



UNIS-UN 2005-2006
Thirty Years of UNIS-UN:
The Role of the Corporation in Today's World

FEBRUARY 2006

PRESS RELEASE: 2006 UNIS-UN Conference

The theme of the 30th annual UNIS-UN Conference (United Nations International School – United Nations) is *The Role of the Corporation in Today's World*. The conference will be held on Thursday and Friday, March 2nd and 3rd, 2006, in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations.

Nike, Shell, Microsoft, HSBC, Chevron, Sony, McDonalds... No matter where in the world one lives, one is bound to come into contact with these corporations—hearing of them in the news, purchasing their merchandise, maybe even working for them. They play a huge role in today's world: making products that are relied on, providing jobs, supporting our world's economic structure. But there are ill effects as well: corporations often demonstrate little or no social conscience or responsibility, and yet have many of the same rights as individuals, and much more power. Is there a balance to be struck?

This year's UNIS-UN conference will attempt to answer this fundamental question by investigating the function of the corporation in modern times—what corporations do and what they should be doing. Speakers will examine issues ranging from the basic, with Jeff Zimmerman answering the question, “What is a Corporation,” through the complex, with Samuel Epstein investigating “The Role of Socially Responsible Corporations in Winning the Losing Cancer War.” Other speakers will include: keynote His Excellency Mr. Jan Eliasson, President of the General Assembly, addressing the topic of the United Nations' involvement in Corporations; Charles Fishman discussing “The Walmart Effect;” Al Norman, Jeff Ballinger, and Bruce Greenwald forming a panel on “Corporations and the Workforce;” Jonathan Knee speaking about the media; Mark Crispin Miller discussing advertising; and Mary Zepernick closing the conference with a speech on “Gender and Global Corporations.” Through these presentations and the accompanying Student Panel on “Corporations and the Environment,” as well as numerous opportunities for questions to be asked and answered, we hope to gain an understanding of how corporations penetrate many aspects of our lives and our world.

To celebrate UNIS-UN's 30th anniversary, alumni from almost every past UNIS-UN conference, from 1976 onwards, will be present. Ms. Gordon, UNIS-UN's first faculty advisor and the force behind the organization's founding, will open the conference with an address. The conference will be web cast on both days.

Sincerely,

The UNIS-UN Student Organizing Committee

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