

Second Committee/Task Force Reports

With more than 150 definitions of culture it is easy to see the complexity of the topic.

According to Wikipedia culture from the Latin cultura stemming from colere meaning “to cultivate” is a term that has different meanings and is most commonly used in three basic senses:

- ❖ Excellence of taste in the fine arts and humanities, also known as high culture
- ❖ An integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief, and behavior that depends upon the capacity for symbolic thought and social learning
- ❖ The set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices that characterizes an institution, organization or group.

Our task force is working on sharing our research knowledge on cultures from around the world, because we believe a better understanding of various cultures is the key to empathy and a more cohesive society.

The Sharing Cultures Task Force has accomplished several things and has put a number of other items in motion. Monthly articles have been written regarding cultural differences, customs and norms. Some the articles have been posted on the website and others submitted to the FORUM. Sharing Cultures presentation was made at one Regional meeting in October and we hope to have the opportunity to do more in the future. The website has been updated but additional information is being sought to enhance the Sharing Cultures section thereby making more interesting and useful for the members. For example the reading list includes general materials but also country specific information, if available, for each country in which there are member clubs.

Several items are in the works, specifically the Sharing Cultures Booklet. We are now working with Membership to integrate the "Day in our Club's City" concept with information about the cultures in which our member resides.

The first six months have been a lot about getting familiar with resources and getting plans into place; you can expect to see much more from Sharing Cultures in 2010. We will also be soliciting information from member clubs because we recognize the importance of tapping experts and then sharing this information with everyone within FAWCO.

Faithfully submitted by,
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