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Sri Lanka: Drama festival: ©UNHCR/Sri Lanka

- Australia
- Bangladesh
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- China
- Hong Kong
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- Korea, Republic of
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- Papua New Guinea
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Australia: Over 400 people joined Australia for UNHCR for their annual World Refugee Day breakfast in Sydney: ©UNHCR/Australia



## AUSTRALIA

The Regional Office's focus for WRD was to promote the 2005 WRD theme, "Courage" among a wider group of organizations, including local authorities and the government. In this respect, the **website** of the Australian UNHCR WRD launched in May was very effective in encouraging the use of this year's theme among the government and community sector. This is proven by the fact that Unique clients to the RO's website doubled in June from the previous month from 1,789 to 3,134. Another initiative undertaken was the daily **e-mail campaign** to alert people of upcoming events.

Australian celebrity actor Jack Thompson agreed to do the voiceover for the WRD public service announcements which greatly boosted appeal of the spots and secured free TV and radio airtime. Overall, The TV spots were aired 350 times whilst the radio spots were broadcast 1,381 times with a total estimated value of **USD 279,019**.

Local authority participation for WRD was sought through sponsorship of visibility projects. These included the production and sponsorship of **WRD flags** which flew for 6 days reaching 90,350 cars per day from various key positions around Canberra, plus the Captain Cook Memorial Jet and seven other public buildings were lit up the colour of UNHCR blue. The link with the fountain in Geneva (on which the nozzle for the Canberra jet is based) helped persuade the local authorities who were keen to be part of an international event. It was also an effective hook to generate television coverage: The image of the blue fountain was used as a "closer shot" for each ad break on WIN TV for WRD.

The national association Australia for UNHCR held a **fundraising breakfast** for over 400 guests in Sydney that raised about **USD 50,000**, and appointed two new special youth representatives. Guest speakers included the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW, James J Spigelman, former refugee Huy Trong, broadcaster Sandra Sully, Special Representative Ian Chappell, and actor Jack Thompson. Eight media publications were generated from the event. The total estimated value of the media coverage of WRD in these three countries amounts to **USD 345,485**.

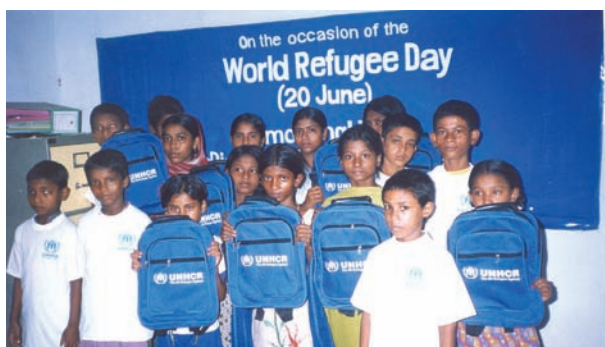
*The Regional Office in Australia also covers New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.*



*Over 400 people joined Australia for UNHCR for their annual World Refugee Day breakfast in Sydney: ©UNHCR/Australia*

## BANGLADESH

The WRD programme in Cox's Bazar kicked off with a **rally** supported by 400 persons. They all walked to the Public Library Auditorium to take part in a **discussion meeting** followed by the screening of the UNHCR video "To be a refugee". There were also **art and essay competitions** for refugee children, a **cultural programme** and an **award ceremony** at two refugee camps, Nayapar and Kutupalong. Over 20,000 newsletters, postcards, school bags, pens, t-shirts and WRD posters and leaflets were distributed to selected groups of students outside Cox's Bazar and the capital.



*School students with bags and t-shirts distributed by UNHCR Bangladesh in Dhaka to mark the World Refugee Day 2005: ©UNHCR/Uttam Kumar Das*

The attendance of the Chief of Justice along with the Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and two other senior officials from the Law Ministry attested the interest of the Judiciary to the cause of refugees.

Rainbow Film Society, the implementing partner of UNHCR in Bangladesh, organized a **discussion** on the refugee issues in the South Asian region and the screening of related **documentaries and films**. Mr. Ahmed Iliya, a renowned scholar from the Bihari community in Bangladesh, was the key speaker present at the discussion. The Bangladeshi EU Ambassador along with the Australian High Commissioner and the UNHCR representative were special guests in the inaugural programme.

40 newspaper items, 7 e-media items and 13 TV reports all covered WRD activities free of cost. One weekly magazine, *Dhaka Courier* published the High Commissioner's message in full whilst some 35 national, regional and local newspapers quoted the message in their reports. The media coverage had a combined estimated value of **USD 46,323**, reaching approximately half a million people.

## CAMBODIA

The first ever **Refugee Film Festival** in Cambodia took place in Phnom Penh from 20 to 26 June. It was so successful that a follow-up was organized in another Cambodian city, Siem Reap, from 5 to 14 July, and some NGOs have asked UNHCR to borrow some of the films for further screening. The festival was made possible due to a very productive partnership between the French Cultural Centre (CCF) and UNHCR. The media campaign was very successful in raising awareness of the festival. 10,000 leaflets and flyers were distributed, announcements were put on websites and CFF's official magazine and an e-mail campaign was sent to embassies, media members and UN agencies.



*Courage banners decorated the entrance of the CCF where the film festival took place: ©UNHCR/M. Coghlan*

The highlight of the event was the opening screening of "The Flute Player", in the presence of the French Ambassador and urban refugees. Four of the movie's protagonists (traditional Khmer folklore musicians) and the movie's main character were present after the screening for **Q&A**, which further added value to the event. Similarly, after the screening of "Site 2", a movie based on the lives of Cambodian refugees in a Thai refugee Camp during the 1990s, the director of the movie and three UNHCR staff who had lived as refugees in the refugee camp depicted in the film answered questions.

The festival engaged the younger audience among the 2000 spectators by screening **animation films** on Saturday morning. High school and university students also attended the festival chiefly viewing the lunch screenings of **short documentaries**. The WRD 2005 "Courage" TV spots were screened before each of the films.

## CHINA

For the first time in five years, the Chinese government permitted UNHCR to organize refugee awareness activities in public locations. 42 photographs taken in the Guangxi, Hainan and Guangdong refugee settlements were exhibited for 10 days in June at the 798 Photo Gallery of Beijing. It is estimated that during the 10 days, the gallery received 1,500 visitors. Furthermore, an **opening ceremony** was organized on 20 June, and government counterparts, diplomatic communities, UN agencies, NGOs and members of the media were invited to take part. 7 photos from the exhibition were sold **raising USD 700**. Although all photos were approved by MCA, the media took cautionary measures and as a result, there was no media coverage of the event.

UNHCR also prepared a **documentary** to record the 25 years of Indo-Chinese refugees in China. Unfortunately, the planned screening of the documentary during WRD had to be postponed due to the bureaucratic long approval process.

## HONG KONG

A **photo exhibition** was organised displaying some 40 photos of Indo-Chinese refugees who have successfully settled and locally integrated in different provinces of China. Italian photographer, Mr. Andrea Oschetti, portrayed their lives whilst capturing their courage, hope and dignity.

The **opening ceremony** was attended by the Director of the Bureau for Asia and the Pacific and UNHCR's regional representative for China, in company with more than 120 guests representing Consul Generals, government officials from Hong Kong, mainland China and Macau and representatives of civil society and the corporate sector. Also present were the Chinese UNHCR Director and the UNHCR regional representative for China. The event was covered in 4 July edition of the *South China Morning Post*, the main English newspaper in Hong Kong. In addition, Hong Kong radio and Television aired an **interview** with the Director of the Bureau for Asia and The Pacific.

*Hong Kong is covered by the Regional Office in China.*

## INDIA

A **free screening** of "Hotel Rwanda" was organised and attended by nearly 400 people in collaboration with the India Habitat Centre Film Club. The audience comprised of diplomats, including the Ambassadors of Rwanda, The Netherlands and Bhutan, prominent media personnel, academics and policy makers.

WRD was celebrated with the refugee community in two areas of Delhi with large refugee concentration. In addition to the **cultural programme**, free **eye-checks** to 170 refugees were carried out by UNHCR's health implementing partner at both venues. In Vikaspuri, West Delhi, 300 refugee children of all nationalities participated in a cultural program of song and dance. Nizamuddin, South Delhi, held a smaller day-long celebration with about 150 refugees from Afghan, Iranian and African origin where the programme included a **cultural show**, **story telling** and a **quiz**. This activity was covered in the media.



*Refugees, at the Puzha refugee camp for Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu, Lining up for the medical camp: ©UNHCR/Chennai*

In Chennai, 92 Sri Lankan refugee children participated in a **painting competition** organized by UNHCR at two schools that have refugees among their students. Each participant was given various types of brushes and paints and some light refreshments. For the second consecutive year, the UNHCR chief of mission was the guest on 20 June of 'Breakfast News', a programme on Doordarshan, the widest reach national TV network.

Other organizations also marked WRD: the Khalsa Diwan Welfare Society and the All Burmese Refugee Committee both celebrated WRD with a **cultural programme**. The Tamil Nadu Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society in association with the Family Planning Association of India conducted a **medical screening** camp and awareness building seminar on HIV/AIDS, among Sri Lankan refugees living in the Pulal camp.



*Sri Lankan Tamil refugee children taking part in the painting competition held at the school near Chennai: ©UNHCR/Chennai*

## INDONESIA

A WRD **briefing session** entitled "The Situation and Condition of Refugees in Indonesia" held in Ci-payung was organised by UNHCR's deputy regional representative. The aim of the session was to improve the relationship between the host community and refugees as well as to improve the coordi-



Refugees having a fun ride on the elephant: ©UNHCR/A. Restu

nation and collaboration of UNHCR and its implementing partners, Yayasan Pulih and PMI, with the local authorities. The session was attended by 33 participants.

An unusual but effective day out was organized at a **Safari park** in West-Java specifically for refugees to express themselves and release their tension. There were 99 refugees present of as varied origins as Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, and Congo. The safari boasted a wide range of different animals from elephants and monkeys to walruses and birds shows and some of the refugees were even given the opportunity to ride on the elephants.

The WRD celebrations programme included a poetry reading by an Iranian refugee, Afghan songs, a song presented for the refugees by UNHCR staff and an Indonesian traditional dance from West Sumatra named "Dinding Ba Dinding". In the afternoon, fun **games** were organized for the 200 participants such as Tug of War, a scene-colouring competition, sack and sandalwood races and ice-cream and cracker eating competitions. At end of the day, winners of the events were handed prizes.

Coverage on WRD activities in Indonesia were broadcast on the OASIS programme of METRO TV.

## JAPAN

Renowned Japanese photographer Ms. Sanae Numata offered her photos of Zambian refugees to be exhibited at the UN House from 18 June to 13 July during which approximately 1,000 people visited the display. This event was widely covered in the media, with 29 articles and reports being going to print. Ms. Numata gave a one-hour radio interview on WRD where she spoke about the exhibit and her experiences in the field.

The international conference hall of the UN House hosted a **WRD public symposium** "Perspective of Japan's Acceptance and Assistance for Refugees" on 18 June. It was organized in cooperation with UN University, PARinAC Japan Forum and Japan for UNHCR and supported by Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Agency for Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the *Yomiuri Shimbun* newspaper. The symposium was attended by approximately 340 people and Mrs. Sadako Ogata's special video message was screened.



Photos of the refugee exhibition venue "Angolan Refugees and Local Zambians": ©UNHCR/Japan

Japanese UNHCR staff assigned in Khartoum, Sudan, gave a live telephone **radio interview** that was aired nationally on 11 June.

Over fifty other events ranging from **charity concerts** and **photo exhibitions** to **seminars** and **fund-raising** campaigns were organized across the country by various associations and educational institutes.

The WRD public awareness campaign started in May and lasted until mid-July. In total 43 reports with an estimated value that exceeds **USD 200,000** were accounted for.

## KOREA, REPUBLIC of

With the sponsorship of the Cinecube film art Co., Ltd. and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT), UNHCR hosted a **special premiere showing** of "In This World" by the Award-winning

British filmmaker Michael Winterbottom on 27 June. It was held with the presence of about 70 guests, notably the Foreign Minister and a diverse range of representatives from the National Assembly, MOFAT, Ministry of Justice, Immigration Offices, NGO community, academia, diplomatic community, lawyers, the media and medical hospitals providing assistance to refugees and asylum seekers. The movie itself depicts two Afghan youths who embarked on a difficult journey from a refugee camp in Pakistan to London in search of a better life. Cinecube screened the film for over one month and ran WRD TV spots on monitors of the theatre's entrance hall, attracting a broad range of audiences. In total, 30,000 visitors saw the film over the period of that month.

The first ever **public hearing** of the National Human Rights Commission was held on 14 July, addressing asylum policies in Korea. UNHCR was invited as an expert guest helping to provide opinions and advice. Based on results of the public hearing, the Commission will provide policy recommendations to the President of the Republic of Korea. UNHCR distributed the **IPU Handbook** to all 256 members of the Korean National Assembly before a public forum on asylum on which the UNHCR representative was invited to take part.

In Daehakro, a **WRD Street Festival** organized by a local NGO, Pnan, and sponsored by UNHCR Seoul office, was held on 19 June at Seoul's main promenade where young Koreans and families get together on weekends. After the opening speech by the UNHCR representative there were street performances and a traditional customs parade. Furthermore a street café and face-painting booths were set-up for children. Asylum seekers from Myanmar, Bangladesh, DRC and other countries contributed by cooking their traditional food. The opposition party leader along with other parliamentarians from the Grand National Party, visited the festival and met with the UNHCR representative.

UNHCR representatives also participated in the **debate** entitled "UNHCR and Asylum in Republic of Korea" on Arirang TV's "In-Focus" weekly TV show which debates social and public affairs around the world. The show was broadcast three times, and later became available to the public through its website. The Kim's Eye Hospital offered two weeks of **free medical check-up** session for refugees and humanitarian status holders residing in Korea.

All WRD activities and events were reported in the media. The **WRD TV Spots** were broadcast 82 times through Arirang TV, a government-run English Broadcasting System, for the period of 1 to 22 June 2005.

## MALAYSIA

A ceremony was organized on 21 June for the **launching of the UNHCR Handbook on Refugee Law for Parliamentarians** in Malay language, in collaboration with the Minister of the Prime Minister's Department in charge of parliamentary affairs. Some 100 guests attended, including the head of the opposition party, several opposition Members of Parliament, the President of the Back Benchers Club and several Members of the ruling party of Parliament. The Minister of the Prime Minister's Department publicly declared his support for refugee issues and announced that the government, in principle, will allow refugees to work legally in the country. NGOs working in refugee issues were given the floor to advocate for their cause. 12 Media entities covered the event.

The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Center hosted a selection of photos belonging to the **photographic project** "Face To Face: Confronting the Humanity of Refugees in Malaysia". The project was carried out to overcome the Malaysians' apathy towards refugee issues because of the difficulty in humanizing the statistics that appear in the media. The ceremony included the unveiling of a selection of photos by the Crown Prince of the State of Perak and traditional performances by refugees. The exhibition was visited by more than 6,000 people in the one month it was displayed.

**Media advocacy** was done for the first time in Malaysia. All the main newspaper, radio and TV organizations, as well as non traditional medias, were reached during this phase. Some 40 news and feature articles were produced in local papers and in international news agencies, 16 radio stations carried the WRD spot that was created by UNHCR Kuala Lumpur, while all 4 TV stations in the country carried news reports and short documentaries on WRD and refugees. NTV7 provided a special one-hour prime time slot on refugee issues in conjunction with WRD. The total estimated value of the WRD media coverage was **USD 281,300**.

## MYANMAR

UNHCR Myanmar did not organize any particular event because the political climate would not have allowed it. As a direct result of this problem, none of the local media made any mention of the day. However, WRD “Courage” posters were displayed in the office and they shared all promotional materials with the field office in Maungdaw. A small all-staff gathering with the Deputy Director of the Asia Bureau was held at the office.

## NEPAL

A programme of activities at the **Bhutanese refugee camps** was put together for WRD, each one attracting 1,500 to 2,000 refugees. The UNHCR representative addressed refugees at the Beldangi refugee camp. He congratulated the oldest man and woman of the camp (aged 105 and 98 respectively) and awarded a prize to the best student in the Class X examination. Representatives from the government and UNHCR’s implementing partners attended the event. Two press articles covered the activities.

An **information session** was held at the Nepal Red Cross Society Hall in Damak on the role of UNHCR and the refugees living in camps in Jhapa and Morang district to which 150 people attended. Two **UNHCR documentaries** were screened and Bhutanese refugees exhibited handmade products from the camps.

Children participated in WRD celebrations with an **art/painting** session as part of the programme organized at the Tibetan Reception Centre in Kathmandu. All works of art created by the 72 attendants were exhibited at the centre for ten days. Also, **health awareness sessions** were held for about 500 Tibetan new arrivals.

Teachers and students alike attended the screening of the “**UNHCR Global View 2005**” documentary at the Nepal Law Campus, of the Tribhuvan University of Kathmandu. The UNHCR representative presented a paper on the role of UNHCR globally and in Nepal.

The **public awareness campaign** included the broadcast of the Nepali version of the Global View 2005 documentary, as well as the WRD TV spot. The WRD radio spots were aired for a week in Kantipur FM. The *Rajdhani* daily, with a circulation of 32,000 all over Nepal, published an interview with the UNHCR representative.

## NEW ZEALAND



*Cambodian Dancers Kannha Mao (left) and Nareth Norn at WRD celebrations in Wellington: ©UNHCR/New Zealand*

An event supported by UNHCR Australia, was organized by the NGO, RMS and the Multicultural Services Centre which is a partnership of seven agencies who offer services for refugees and migrants. Speakers included the Immigration Minister, Associate Foreign Minister, the Wellington Mayor, and Somali community leader and RMS staffer. In Auckland, a WRD celebration was organized at King’s College, a school which is a long-time supporter of the Mangere Refugee Reception Centre. Speakers included the Director of Ethnic Affairs and refugee leaders. Both events included **cultural performances** and **food fairs**.

Australian celebrity actor **Jack Thompson** put the **voiceover** to the WRD spots, greatly boosting their appeal and helping secure free TV air time.

Prime TV broadcast 380 15-second spots over 14 days. TV 1, TV 2 and TV 3 also broadcast another 56 spots collectively bringing the estimated free air time in NZ to a value of **USD 66,469**.

*New Zealand is covered by the Regional Office in Australia*

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The UNHCR PNG liaison office, in co-ordination with RO Australia, organized a **reception** for WRD in Port Moresby, including speeches by a UN coordinator, UNHCR, the government and a refugee. The event was attended by over 100 people from the international community and key stakeholders. It was an important opportunity for UNHCR to acknowledge to the audience the contribution of the Papua New Guinea government to refugee protection. A **media conference** was also held prior to the formal reception. Both events received **coverage by two major** newspapers in PNG.

*Papua New Guinea is covered by the Regional Office in Australia*

## SRI LANKA

The Beira Lake island in the middle of a city lake was the spectacular location for the multi-lingual drama festival, the main WRD event in Colombo. Participants represented a broad spectrum of Sri Lankan society: members of the government, foreign dignitaries, local school children, displaced persons, civil society groups, UN personnel and the media. The festival was aimed at highlighting UNHCR's work in Sri Lanka, both before and after the tsunami. A **video** of an interview with Karmala, a young lady who suffered from both the conflict and the tsunami and who epitomized the "Courage" theme, was screened. On the theme of displacement, three groups turned situations they related to and were familiar with into dramas which were performed to the audience.

Sub-office Vavuniya, in cooperation with RDF, organized celebrations in 4 welfare centers which consisted of: solo and group **dances, songs, dramas**, drawing and essays **contests**, costume contests, games for elders, adults and children and a **handicrafts exhibition**. The celebrations were largely attended by IDPs, local authorities and humanitarian agencies.

A **drama competition** was held by field office Mannar, with contestants from all over the District.

UNHCR gave radio and TV interviews for local media stations. The **WRD campaign** was run for a fortnight. "Courage" spots were broadcast free of charge by a local television/media company which works closely with the humanitarian community.

## THAILAND

Events in Bangkok included a month-long **exhibition of posters** produced for World Refugee Day at the United Nations Building and a radio interview on Radio Thailand's English News Service by UNHCR. The media coverage was estimated to have reached 25% of the population in Thailand. There was also a **refugee food festival and art exhibit** at the Bangkok Refugee Centre.



*Tham Hin Camp: Children talking about courage and durable solutions: ©UNHCR/Thailand*

WRD celebrations at all nine refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border included **weaving** and **craft making exhibitions**, cultural and traditional **performances** such as plays, song, dance and poetry, and **sports competitions**. The High Commissioner's message was read during the celebrations as part of the public awareness activities, which also included art and poster **exhibitions** as well as **debates** on refugee rights and durable solutions. These camp activities were organized and implemented by refugee women and youth, religious and disabled people's organizations, representing the camp committee.



UNHCR regional representative was on an **official advocacy** mission to meet with UDI (Immigration Department) and NGOs in Oslo and Norway during World Refugee Day. Two articles in Norway covered his mission which focused on his appeal to the government of Norway to increase the resettlement quota for Myanmar refugees from Thailand and to improve conditions in the camps on the Thai-Myanmar border through the provision of financial support for vocational training and language education programmes.

### TIMOR-LESTE

A **children drawing competition** for primary school students was organized in Dili. The UNHCR representative presented symbolic prizes and certificates to 6 students for their artwork, as judged by UNHCR, an Art Therapy NGO and the Ministry of Education representatives. The President gave a **speech** on National TV promoting refugee protection which was broadcast several times for one week.

A **TV interactive show** was broadcast in the evening of 15 June 2005. Viewer's questions on refugees, asylum seekers and common immigration issues in Timor-Leste were answered by three speakers from the Immigration Department, the Parliament and UNHCR. In addition, WRD spots were aired daily on both TV and radio along with **interviews** of UNHCR staff and the Tetun version of the Global View 2005.



*Drawing activity: ©UNHCR/A. Ximenes*

The **WRD reception** was attended by government members, select Embassies, NGOs and civil society. The 6 winning entries in the Children's Art Exhibition were handed awards as well as graduates of the Intensive RSD course for Immigration Officers. Also, during the reception, guests were shown a **multi-media presentation** on refugee protection and some of the refugees presented their best **cooking** at the reception event.

A one day **seminar** on the Refugee Convention and WRD for Law students was held in Dili. Some 150 teachers, students and media attended and it was reported on the national TV news. The activity was co-sponsored by Peace University, at CAVR.