

Promoting freedom in the media

Australia will play host to the new Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day 2010 conference, hosted by UQ, on May 2–3.

Mrs Irina Bokova will promote media freedom at an international conference on her first official visit to Australia. The conference theme is Freedom of Information: the Right to Know, and Mrs Bokova will give a keynote speech. She noted that Freedom of Information (FOI) "is a fundamental human right that UNESCO is specifically mandated to promote".

UQ Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Paul Greenfield, said the university was delighted by Mrs Bokova's decision to make the conference a focus of her first official visit to Australia.

"Media freedom in all parts of the globe is intrinsic to a flow of factual information, which is essential if we are to identify and address the world's problems," Professor Greenfield said.

Mrs Bokova is the first woman to head UNESCO. As a former Bulgarian diplomat and Member of Parliament, she is also the first UNESCO chief from Eastern Europe.

The UQ-hosted UNESCO World Press Freedom Day conference will be the first such event in the Pacific, and will be a feature of the University's 2010 Centenary celebrations.

Conference details and registration: www.wpfd2010.org

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Time to dust off those disaster plans

Blue Shield Australia, a member of the International Committee of the Blue Shield, which acts as the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross, is once again organising a month-long MayDay campaign to remind the cultural heritage sector of the importance of emergency preparedness.



MayDay is the time when libraries, galleries, archives, museums, monuments, and historic sites are encouraged to revisit their disaster plans to make sure they are up-to-date.

The focus for this year's campaign is *Disaster Proofing Heritage Collections – the Blue Shield Australia & DISACT Symposium 2010*, a one-day event taking place at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, on Thursday 6 May.

The event will be launched by Jan Fullerton, Director-General of the National Library, and Kate Lundy, Senator for the ACT. Attendees will be members of the cultural heritage sector, as well as individuals and organisations working in the risk management, business continuity, insurance, and salvage recovery sectors.

Several new initiatives will be launched at the symposium, including ALIA's new disaster preparedness guidelines for libraries.

To register your interest in attending, please contact Gemma Walker at gemma.walker@alia.org.au or 02 6215 8222.



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