

“Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean.” - Ryunosuke Satoro



Contact: Amanda Massello
Manager of Marketing and Communications
+1 617-267-7763

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BSAISO, CHRISTIAN, BREWER AND SHDEIFAT JOIN UNITED PLANET INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF ADVISORS

Boston, MA, September 23, 2008 --- United Planet (UP) is proud to announce that Reem Bsaiso, CEO of the international NGO World Links Arab Region (WLAR), Joseph Christian, partner with the DLA Piper Real Estate Group, Jake Brewer, Director of Partnerships for Idealist.org and Omar Shdeifat, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Jordan, have joined its International Board of Advisors (IBA).

“We are very pleased and honored to welcome Reem, Joe, Jake and Omar to our UP team,” said David Santulli, executive director of United Planet. “All four of these amazing individuals will help strengthen our mission and UP as an organization,” added Santulli.

About them

- Reem Bsaiso is the CEO of World Links Arab Region (WLAR), an international NGO that provides programs to improve educational outcomes, economic opportunities and global understanding for youth in the Arab world. She is also a representative of the PUM Senior Netherland Experts, a non-profit organization that identifies programs aimed at building sustainability and capacities while fighting poverty and unemployment in the South of Jordan. Prior to WLAR, Ms. Bsaiso served as an Institutional Capacity Building Specialist for a CDM International–USAID project in Jordan. She also worked as the Program Manager of the Jordanian-American Commission for Educational Exchange, and Executive Director of the Jordan Europe Business Association.
- Joseph Christian formerly was a partner with WilmerHale. Prior to that, he was a senior executive and counsel at Copley Real Estate Advisors. Christian earned a B.A. cum laude, from Catholic University of America and a J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law. Before attending law school, he worked as an urban planner at the New York City Planning Commission. At DLA Piper, Christian focuses his practice primarily on real estate and real estate capital markets transactions. He has dealt extensively with the management, acquisition, and disposition of real estate assets in major markets across the United States and overseas. Christian represents real estate advisors, operating companies, tax-qualified and public pension and profit-sharing plans, financial institutions, real estate investment trusts and individuals.
- Jake Brewer joined Idealist.org in 2006. Prior to joining Idealist, he was the executive director of Break Away, the national organization through which 40,000 college students connect with non-profits to spend alternative spring breaks learning to become active citizens. Brewer has also served as a corporate consultant in the Middle East and designed and implemented international service-learning programs from central Jamaica to East Africa and Mongolia. Brewer is currently a regularly featured contributor to the Huffington Post. He also serves on

11 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116
Local: 617.267.7763 | Toll-free: 800.292.2316 | Fax: 617.267.7764
Email: team@unitedplanet.org | Web: www.unitedplanet.org

“Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean.” - Ryunosuke Satoro



the board of directors for Hostelling International USA and is an advisor to the University of Texas Project on Conflict Resolution. In addition, he is the conference director of Education without Borders, an annual event held in the United Arab Emirates which brings 1000 young leaders from 110 countries together to discuss innovative solutions to global challenges.

- Omar Shdeifat received his PhD in Theoretical Linguistics from the University of Illinois in 1984. He is the author of more than 30 research papers and published books. In addition, His Excellency has conducted numerous studies in the field of academic research, higher education and university affairs. Shdeifat became Jordan's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in November 2007. Prior to that, he was the president of Hashemite University and a member of the World Bank Council for Development of Higher Education, both located in Jordan.

What they say about United Planet

“United Planet’s volunteer abroad programs have had a tremendous impact in developing better relations between many cultures and people” said Bsaiso “I am proud that I have been given the opportunity to advance UP’s international presence”.

“United Planet really stands out as an NGO,” said Christian. “Their truly innovative and unique programs allow people from all cultures to connect with each other and to experience one of the greatest things in life – intercultural understanding and friendship. I am excited to join forces with United Planet and work together to achieve their mission,” said Christian.

“The work of United Planet goes deeper than simply providing a way for individuals to volunteer abroad,” said Brewer. “Rather, United Planet’s programs catalyze and foster a call to global citizenship and on-going cross-cultural connectedness. Through these efforts, I believe we cut to the heart of the challenges we face in the workplace today such as injustice and intolerance. In doing so, we begin to heal some of the divides that our global society faces,” explained Brewer.

“United Planet’s mission to create a community beyond borders inspired me from the beginning,” said Shdeifat. “There are many prejudices in the world, especially between the Western cultures and Arab culture. If we work closely together, we will understand each other’s cultures better. In the end, we will see that our cultural differences are to be admired and respected and do not have to be obstacles,” said Shdeifat.

As an international non-profit organization, United Planet (UP) strives to create a world in which all people understand, respect, and support one another. United Planet's global network of leaders and volunteers fosters cross-cultural understanding and addresses shared challenges to unite the world in a community beyond borders.

11 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116
Local: 617.267.7763 | Toll-free: 800.292.2316 | Fax: 617.267.7764
Email: team@unitedplanet.org | Web: www.unitedplanet.org