UNESCO Bangkok Launches the “Learning to Live Together” Asia-Pacific Exhibition at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre (BACC) at 11.30 am on 17 September 2013 (Tuesday)

UNESCO Bangkok’s “Learning to Live Together” exhibition highlights the importance of cultivating mutual understanding and peace among young people in the Asia-Pacific at a time when conflicts due to cultural differences are rife in the region. This is particularly pertinent in today’s context as increasing mobility in a globalized world has resulted in growing instability. In cultivating a culture of peace and non-violence, education provides hope for a better tomorrow.

From September 17-22, UNESCO Bangkok will be holding an exhibition showcasing the creativity of young people from 10 countries in the Asia-Pacific region: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Thailand. The images on display were chosen from more than 200 submissions to a competition on the theme “Learning to Live Together.”

The winners of the competition will be announced on 17 September in a ceremony to coincide with the exhibition’s launch. UNESCO Bangkok will sponsor the travel of the three top entrants to attend the event and to receive prizes sponsored by Haier. UNESCO Bangkok Director Gwang-Jo Kim will open the launch.

The images on display reflect the breadth of the entries received, ranging from a heartwarming photo of disabled young athletes preparing for the ASEAN Para Games to a young Filipino’s illustration of what harmony between countries means to him through his memories of a childhood friendship with someone of a different culture.

Indonesian Alland Dharmawan (1st place winner) turned his lens on two children in Papua province, a group and a culture he says are often overlooked in bigger cities of Indonesia.

The 3rd place winner, Filipino Allan Jay Quesada, meanwhile, found a simple expression of the Learning to Live Together Theme: a smiling young girl holding a line of paper cutout figures, each dressed in distinctive ethnic garb from the different ASEAN countries. Both will be receiving their prizes in person.

The exhibition coincides with International Peace Day on September 21, the theme of which is, appropriately, Education for Peace. The images on display vividly convey the desire among young people for cultural understanding and the barriers keeping these dreams from becoming a reality.

This event complements a multi-country study looking into how different countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region are putting the concept of “learning to live together” into practice through education, which will be completed in late 2013. These activities are being conducted under the UNESCO Intersectoral Platform on a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence.


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