



IA Update

Newsletter for the International Assembly of NCSS

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Highlights from Washington, DC 2001:

Nane Annan: Speaker of the Jan Tucker Memorial Lecture

Dr. Nelly Ukpokodu

As you are aware, the Jan Tucker Memorial Lecture has become one of the traditions and highlights of the International Assembly (IA) annual conference program. At the 2001 annual NCSS conference, the IA was pleased to have Mrs. Nane Annan, spouse of Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, as the 2001 Jan Tucker Memorial Lecturer.

Mrs. Annan spoke passionately about many of the critical concerns and challenges that confront our global community, especially issues of poverty, diseases, refugee, education, widening disparity between the haves and have-nots and between and among nations. Specifically, she focused on her global experience, her visits with people, old and young, from one corner of the globe to another, as she traveled with her husband. She spoke about the pains of people she met, especially those of children who have been denied their human rights—education, basic needs—food, family, shelter, security, and freedom. Mrs. Annan captured the emotions of her audience as she read from

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Message from the Vice-Chair and Conference Program Chair—Dr. Omiunota Nelly Ukpokodu

It gives me great pleasure to convey my best wishes of the New Year to you and to express my gratitude for your support of the International Assembly.

As we all remember, last year was a quite a challenge for us all yet we managed to rise to the challenge. I was very concerned about the attendance at the IA conference session since some of our members live outside the United States. I am sure that many of you would agree that we had a great program in spite of the difficulties of the time. We missed those of you who were unable to join us. I hope we will see you in Phoenix this year. We had about sixteen presenters in roundtable paper presentations. I must say that I was very pleased with the quality of the presentations. Bravo! In addition, we successfully sponsored a joint IA/CUFA panel session. The IA reception was well attended and socially enriching. I sincerely thank all of you that contributed to the success of the program. Particularly, on behalf of IA, I thank NCSS, Andy Smith, and Ted Levy of the American Forum for Global Education, for their contribution toward making Mrs. Annan's visit possible and comfortable.

Now let me use this opportunity to remind you about the upcoming events. As you know, the 82nd National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) annual conference will be held in **Phoenix, Arizona, November 21-24**. The IA conference program will be held on Friday, **November 22, 2002**. As usual, the IA program will begin in the morning with the roundtable paper presentations, followed by the Jan Tucker Memorial lecture and culminates with a reception in the evening. The theme for this year's conference is "A century of character and change." I encourage you to submit proposals. The call for IA conference proposals is on the IA web that is linked to the NCSS web page. The deadline for submission of proposal is **March 31, 2002**. (*continued on page 2*)

2001 Jan Tucker Memorial Lecturer: Mrs. Nane Annan

her book, *The United Nations: Come along with Me!* One of the passages she read was a song that the children she met in Angola sung to her, which reflected their pains, deprivation, and sufferings:

*We are children and we need a mother who hugs us.
What can you do about that?
We are children and we need a father who takes care of us.
What can you do about that?
We are children and we need to go to school.
What can you do about that?
We are children and we need a childhood.
What can you do about that? (Annan 2000, page 18)*

Mrs. Annan's speech was quite timely and brought meaning to the conference theme—forming a more perfect union. Can we form a perfect global union when more than half of the human family lives on less than \$2 a day? Can we form a more perfect global union when millions of children—the natural resource of the world—are denied opportunities to unleash their potentials?

Mrs. Annan's speech was also very inspiring, but more importantly, was a sharp reminder of the challenge that we face as social studies educators. As social studies educators, how can we be more responsible and responsive in our charge to educate for critical national and global citizenship? How can we collectively and collaboratively create effective citizens who are empowered to transform our world to make it more humane, equitable, just, and peaceful? The critical challenges that face our global community demand collaboration. The work we have begun in the IA is a step in this direction but we must do more. We must move our conversations toward addressing some of the challenges Mrs. Annan brought to our attention. Together I hope we can move toward a more critical dialogue about these issues and pursue the best ways to prepare the young to build a better, just, and humane world.

*Copies of Ms. Annan's book are available from the American Forum for Global Education (www.globaled.org)
120 Wall Street, Suite 2600, New York, NY 10005
Phone: 212-624-1300*

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Message from Vice-chair

Please you are encouraged to keep to this deadline. Electronic submissions (email attachment) are welcome. Please use Microsoft Word (95-2000). All materials submitted electronically must be typed. Handwritten documents are difficult to read, especially email addresses. In writing your proposal, please clearly align your topic to the theme.

If you are not already aware, the IA web page has been updated and given a new makeover—Thanks to David Hicks of Virginia Tech, WV. David, thank you for a wonderful job! Please I encourage you all to use the web for news update about IA's activities. The newsletter will be posted on the web and will be updated twice a year. Thanks to Dr. Guichun Zong of the University of Kentucky, we now have a new newsletter editor. Guichun is already working hard to keep us informed about IA news. Please send your contributions, news, and other stuff you would like to share with the membership to Guichun.

Help Wanted! We are looking for a speaker for the Jan Tucker Memorial Lecture for this year's conference program. If you know of anyone whose work reflects our goals and is deserving of the Jan Tucker honor, please forward such names to me ASAP. Also, please email any suggestions you have about improving the IA conference program

I am looking forward to another exciting year to work with you.

Best Wishes!

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