

UNIC ALBUM

Mandela Day celebrates UN values

Springdales School Pusa Road outshone itself yet another time during Mandela Day celebrations. This day is the culmination of the school's Africa Week and since it has a special relationship with Nelson Mandela, it prides itself on the activities undertaken to celebrate.

Mrs. Ameeta M. Wattal, Principal of the school warmly welcomed all the guests and described how the school had been linked with South Africa since its very early days and that it was proud to say that Mr. Mandela had visited it during his India trip. A short clip of Mahatma Gandhi facing discrimination as a young lawyer in South Africa was also screened.

The students showcased a multi-media presentation, the *Cradle of Humankind*, on the evolution of mankind in Africa. This was part of a competition initiated by the schools in the NCR region. Then we saw a beautifully choreographed poetry recital by a group of girls,

Hope for Peace, with very endearing costumes, followed by a short introduction to Mr. Mandela and then foot-tapping music and African singing by the school choir of *Wamkele Wamkile*.

Mr. Stefanus A. Botes, Minister Counsellor of the High Commission of South Africa in New Delhi spoke wonderfully of the South African experience and his years growing up there, the end of Apartheid, Mr. Mandela's release from prison and the South Africa of today. He also told the students that tomorrow they would be the generation of businesspersons and entrepreneurs so they should look at South Africa as a modern destination in that context also.

UNIC Director, **Mrs. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman** delivered the message of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon: "The theme behind the Day – "Take action, Inspire change" – highlights the importance of working together

to build a peaceful, sustainable and equitable world," he said. He also announced that the UN is bestowing the first ever Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela Prize, established by the UN General Assembly. This honorary award will be presented every five years to two individuals – a man and a woman – who through their dedication, hard work and compassion have built on Madiba's legacy.

Mrs. Mehra-Kerpelman congratulated the students on their amazing artwork on Africa. "You are all so fortunate to be part of this illustrious school," she said. "You are talented, expressive and committed. Use those advantages to pass on something to someone who may be less privileged...and as India's youth, be the changemakers, starting in this 70th anniversary year for the United Nations, make a positive impact on the lives of others." she added.

Other diplomats from various African countries also attended. ■



UNIC'S Drillon

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Celebrating Madiba

On the 18th of July, UNIC New Delhi joined India International Centre, Gandhi Peace Foundation and Working Group on Alternative Strategies in celebrating Nelson Mandela's 97th birthday, now recognized by the United Nations as International Mandela Day.

His Excellency F.K. Morule, High Commissioner, South African Embassy graced the occasion, which was held at the India International Centre, New Delhi. He spoke of the South African

struggle for equality and highlighted the country's strong connection with India, cemented by Mahatma Gandhi in the previous century.

UNIC Director **Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman** delivered the message of the Secretary-General saying, "Nelson Mandela gave 67 years of his life to the struggle for human rights and social justice. The United Nations joins the

Mandela Foundation in asking people around the world to devote at least 67 minutes of their time on 18 July – Madiba's birthday – to a community service activity. As the United Nations marks its seventieth anniversary, there is no better time to reflect on the life and work of Mr. Mandela, who embodied the highest values of the United Nations."

Other speakers included **Shri Satyabrata Pal**, former Indian High Commissioner to South Africa; **Prof. Ajay Kumar Dubey**, Chairperson, Centre for African Studies, JNU and General Secretary, African Studies Association of India; and **Shri Suhas Borker**, Convener, Working Group on Alternative Strategies

Students enacted a musical drama that brought to the audience the struggle of the apartheid movement and the rock like belief and determination of *Madiba*. ■



Photos: UNIC/S.Dhillon

UNIC signs MOU with ERAM Animation Lab to promote SDGs

In an innovative partnership with the private sector, the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan (UNIC) signed an MOU with ERAM Animation Labs (EAL) by which EAL will create a series of animation films on the theme of 'Save Mother Earth'. **Mrs. Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman**, UNIC Director and **Dr. Siddeek Ahmed**, Chairman and Managing Director of Eram Group signed the MOU at UN House in New Delhi.



UNIC/K.Manojharan