptation of UN global principles to the specific conditions of each region. Confronted with the same broad issues, including unity and cohesion, development and globalization, the regional commissions generated different, and sometimes innovative, responses that reflected their economic and cultural diversity.

The book can be obtained from Indiana University Press at iupress@indiana.edu

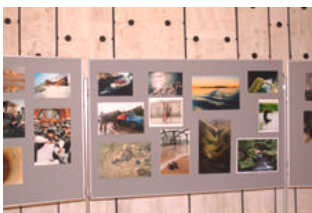
The Chinese road transport industry visits the UNECE Transport Division

On Tuesday, 2 March 2004 a delegation of the Chinese Road Transport Association (CRTA), the association of road hauliers of the People's Republic of China, visited the UNECE Headquarters in Geneva. Mr. J. Capel Ferrer, Director of the UNECE Transport Division, welcomed them and presented the main UNECE activities in the field of transport, including the set of international Agreements and Conventions on



transport administered by the UNECE. The meeting also addressed the advantages provided by these international legal instruments and considered how the People's Republic of China can benefit from adhering to those legal instruments to which it is not yet a Party, in particular those in the fields of transport of dangerous goods, border crossing facilitation and road traffic safety.

A UNECE photo exhibit



The International Photo Contest "Water is Life", held on the occasion of the International Year of Freshwater 2003, attracted over a thousand entries from countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The images reflect a variety of ways in which water has an impact on our lives – as a vital and precious resource, a source of civilization, a metaphor of

leisure time. The impressive range of interpretations of the theme "Water is Life" provided a fresh perspective on the environment in which we live. About a hundred of the entries were exhibited during the 59th session of the UNECE

The competition was organized by UNECE and the United Nations Office in Uzbekistan, in cooperation with the Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan and the Tashkent House of Photography and sponsored by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Steinert Industries Company (see UNECE Weekly No. 47).

Not an official record - For information only

Coming up soon ...

Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Supply-Chain

The Trade Development and Timber Division of UNECE, in cooperation with ECA and the Tunisian Ministry for Development and International Cooperation, is organizing the National Seminar on Trade and Transport Facilitation in the Supply-Chain in Tunis, 10-12 March 2004.

The objectives of the seminar are: (i) to identify and assess alignment requirements of customs procedures, transport, payments and business practices; and (ii) to train participants on the tools for the simplification, harmonization and automation of official procedures. Participants will be acquainted with the fundamental concepts of supply-chain management, and the related electronic documents.

Training will also be provided on the trade facilitation measures corresponding to the UN/CEFACT Recommendation in this area.

The seminar is part of the 'Capacity-building in trade facilitation and electronic business in the Mediterranean' project jointly undertaken by UNECE, ECA and ESCWA. It aims at improving the mutual understanding between the public and private sectors to increase competitiveness of companies from the Mediterranean region on regional and global markets.

Further information can be found on www.unemed.net

Other events ...

- 8 March Joint ECE/OSCE High-level Workshop on the Economic Dimension of Security in Europe: Facing New Challenges in a Changing Environment
- 8 March Administrative Committee for the Coordination of Work (WP.29/AC.2)
- 9-12 March World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)
- 11-12 March Working Group on Water Management (Budapest, Hungary)

Facts and figures:

GDP per capita in the ECE region, 2002

	GDP per capita		GDP	Population
	US Dollars	Index (UNECE =100)	Share in total UNECE (per cent)	Share in total UNECE (per cent)
UNECE-50 ^a	21200	100	100	100
Central and Eastern Europe-15	9600	45	5	11
CIS-12	6600	31	7	24
Russian Federation	8500	40	5	12
Western Europe-21 ^b	23200	109	43	39
European Union-15	26000	123	39	32
Euro area-12	25600	121	31	26
EU acceding countries -10 ^c	11900	56	3	6
European Union-25	23700	112	43	38
Europe excluding CIS-36	20300	96	47	50
Europe including CIS-48	15900	75	55	73
North America-2	35800	169	45	27
United States	36300	171	41	24

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) is a price index that compares the price of a common, representative basket of goods and services in two different countries at the same point in time. Therefore, in addition to being spatial price indices, PPPs are also the rates of currency conversion that equalise the purchasing power of different currencies. PPPs differ from exchange rates.

For further information please contact:
Information Service,
UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41(0)22 917 44 44
Fax: +41(0)22 917 05 05
E-mail: info.ece@unece.org
Web site: <http://www.unece.org>

Source: UNECE Statistical Division

Notes: The regional aggregates are computed by summing over countries current price values converted into US dollars using the GDP purchasing power parities (PPPs) of the year 2002.

^a Excludes Andorra, Israel, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino.

^b Includes Turkey.

^c Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia.