



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

## Excerpt\* of Message from Davidson Hepburn, President of the General Conference of UNESCO, to all participants of the World Harmony Run, 2011 and beyond

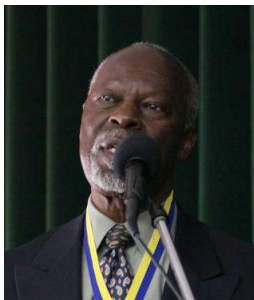
I note with admiration the many inspirational events supported by the World Harmony Run in over 100 countries during recent years. The Harmony Run Torch, passed from hand to hand, has encouraged millions of individuals to aspire for a world of oneness and peace.

Harmony and peace are not mere "buzzwords". As we look toward the future, I am reminded of the message of my dear friend Sri Chinmoy, founder of the Run, which can strengthen us on our way forward. He said that world harmony and world peace are "the realities, divine realities and supreme realities." Dynamic activities such as yours have demonstrated the reality of peace across the globe. Yet there is still so much to do, and I believe the World Harmony Run has only just begun to demonstrate its capacity to help create a better world. In this spirit I encourage you to continue, and to go beyond the great successes of previous years.

Your support of the UN and UNESCO's goals during the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2010) significantly engaged many NGOs, civil society groups and individuals. This broad support is critical to our success. As future activities and events are identified by UNESCO and the United Nations to further strengthen the culture of peace, appreciation for diversity and interfaith cooperation, I know the participants in the World Harmony Run will continue to play a significant role in carrying these messages and providing opportunities for local expression around the world.

Importantly, many schools and summer camp programmes eagerly participate in the Run. Youth involvement complements the UN and UNESCO-supported International Year of Youth and its theme of dialogue and mutual understanding, being celebrated through August of 2011. By encouraging young people to express their aspirations for harmony today, the World Harmony Run is surely building the foundation for a culture of peace tomorrow.

I wish you continued success as you expand your efforts, guided by Sri Chinmoy's visionary spirit, to encourage active world citizenship from individuals on all continents. I am certain that initiatives such as the World Harmony Run contribute significantly to the realisation of one of UNESCO's principal mandates: mutual understanding and our shared determination to build and strengthen a culture of peace and harmony.



Davidson Hepburn  
Welcomed the torch at  
a World Harmony Run  
event

Davidson L. Hepburn

\*Dr. Hepburn's full message is available at: <http://www.worldharmonyrun.org/beyond2011>  
Video excerpt on youtube: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j--SW\\_eMzb0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j--SW_eMzb0)