



# James R. Mancham Peace and Diplomacy Research Institute



## NEWSLETTER 2019 (2)- Second Edition

### Welcome to the second edition of our bi-annual newsletter.

Today we commemorate Armistice Day, a remembrance day that marks the end of the First World War on 11th November 1918. As we take a moment to pay tribute to those who lost their lives and to support the survivors and their families, let us also reflect on other conflicts that continue to destroy the lives of millions of people around the world.

From armed conflicts to ethnic violence, human rights violations to bullying in schools, it is evident that the world is still at war. Therefore, there is an urgent need to stop all forms of violence and to learn how to live in peace and unity.

The Institute continues to promote peace, unity and national reconciliation through a series of activities that were organised in collaboration with its faithful partners. We also participated in overseas missions to expand our network, forge links with international partners and increase our visibility.

We strive to continue this mandate during the coming years and we take this opportunity to thank our partners and sponsors for their continual support.

### RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Emeritus Prof. Dennis Hardy has written a paper on 'Places of Peace', reflecting the influence of utopian ideas, which will appear in the forthcoming issue of the International Journal on World Peace.

Another paper, on the changing geopolitics of the Bay of Bengal, is included in the November issue of the Journal of the Indian Ocean Region. The aim is to develop a collection of publications to give visibility to the Institute as well as build its reputation.

### Our Vision

*"To be an international hub for peace and diplomacy studies contributing to global peace through research, education, training and mediation."*



Remembrance Day -  
11<sup>th</sup> November

**Lest We Forget**

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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE  
21 SEPTEMBER 2019

[un.org/peaceday](http://un.org/peaceday) | [#peaceday](https://twitter.com/peaceday) [#climateaction](https://twitter.com/climateaction)

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## IN THE NEWS

### *A Diplomatic Academy for the Seychelles foreign services*

Professor Claas Knoop, from the Senior Experten Service - Foundation of German Industry for International Cooperation came for a one-month assignment to UniSey from 18<sup>th</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019. During his assignment, Prof. Knoop drafted a proposal for the setting up of the Diplomatic Academy for the Seychelles foreign services. The proposal and recommendations were presented to the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the UniSey management. This was a very fulfilling assignment and a step forward in developing the Academy.



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### *Seychelles begins its truth and reconciliation process*



A Truth, Reconciliation and National Unity Commission was set up to investigate the various complaints of alleged human rights violations committed in relation to the 1977 coup d'état in Seychelles. The purpose of this investigation is to establish the truth about those allegations in attempt to bridge the divisions caused by those violations; as well as to make recommendations regarding compensations and reparations to victims.

The Institute continues with its ongoing research on the reconciliation process in Seychelles and is closely following the Commission's hearing sessions. We hope that the Commission can achieve its objectives and be able to bring closure to victims and perpetrators and unite the people of Seychelles.

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### *Strengthening ties with an international partner*



In October 2019, UniSey and the Durban University of Technology (DUT) in South Africa strengthened ties through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The purpose of the agreement is to collaborate in the furtherance of international higher education and research. It is designed to support the provision of a Master's degree programme in Peace Studies with law at the University of Seychelles.

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### *Engaging the youth in peacebuilding*



In line with one of the Institute's mission to promote the engagement of youth in peacebuilding, the Institute has partnered with the Anse Royale Youth Hostel to set up a Youth Peace Club. Thirty youths have already registered to become members of the Club and are already engaged in peace-related activities. The youth also participated in the 2019 International Day of Peace activities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Remembering Rwanda: the enduring pain of genocide



The twentieth century will be recalled for many things, good as well as bad. But amongst the most horrific events was the incidence of acts of genocide. Given the record of human progress on so many other fronts, the mass killing of one group of people by another defies understanding. Just when we might have thought that human evolution had advanced beyond the primeval, successive catastrophes proved the optimists wrong.



“NEVER AGAIN” should not be a slogan but a reality! One such commemoration is the annual remembrance of the Rwandan genocide. The Institute organised the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the of the 1994 Rwanda genocide against the Tutsi in an event on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019. A programme was prepared to honour the victims, to support the survivors and to see what we can learn from a terrible episode in African history. The special invited guests at the ceremony were the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator for Seychelles and Mauritius, Ms Christine Umutoni and the other members of the UN regional country team.

### International day of peace: climate action for peace

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. This year's theme was “Climate Action for Peace” and it draws attention to the importance of combatting climate change as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world.





The International Day of Peace Committee organised a series of activities to celebrate this year's event including a peace marches, peace shows and a climate action fair. The activities took place on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue and saw the participation of over 300 people.



## EVENTS

### Modern diplomacy and international law workshop

A workshop was conducted by Prof. Claas Knoop on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at UniSeY (Anse Royale campus) to provide an introduction to modern bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. At the end of the workshop, the participants were able to explain the tools and the role of diplomacy in international relations. The workshop enabled the participants to understand the relevance of international law for Peace and Security in our world.

### Unveiling of the late Sir James Mancham's statue



Two years after the passing of the late Sir James Mancham, the country honoured its founding president with a statue that was unveiled on 30<sup>th</sup> May at the Peace Park in Victoria. Present at the ceremony was Lady Catherine Mancham and Mr Alexander Mancham. The bronze statue represents the contributions which the late Sir James made in promoting reconciliation and national unity.

***Remembering Sir James Richard Marie Mancham  
(August 11, 1939 – January 8, 2017)***

### UniSeY celebrates its 10-year anniversary

The Institute participated in the UniSeY roadshow on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at the Orion Mall, Victoria and the "Big Up Exhibition" on 17<sup>th</sup> October at the Anse Royale campus. The roadshow and exhibition were part of a series of activities organised to celebrate the 10th year anniversary of the national university. The event helped promote UniSeY and the benefits of higher education.



## OVERSEAS MISSIONS

### CNA Washington Multinational Conference on China and the Indian Ocean

CNA Washington, an American think tank specialising in naval intelligence but also with an interest in generic policy-making, invited Emeritus Professor Dennis Hardy on behalf of the Institute to a Multinational Conference on China and the Indian Ocean. Prof. Hardy presented a paper on 'Seychelles and China: a small island state in a global sea' that analysed how Seychelles is affected by the increasing presence of China in the region. The conference was held in Arlington, Virginia from 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and it was attended by some 50 to 60 delegates. As well as representatives from various countries in the Indian Ocean region, delegates included researchers from CNA Washington. The host researchers comprised a mixture of very bright analysts, combined with the experience of retired admirals and other senior personnel from the armed forces.

### African diplomatic academies, universities and research institutes

A forum for African Diplomacy was held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 in Pretoria, South Africa. The theme for this year's conference was "African Diplomacy in a State of Complex Global Uncertainty: Critical Threats, Leveraging Opportunities and Meeting Challenges through African Solutions". Present at the conference were heads of Diplomatic academies and institutes across Africa and Ms Diana Benoit represented the Institute. During the forum most participants signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the establishment of a forum for African diplomacy for African diplomatic academies and research institutions. The objective of the agreement is to create a framework for closer cooperation among the African Diplomatic Academies and Research Institutions and to facilitate collaboration among the institutions.



## 2019 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- UniSey
- Citizens Engagement Platform
- Lar San Frontyer
- Anse Royale Youth Hostel
- Universal Peace Federation
- Seychelles Police
- Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
- Ministry of Education & Human Resource Development
- The Ocean Project Seychelles
- Plant Conservation Action Group
- SIDS Youth AIMS Hub Seychelles
- Seychelles Island Foundation
- National Council for Children

***Thank you all for making the Peace Day activities a great success.***

**For more information, or if you have any comments and/or suggestions, kindly contact Diana Benoit by sending an email to [Diana.Benoit@unisey.ac.sc](mailto:Diana.Benoit@unisey.ac.sc).**