



Président

International
Network of
UNESCO
Chairs in
Communication

Ladies and gentlemen

Dear confreres,

Dear friends

The builders, the first members involved in our network in 1994, like those who have joined and lived since, during these 25 years, all were honored and saluted for their commitment during the celebration of our 25th anniversary, in Strasbourg, 13/15 May last.

The poster reflecting this great adventure of reflections, actions and publications in our field of communications, was complete: the founders Mrs. Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny and Mr. Alain Modoux, the successive presidents MM. Rosental Alves, Bertrand Cabedoche and Jamal Eddine Naji (peace to the soul of Rainer Von Schilling, 1st President); the Secretaries General MM. Claude-Yves Charron and Yves Théorêt; the Administrators Mr. Ambassador Pierre Giguère and Miss Rania Aoun.

Improved poster, as when Orbicom was created in 1994, by the effective presence of the two supervisory institutions: UNESCO, represented by Mr. Moez Chakchouk, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, accompanied by Mr. Guy Berger, Director of Freedom of Expression and Media Development and UQAM University, represented by his Rector, Mrs. Magda Fusaro who took over, in this capacity, the torch of the 3rd founder of our network, the Former Rector of UQAM, Mr. Claude Corbeau. As it should be for a "Think-Tank" of this level, with a specialized UN agency, Unesco, the celebration of this anniversary was studious and productive for all participants, and this, of course, in an atmosphere of friendliness maintained by our host, the Orbicom Chair in Strasbourg.

In accordance with the original ambitions of our network, we have devoted ourselves, through presentations, research reports and debates, to unravel and clarify themes that are

decisive for the future evolution of our field, starting from the great and structuring problematic, both for our network and for UNESCO, that of freedom of expression. Always an issue for us, but which is set to be revisited from the ground up in the digital age with its endless explosions and endless technological extensions. Not to mention the challenges that it induces, all over the world, at the level of norms, rights, freedoms, uses, industrial strategies, public policies, contents, training courses, practices and ethical values of the professional as citizen (new actor and partner) etc.

Our network now has for it an age of maturity assumed and responsible for what concerns us of the future of the field of communications in relation to the democratic creed and the great cause of peace. This requires more synergies between our Chairs, between our members, between the network and UNESCO. Because, it is now a powerful call for air for concrete projects between two or more Chairs, between members and / or Chairs based in the same region of the world, between Chairs and / or members of two or more regions, between Chairs and / or members sharing one or more thematic research priorities etc.

In short, our debates and exchanges, at our last General Assembly in Strasbourg, made clear this imperative of a new course to be taken by Orbicom in the direction of the production and publication of what constitutes the essential and the raison d'être of our belonging, as individuals and as institutions, to this "Think-tank" which is an exceptional network able to face validly and concretely the exceptional evolution / revolution of our area of expertise.

PS. A stewardship reminder that I must point out: The Secretariat General waits, before our next virtual GA, after the summer, the regularization of your membership fees.

Best regards



Pr. Jamal Eddine NAJI

Expert Researcher in Communications

President of the Orbicom Network of UNESCO Chairs in Communication