



20 November 2014. UNESCO has celebrated World Philosophy Day with events at its Paris Headquarters on the overarching question of “Social Transformations and Intercultural Dialogue”.

“World Philosophy Day provides an opportunity to underline once more the importance of critical thinking to understanding changes in contemporary society,” said Irina Bokova, the Executive Director of UNESCO in her [message on World Philosophy Day](#).

[World Philosophy Day 2014](#) is celebrated the third Thursday in November which this year falls on 20 November. A round table discussion was held to launch the “Philosophy Manual, A South-South Perspective”, developed with the support of the Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Programme for a Culture of Peace and Dialogue.

Additional events will take place at UNESCO Headquarters, including in particular a conference on “New Philosophical Practices” and a roundtable on “The contribution of Ali ibn Abi Talib’s thought to a culture of peace and intercultural dialogue”. Events will also take place around the world throughout the month of November.

In establishing World Philosophy Day in 2005, UNESCO's General Conference highlighted the importance of this discipline, especially for young people, underlining that "philosophy is a discipline that encourages critical and independent thought and is capable of working towards a better understanding of the world and promoting tolerance and peace".