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YOUTH FOR CTBT

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Communicating Science in a dynamic landscape

The accelerating pace of scientific discovery and innovation is resulting in one of the most interesting times for science journalism, panelists at the SnT communicating science discussion said Tuesday.

The emergence of social media platforms allowing individuals to curate the news they want to see - potentially creating "echo chambers" and social media platforms providing 24-hour streams of information - challenges journalists to decipher which scientific information is newsworthy, speakers said.

Yael Lavi, journalist and media ethics lecturer said news agencies have to balance the challenge of reporting topics that are complex in a manner that is both marketable and easy to understand. Journalists have to be able to consolidate information to appeal to the reader, inform their audiences and gain new followers. In the age of the selfie everything relates to how to personalize information.

UN public information officer Karin Orantes, based in New York, said it is important to dismantle complex scientific facts to the point where a six-year-old should be able to understand them. This is a difficult task for journalists and a reason the UN provides liaison to help streamline scientific reporting, removing abstract concepts to provide journalists more accessible information. The process allows information to be disseminated to the public in a more precise manner.

James Gillies, CERN senior communications adviser, said the development of the World Wide Web provides journalists with a more user-friendly way to find details of scientific topics and the emergence of social media platforms allows journalists to both obtain and distribute information at a rapid rate.

Raghad Mohammad
Paul Shaver

Expand CYG membership on the Korean Peninsula

It is important for the CTBO youth group to focus on expanding its membership from the Korean Peninsula, the panel on Capacity Building, Education and Public Awareness at SnT 2019, has been told.

CYG member Marzhan Nurzhan told the panel youth participation from the Korean peninsula is low. Out of 700 youth group members, only eight or ten are from the region and there are no CYG members from North Korea, she said.

One of the best ways to drive membership from the region is to host a CYG conference in South Korea, like the 2018 youth group conference in Kazakhstan, where she is from.

Additionally, CYG members can also write to North Korean Youth League groups inviting their participation and visits to the DMZ can also be part of non-proliferation education said Nurzhan.

To ensure gradual development of the peace process on the Korean peninsula, youth need to be sensitized about the need for its complete denuclearization. CYG members can also get involved in peace journalism, she said.

Nurzhan stressed the importance of peace education and suggested that non-proliferation and disarmament education need to be incorporated in schools' curricula focused on raising awareness of the CTBT through education, advocacy and grass-roots level activism

Sylvia Mishra

Le TICE promu par le multilinguisme et la science

« Comment promouvoir le TICE ? » : Cette question a pu être discuté lundi lors d'une table ronde en français, rassemblant des diplomates à Vienne, des représentants de la Francophonie ainsi que le scientifique en chef du Québec.

Saluant la promotion par l'OTICE du multilinguisme, les panélistes ont d'abord discuté de la pertinence de la promotion du TICE pour des pays africains ne voulant, et ne pouvant pas, se lancer dans le développement d'armes nucléaires. Mais si le Traité de Pelindaba fait de l'Afrique une zone exempte d'armes nucléaires depuis 2009, chaque pays reste concerné par les enjeux posés par les essais nucléaires, certains en ayant même subi les conséquences. C'est pourquoi tous les participants ont manifesté leur soutien total à l'entrée en vigueur du TICE, qualifié d'« utopie nécessaire ». Cela passe par sa promotion, notamment sur les réseaux sociaux auprès de la jeune génération, qui pourrait être mobilisée contre le développement des armes nucléaires de la même manière qu'elle s'engage pour la lutte contre le changement climatique. La science, dont les contenus doivent aussi être traduits, a également un rôle à jouer auprès des gouvernants et dans le débat public, notamment pour expliquer les nombreux apports civils du TICE. La diplomatie scientifique permet par ailleurs, de faire travailler ensemble des personnes dont les pays se battent habituellement, à l'exemple depuis 2017 du laboratoire SESAME au Moyen-Orient.

Par ailleurs, œuvrer pour le multilinguisme pourrait également se manifester dans les réunions de l'OTICE, lors des visites à l'étranger de ses experts ou encore en encourageant ceux-ci à indiquer les langues qu'ils maîtrisent afin de faciliter les échanges dans une langue commune qui ne soit pas forcément l'anglais.

Guillaume Milot

Moroccan blogger Hind Touissate defies fear to speak for change

People must be able to be heard and speak out without fear and doubt, says Hind Touissate, a Moroccan blogger, public speaker, social entrepreneur and traveler.

The social media star in Morocco was among the panelists at the CTBTO Science and Technology Conference, Tuesday, on a panel dedicated to youth as changemakers.

An active advocate for human rights in the Middle East and North Africa she makes use of social media and TV to advocate for change.
She kicked off her TV career by starting a YouTube channel and is about to launch a TV talk show in Morocco for young people to speak out about crucial issues.

Her path began in her teenage years when she was learning English from watching the Oprah Winfrey show. Inspired by Oprah set her on the way to become the Moroccan version.

Touissate worked part-time with Amnesty International writing about human rights issues which led her to start blogging, opening doors to others to speak out, especially during the Arab Spring when her blog became a platform for young people.

Although it may appear Hind could easily have crossed lines putting her in danger, she says the blog provides safety for her and others who want to make their voices heard.

Ksenya Pirnavskaya

Climate Change and CTBTO Technologies

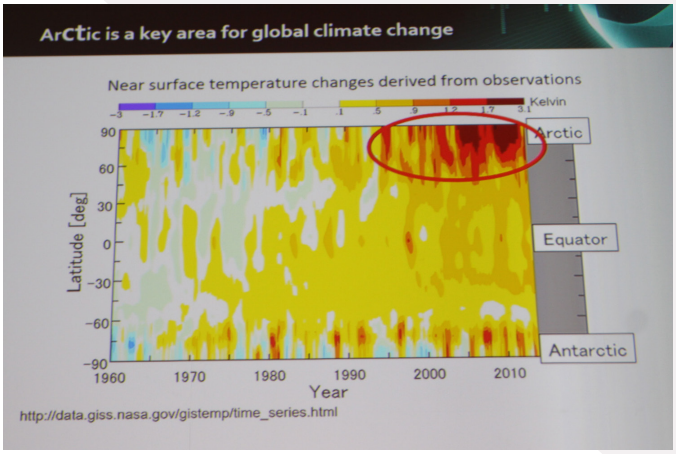
"This is the strongest warmest observation on earth" said Hanne Sagen, a researcher at Norway's Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre, pointing to the red area in the chart below, which shows recent near surface Arctic temperature changes.

Hagen was addressing the science of climate change with CTBTO technologies panel at the SnT 2019 on Tuesday.

The panel discussed how CTBTO technologies and IMS data are supporting the monitoring of climate change. Rebecca Manzou, acting director of Zimbabwe's meteorological services, said CTBTO technologies can be used for purposes other than detecting nuclear activities. "Beryllium has the potential to be used in Zimbabwe to predict monsoons, (the) start of the season, dry spells, and the length of the summer seasons," she said.

CTBTO scientist Lucrezia Terzi who recently published a paper on using Beryllium said it can predict the onset of monsoons three to five weeks ahead with an accuracy of about five days.

Providing data that could influence policy-makers to act based on projections of different manifestations of climate change, such as heat waves and other extreme weather events, could address the scepticism of people who deny climate change, Jean Sciare, the director of the Energy Environment and Water Research Centre of the Cyprus Institute, said in an interview.



Since the first CTBTO International Monitoring System (IMS) stations were installed, they have contributed to better understanding of the earth and its dynamics. With nearly 300 facilities installed worldwide the planet is being monitored constantly.

The IMS uses four technologies, seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound and radionuclide monitoring.

The network contributes to better climate modelling, in addition to progress in high performance computing, tracking particles from fire or pollution in the atmosphere, and understanding of marine life. The civilian applications of the data can keep a close eye on volcanoes and alert air traffic of a volcanic eruption, such as the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull event.

Information about such civil applications were presented during SnT 2019 and were at the heart of Tuesday's discussions.

Shereen Nanish,
Farai Shawn Matiashe,
Guillaume Milot