IUPsyS’ Global Footprint

Year-End Message from President Cooper

ICP2020

All National Members, Affiliates and Liaisons of IUPsyS are encouraged to circulate this and future monthly Bulletins to relevant groups, such as members of committees or their national membership.

If you have comments about the Bulletin or suggestions for items to include in future editions, or if you wish to add names to the IUPsyS email list for the Bulletin and Newsletter, please contact the IUPsyS Secretariat: secretariat@iupsys.org

The IUPsyS Monthly Bulletin is for IUPsyS National Members, Affiliates, and related organizations, and their members. It provides brief updates on the work of the Union and related regional and international matters.

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YEAR-END MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT COOPER

This quadrennium has been very busy and quite productive for the International Union of Psychological Science. All of us deserve a well-earned holiday. At the outset, I wish to commend all of you who’ve been part of the IUPsyS family, for your unstinting critical support and encouragement as we confronted new challenges arising from the cumulative successes of the Union over time. After the terrible events of 9/11 and the 2008 economic put considerable strain on international conferences and travel, many believed that we’d have to review how ICPs are conceived and consider virtual and other ways of hosting ICPs. However, ICP2008 in Berlin set a new bar: faced with a deluge of students and participants from the majority world, our German colleagues simply stopped counting as 10,000 participants loomed. ICP2012 in Cape Town saw the largest number of invited presentations from almost all fields of psychology with representation from 103 countries. At ICP2016 in Yokohama there was clear evidence of repeat ICP participants amongst the nearly 8,000 attendees. No wonder that those trying to extend their international reach have begun to mimic our ICP model. Imitation is perhaps the best form of flattery: IUPsyS continues to trail-blaze as it did with the very 1st ICP held in Paris in 1889, while others, scurrying to become more international, will take pages out of our long history and look to replicating our tried and tested approaches to promoting and developing psychology internationally. ICP2020 will be held in Prague and ICP2024 will be held in Rio de Janeiro.

Our developmental endeavours in various regions of the world have resulted in the growth of important IUPsyS Affiliates:

• the Arab Union of Psychological Science was launched in Beirut, Lebanon in October 2015
• the Caribbean Alliance of National Psychology Associations successfully hosted their 3rd Conference in Haiti this November
• the Pan-African Psychology Union will hold the 1st-ever Pan-African Psychology Congress from 18-21 September 2017 in Durban, South Africa
• the ASEAN Regional Union of Psychological Societies will hold their 6th Congress in Bali, Indonesia from 12-14 October 2017.

As you may know, during ICP2016 the leaders of various Asia-Pacific psychology organisations decided to form the Asia-Pacific Psychology Alliance, which will hold a strategy session in Chennai, India on 28-29 December this year. We look forward to a very close working relationship with organised psychology in this most populous region in our world. We also look forward to closer cooperation in Latin America since the successful regional conference hosted by our Colombian national member in September 2015, which the Union sponsored. Besides the much sought-after ICPs, which bring together global academics, practitioners and students, IUPsyS and ALL OF YOU have much to celebrate:

• The International Journal of Psychology, the only international journal that caters to all fields of psychology, turned 50 in 2015 under the able leadership of Past-President Rainer Silbereisen. Please look at the virtual issue that comprises the 10 most-quoted articles from across the journal’s life.
• Important dissemination activities, such as focussed Psychological Interventions after Disaster Workshops, the last of which was held in Manila in November, and other regional activities that are - importantly - initiated and driven by our national members in the regions.
• The advent of representative regional psychology organisations has also enabled the Union approach to development to bear fruit in most regions of the world. Psychology internationally becomes richer from such growth and development, taking psychology to new heights.
• Our interactions with the world bodies that we are part of - especially the International Council for Science, the International Social Science Council, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations - have heightened. Major progress has been made with the WHO ICD Revision and MhGaP, establishing mental health as a strategic WHO priority. The Presidential Task Force Report on the United Nations will pave the way for a more appropriate involvement with the UN and its related agencies.

I encourage you to participate in the external review of our strategies and operations by an international consulting firm early in 2017, which will set the tone for the next chapter of the Union and its involvement with you. As always, IUPsyS will continue to fly psychology’s flag high globally, prioritising developing contexts where “psychology continues to examine the human condition in extreme situations and develops new intervention approaches”.

It has been a privilege to serve you as President of the Union over the last 4 years, and I am humbled by the opportunity to continue as your President till the 2018 Assembly.

Saths Cooper, IUPsyS President
ICP2020

A reminder that the 32nd International Congress of Psychology 2020 (ICP2020) will be held in Prague, Czech Republic. The Congress will take place from 19-24 July 2020 and will be organized around the theme “Psychology in the 21st Century: Open Minds, Societies & World”. Follow ICP 2020 on Facebook: ICP 2020/International Congress of Psychology, for more information and the latest news.

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