



May this festive season bring you love,
 peace and happiness.



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
 and a Prosperous New Year!*

WELCOME

Before the year 2020 ended, Seychelles started to record an alarming rate of COVID-19 transmission within the community. Unlike previous festive seasons, this New Year has started on a not so happy note. Now, more than ever, we all need to stay alert and follow the guidelines of the public health authorities. One year after the coronavirus was discovered in Wuhan, China, the global situation is still grim and the future uncertain. What we can do as communities is to work and live peacefully with each other to prevent the spread of the disease and of misinformation. Most importantly, we need to stop discriminating against those affected and their families.



**Protect yourself and others from
 COVID-19.
 Stay informed and stay safe!**

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Our Vision

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

IN THE NEWS

African Digital Diplomacy in the era of COVID-19

Ms. Diana Benoit attended an online course on “African Digital Diplomacy in the era of COVID-19” from 24th June to 12th August 2020. The course was organised by the Diplomatic Academy of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation in conjunction with the African Centre for the Study of the United States, the South African Institute of International Affairs and the USC Center for Public Diplomacy.

The objective of the course was “to empower African diplomatic representatives in the usage of modern ICT tools in order to achieve their national policy objectives. The course is focused on Digital Diplomacy and the concepts, tools and outcomes of Digital Diplomacy practices. Participants from around the world attended the online course and upon its completion they received a Certificate of Attendance.

United for Peace



A group of local artists formulated a peace poem and produced a video to commemorate this year’s International Day of Peace. The title of the peace poem is “Konstri Lape Ansanm” and the artists who participated were: Mr. Terence Madeleine - ‘Tens’, Mr. Tony Joubert - ‘Raspyek’, Mr. Clifford Alexis - ‘Mellow’, Mr. Roger Volcere - ‘Fastidious’, Mr. Henrico Ernesta , Ms. Stephanie Joubert and Ms. Audrey Volcere.

A big thank you to all the poets for producing the peace video.



Critical Reflections on the impact of COVID-19 on the training of the African diplomat

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation in South Africa organised an online conference on “Critical Reflections on the impact of COVID-19 on the training of the African diplomat”.

The conference was held on 22nd September 2020 and its objective was to “provide a Forum for the exchange of views on the training of African diplomats in the current health environment”.

Internship Programme

On 3rd November 2020, the Institute welcomed an intern, Mr. Ryan Adeline, on a 2-month internship programme organised by the Employment Department.

Mr. Adeline undertook his tertiary studies at the University of Buckingham, UK and he holds an MA in Security, Intelligence and Diplomacy and an undergraduate degree in International Relations and French. He’s research interests include issues related to maritime security, geopolitics and international relations.

Welcome on board Mr. Adeline!



New University Council Chairperson

Congratulations to Emeritus Prof. Dennis Hardy on his appointment as the new Chairperson of the UniSey Council effective from 1st January 2021.

EVENTS

Mandela Day Symposium



The Institute and the Seychelles Prison Service organised a half-day symposium at UniSey on Friday 21st August 2020 to discuss about crime and punishment. The event which was moderated by Dr. Erna Athanasius, was held to celebrate this year's Nelson Mandela International Day.

Crime is a worry for all societies. It is a worry because it is a threat for the rest of us. And it is a worry because the criminals themselves are wasting their lives. But what to do about it? In an ideal society there would be no crime. But, sadly, there is no such place and we have to deal with it.

The question is how best to do this. If we get it wrong, prisoners will be locked up for a term and return to society – until the next time. But if we get it right there is hope that they can be rehabilitated to become good members of their community. The Mandela Day Symposium brought together experts from different fields to wrestle with the problem.



Shaping Peace Together



To commemorate the UN International Day of Peace, on Monday 21st September, the International Day of Peace Committee in Seychelles organised a series of activities under the theme "Shaping Peace Together". The day began with the planting of some coconut trees at the Waterfront garden in Victoria. The activity was organised by Mr. Japhet Dailoo and his organisation "Zanfa Losean EZ". The tree planting activity was officially launched by the Mayor of Victoria, Mr. David Andre.



The tree planting activity was followed by a Peace Talk at the CEPS Conference Room at Orion Mall. There were 4 main speakers who spoke on the topic of "Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Working together for a better Seychelles". The speakers were Lady Catherine Mancham, Mrs. Rose-Mary Elizabeth, Mr. Jacques Kouli Gbilimou and ASP Hendrick Leon.

Thanking our sponsors, speakers and invitees for making the Peace Day activities possible. May we continue to shape peace together!



The 75th anniversary of the United Nations



The Institute jointly organised a symposium with the UN country team on Wednesday 4th November 2020 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

The event was held at the NAYOPI Business Centre at Providence under the theme “shaping our future together”. The forum created a platform for the participants to discuss about the role of the UN; what it has accomplished during the past 75 year and how the UN agencies are helping to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.



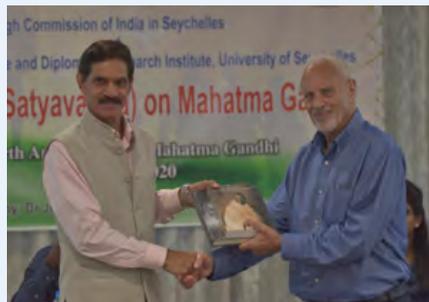
Participants discussed about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and how the youth should be encouraged to actively participate in achieving this objective. Shaping our future together is an ideal theme for the commemoration especially now that the world is facing an unprecedented global health crisis that is causing severe economic and social impacts.

Symposium (Satya-Vaarta) on Mahatma Gandhi

The High Commission of India in Seychelles and the Institute jointly organised a Symposium (Satya-Vaarta) on Mahatma Gandhi to mark the 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and culminate the two-year long celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Seychelles, Dr. Justin Valentin was the moderator and the programme included presentations by Prof. Dr. Ravindra Kumar, Emeritus Prof. Dennis Hardy, Ms. Dhivya Pillay and Prof. Mark Juergensmeyer

The High Commissioner of India, General Dalbir Singh Suhag presented the panellists with a copy of “The Story of My Experiments with Truth – An Autobiography” of Mahatma Gandhi” and “What Gandhi Means to Me – An Anthology”.



2021 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have not yet confirmed our Calendar of Activities for 2021.

Visit the UniSeY website for our upcoming activities.

STAY CONNECTED



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<https://unisey.ac.sc/pdri/>

For more information, or if you have any comments and/or suggestions, contact us by sending an email to Peace@unisey.ac.sc.