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## Speech of the Director General of UNESCO

Irina Bokova,

on occasion of the medal-awarding ceremony to Alain Modoux

San José, Costa Rica, 2 May 2013

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to thank our host, Mr Bob Boorstin, for his hospitality. It has become a tradition for Google to offer a reception on the occasion of the World Press Freedom Day celebrations and I wish to thank him for this generous gesture.

Mr Alain Modoux, Dear Friend,

It is a great pleasure to address these words to you on this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *World Press Freedom Day*.

Behind every International Day, there are men and women, mobilising for the defence of the values we share.

Alain Modoux, you are the man behind *World Press Freedom Day*.

One of its principal architects, you have contributed greatly to the remarkable success of this International Day since its creation.

*World Press Freedom Day* was established by the General Assembly of United Nations in 1993, following the resolution of the 26<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference in 1991.

The date of May 3 was not chosen by chance.

