

Many to Many

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“Many to Many” under the aegis of Operation Peace Through Unity is a communicating link between “we, the peoples” of all nations, races, creeds and ideologies offering in the spirit of the preamble of the United Nations Charter an instrument for the furthering of better relationships based on deepening mutual understanding and the aspiration to promote unity and cooperation beyond all differences.

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- I. BLASPHEMY – Editorial**
- II. CLIMATE CHANGE - Civil Society Gathers at the United Nations**
- III. Midday Workshop at the UN NGO/DPI Conference – Report**
- IV. THE OCKENDEN STORY**
- V. MANIFESTO - A Strategy of Hope for a World in Crisis**
- VI. THIRD ARAB RENAISSANCE**
- VII. COMMUNIQUE OF THE THIRD GLOBAL SUMMIT FOR MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS OF PEACE**
- VIII. UN CONFERENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE - Bali 3-14 December**
- IX. SIMULTANEOUS POLICY – Rediscovering the Sense of our Collective Humanity**
- X. A CULTURE OF PEACE – Poem**
- XI. THE GREAT INVOCATION – English**

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I. Blasphemy

From the darkest depth of unredeemed matter comes this fierce revulsion to light: the compulsion to ensnare and enslave – and make mortal - not only the human soul but also exhaust that which within all kingdoms of nature seeks the light and turns toward the sun.

It seems that in the final season of a dying civilisation the deliberate urge to slay or revile what is revered and held sacred becomes activated and stimulated. From the destruction of Buddha images to the abusive criticism aimed at demoralizing and weakening a person's will to live, it is as if the old world is turning its fury against all that which is not subservient to its dominion.

Simultaneously the human longing for idols is expertly manipulated and trivialized, and objects groomed for idolatry are made available and accessible at a cost: the temple forecourt brimming with merchandise.

In the maelstrom of decaying matter and the energy of new life, tools for building the future as well as weapons for defending the past are being produced: investments in both these categories evenly and precariously balanced. Humanity still considering its options.

A teacher has said: *“But woe to those who wish to encounter the future by looking backward! For the spirit overburdened with yesterday's remains is laden with a massive weight. With such a burden one cannot ascend the Mountain, one cannot pass through the Gates of Light, one cannot become associated with the luminous Future”*.

The world today has become accustomed to the massive weight of our materialistic societies and tends not to question the validity, costs or consequences of the habitual and steadily increasing consumption. As the proverbial frog who did not register the slowly increasing temperature of the surrounding water until it boiled, humanity seems not yet sufficiently aware or aroused to make a collective decision which way to go.

But as individuals we will not forever tolerate the desecration of the sacred. The prevalent prolific use of blasphemy has become a wake up call, and the multitude of false idols and lifeless gods with their insatiable appetites and cravings are being seen for what they are. Blasphemous acts, whether by the fanatic or the ignorant, can no longer arrest the forward move.

In the breaking light of dawn humanity, together with the lives of other kingdoms, will be slowly rising to the challenges and opportunities of a new day; un-burdening itself of 'yesterday's remains' humanity will once again be striving toward the Gates of Light. Liberating the investments made in weaponry of the past and leaving behind the mindset which justified such unenlightened means and methods towards an end, we can aim for the highest possible ascent.

The life inherent in all matter; the spark within all creation which never fails to respond to the light and warmth of the Sun; the seed which contains the treasure of Life and which will, in time, find its rightful place within the universe - all this will inexorably ensure our association with a 'luminous Future'.

II. Climate Change

Civil Society Gathers at the United Nations

It is always fascinating to pass through the security checks and walk into the United Nations headquarters in New York. Anyone can do this – the vast foyer often throngs with visitors from all corners of the globe – tourists checking in for a guided walk through the great conference chambers at the heart of the building; parties of school children; participants in one of the many conferences taking place; diplomats and members of the international civil service. UN offices all over the world are almost the only spaces that are truly international territory – the land upon which they sit belongs, not to a particular nation but to ‘We the people’s’ – to all the nations.

In these buildings a great fusing process in human relations is gradually emerging as peoples, nations and governments respond to the multi-level challenges of a globalised world. As Article 1.4 of the UN Charter reminds us, one of the four purposes of the organisation is to: *be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of ... common ends*. The UN headquarters are the primary places on the planet where we as a species are coming together and learning to harmonise actions for the common good.

We tend to think of the UN as a space for the interaction of governments – and so it is, yet this is only one part of the picture. Civil society (organised through countless local, national, regional and international bodies) is very much a part of the negotiation and conferencing that takes place at the UN. Along with business, the international civil service and various bodies of professional experts which act as consultants to the UN - civil society is a key partner with governments in achieving the goals of the charter.

Every year one event above all others captures the spirit of the UN as a place where the peoples of the world are engaged in the task of harmonising the actions of nations for the common good: the annual conference of Nongovernmental Organisations (NGO’s) associated with the UN’s Department of Public Information. This years DPI/NGO conference took place from 5 - 7 September, before the opening of the 62nd session of the General Assembly on September 18th.

It was, as always, a large gathering – over 1,700 delegates representing more than 62 countries. The Operation Peace through Unity (OPTU) delegation was one of more than 500 groups attending. OPTU UN representatives, Iris Spellings and Eileen Ain, were joined by Chelsea-Anne Phillips from Wanganui, New Zealand along with colleagues from Russia and Ukraine.

The theme of this years gathering, *Climate Change: How it Impacts Us All*, brought a special energy. It seemed as if we all felt the urgency of the crisis facing humanity and the planet – all felt in some way directly, personally challenged... all felt the need to understand the implications of the science and the call to make changes personally, as well as in our organisations, our local communities, our governments.

This spirit of the 2007 NGO Conference was perfectly captured in the Opening Session when delegates gathered in the magical space of the General Assembly Hall. Outgoing General Assembly President, Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa from Bahrain (the third woman

and the first Arab Muslim woman to serve in this role) spoke of the ‘radical change in behaviour and consciousness’ required for a comprehensive global response to the climate change threat that keeps within the timelines and goals of the international development agenda. While affirming that the UN is an ‘intergovernmental organisation’, she reminded delegates that ‘it draws its strength and inspiration from the support of civil society worldwide’.

Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme – UNEP, delivering the keynote address, spoke of the remarkable opportunities of climate change:

Whether you are rich or poor; whether you are northern or southern; small-island or large land-locked nation; farmer or industrialist -- climate change or global warming with all its consequences is a challenge to your existence, to your life, to your dreams about the future and the dreams of our children. No one can escape from climate change and more importantly we cannot solve it unless everyone on this planet joins forces. I do not believe we have had ever in the history of human kind such a challenge ...

This is an issue -- a phenomenon -- of change of such gravity and such far-reaching consequences, that it touches on probably all the aspects of the work represented in this Hall. In that sense it is not just another issue but I believe it is the transformative issue of the early part of the century. Transformative in a number of ways: Transformative in that it challenges a century of environment verses economics and of economy versus the planet. In other words it stands on its head all that we have been taught throughout the 20th century....

Climate change is starting to bridge that intellectual divide -- ecologists are becoming more informed economists and economists are becoming more intelligent environmentalists. It is also challenging other notions including a fundamental paradigm that I know is very dear to all of you – namely, equity. Colleagues; climate change is a fundamental challenge to notions of global equity, inter-generational equity and equity between rich and poor. It questions the premise upon which some of our societies have built their social and political models over the centuries.

Mr. Steiner cited Denmark, Germany and Brazil as models of what can be achieved. Over 25 years Denmark’s GDP has grown by more than 70% without using one additional kilowatt of electricity. In the 1990s Germany was a non entity in the energy renewables industry – today it is the world’s number one wind power energy producer. Brazil has created one of the cleanest electricity matrixes on the planet.

A large event like this works through a number of different spaces. There are times when everyone meets together in plenaries, when the size of the group and its diversity makes one think of the human family as a whole. Major speeches are delivered and the element of ritual is strong (especially in the charged environment of the General Assembly Hall). More targeted themes were explored in a series of seven Roundtables over the three days, usually with two running at the same time. Here, with the large group divided in two, there were presentations from panelists and plenty of time for feedback and comment from the participants. And every day saw a series of Midday Workshops where there was

more chance to meet others and participate strongly in the discussion and thinking through.

Roundtable themes included: the scientific evidence for climate change; the role of indigenous people, culture and traditional knowledge; water security and climate change; best land use practices for coping with climate change; the economics and politics of energy and climate change; proposals for streamlining the UN system's approach to climate change negotiations and action; sustainable development, accountability and ethical standards.

It was during the 33 workshops that one could sense the greatest buzz of engagement and conversation. Each workshop was a co-operative endeavor – put on by a partnership of NGO's, often involving a collaboration between groups from North and South. Themes included: migrants and climate change; good human rights practices in mitigating the effects of climate change; spiritual responsibility and environmental sustainability; the call for Ministries or Departments of Peace in responding to the challenges of climate change; organic solutions to climate change; sustainable energy solutions and eco-village communities; the ethical and spiritual response to climate change; culture of peace, education, the arts and climate change; lessons to be learned from the Montreal Protocol

For the first time ever (this was the 60th annual DPI/NGO Conference at the UN) participants also took part in planning and agreeing to a final Conference Declaration. This committed NGO's to engage in a process of networking and collaboration over the next twelve months culminating in an agreed NGO Framework of Action; commending Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for his leadership in making climate change a major priority; and recommending actions by governments, business, the UN and civil society.

For texts of speeches given and the final Declaration visit the Conference website: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/>. Archive videos are also available of plenary sessions and roundtables at: <http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection/conference/Webcast.htm>.

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III. “Global Alliance” Midday Workshop at United Nations NGO/DPI Conference in NY

Thursday September 6.

Report by Anne Creter, organizer and moderator.

Peace ON Earth Must Also Be, Peace WITH Earth

The Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace was recently featured at the United Nations within the NGO community during this year's 60th annual DPI/NGO Conference held in New York from September 5-7, 2007. The historic and timely conference theme was “Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All.” Several members of the U.S. delegation, along with a youth delegate from Ghana presented a “standing room only” Midday Workshop to an enthusiastic audience. It was entitled: **A Solution to the Challenge of Climate Change: Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace.**

The Midday Workshops are an integral, enhancing part of the conference where individual NGO's have the opportunity to share their work on related topics and in the case of this year's theme, offer solutions. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon made history earlier this year by stating climate change has implications for peace and security. He said governments must provide collaborative responses for global prevention. Because a country's Secretary or Minister of Peace could offer strategies for non-violent resolution of security-related conflicts arising from environmental concerns (like scarcity of natural resources or global warming), this was a perfect opportunity for the Global Alliance to present a workshop at the United Nations about our exciting, rapidly evolving global movement to create infrastructure for peace.

The workshop was organized and moderated by Anne Creter, MSW, LSW who, because of various NGO affiliations at the United Nations in New York, was able to obtain the necessary workshop sponsor and 5 co-sponsorships to be considered for presentation. The International Public Policy Institute was sponsor, co-sponsored by the National Service Conference of American Ethical Union, The Ribbon International, Operation Peace Through Unity, Association of World Citizens and the NGO Committee on UN Sports for Peace. There were even five additional co-sponsors ... Children of the Earth, Aquarian Age Community, Values Caucus, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization and the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns. All these generous sponsorships are greatly appreciated!

Anne Creter welcomed the participants and started with a moment of silence. She gave a brief overview, making the sometimes dubious connection between climate change and peace, referring to this concept from the Earth Charter. She mentioned the 5 packet handouts which included: Global Alliance flyer (www.mfp-dop.org); a small piece relating Climate Change to Departments / Ministries of Peace; a scholarly article entitled "Climate Change and Peace" written by Canadian Department of Peace Spokesperson and Chair of the Global Alliance Dr. Saul Abbess; plus information on the NGO project to obtain a UN General Assembly Resolution encouraging departments/ministries of peace within member states, including the New Zealand draft which has gotten much acclaim there*. Also included was a relevant Quaker Earthcare Witness brochure about how Peace witness and Eco-witness are two sides of the same coin.

The distinguished panelists were ... the brilliant Marianne Perez, MA (Youth Working Group of the Global Alliance and Youth Liaison of the U.S. Delegation) who delighted everyone with her "orange" exercise demonstrating conflict resolution ... the ever-inspiring Dorothy J. Maver, PhD (Global Alliance Steering Committee and Director of Peace Alliance) who passionately advocated for governmental structures to support a culture of peace ...and the sparkling Nina Meyerhof, Ed.D (Children of the Earth President and U.S Global Alliance Delegate) who uplifted everyone with her remarkable work teaching peace to children around the world. Aaron Voldman (Youth Working Group of the Global Alliance and Youth Liaison of U.S. Delegation) was unable to be there at the last minute due to a back-to-college conflict. In his place was the dynamic Sammy Jacobs Abbey who movingly shared his personal Global Alliance challenges and joys as part of the youth peace movement in his country of Ghana. The panel perfectly fulfilled conference urgings to have young presenters, particularly from other countries. The piece-de-resistance was special participant Chelsea-Anne Phillips, a youth delegate from New Zealand who represented one of the workshop NGO co-sponsors, Operation

Peace Through Unity (OPTU). She brought with her the draft UN New Zealand resolution calling for departments and ministries of peace (mentioned previously) which she presented to the group. It was wonderful that she could meet in person with Dorothy Prunhuber of The Ribbons International, (another workshop co-sponsor) who has been instrumental in planning the UN “Department/Ministry of Peace Resolution” project within the NGO community. This vital connection turned out to be just one of many significant global networking “partnership for peace” opportunities that resulted from the workshop.

A significant Conference outcome in general was the “Conference Declaration: Climate Change Threats – An NGO Framework for Action” document onto which all NGO’s were invited to provide input. Special cards were handed out soliciting “comments” in 25 words or less. Out of the 2, 700 participants from all over the world, 60 people filled one of these cards out. A committee pored over them all and put together the Declaration which was read and voted on by all NGOs present in the closing session.

Of the 60 cards submitted, one read like this: “**Obtain a Resolution in the United Nations General Assembly encouraging Departments and Ministries of Peace as (a) missing pillar in making peace WITH, thus ON earth.**” Unfortunately, such specific language did not make the final cut included in the Declaration. Yet in a generic sense, it was addressed by the many references throughout the document of the need for governments to take responsibility for solutions to climate change before it is too late.

The good news is that, like having a Midday Workshop listed in the official UN program booklet, this was yet another opportunity for NGO officials to hear about the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace – which is still relatively unknown within some NGO circles. Yet now because of this workshop, the Global Alliance is certainly more well-established and understood at the UN, which indeed strengthens the foundation for eventually obtaining the much desired UN Resolution!!

**full text of OPTU’s resolution can be read at*
http://www.peacethroughunity.info/ministry_unresolution.html
Anne Creter: annecrets@aol.com

May Peace Prevail On Earth

IV. The Ockenden Story

The story began in the 1950s when people in Britain were facing the many challenges of the post war years. 1951 was chosen as the Festival of Britain Year and people were putting their minds to the best way to celebrate it, but in one small town in Surrey, Woking, something different was taking place. In a large house called Ockenden groups of 16 to 18 year olds from schools around the UK were meeting with a teacher of history, Joyce Pearce and a number of eminent thinkers of the time and discussing why it was that history seemed to be constantly teaching about wars and dreadful evils that were never supposed to happen again, yet in the aftermath of the war just ended terrible events were being revealed. The Sixth Formers led by their young teacher put their minds to work on what they could do to deal with this and offer some hope for the future. At one particular conference pictures on television showed some of the dreadful conditions people were living in the refugee camps of Eastern Europe. The result of seeing these pictures

something that Joyce called "creative thinking" took over and the group suggested bringing some of the youngsters from the camps to Woking for a holiday. Joyce took this idea to Woking Council and they agreed to support it as part of the town's contribution to the Festival of Britain. Seventeen young people from these camps came to Woking and were entertained in Ockenden. However, sooner or later they had to return to the same awful camps and it was this sadness and despair that moved Joyce Pearce and her friend Margaret Dixon to decide that more must be done.

The complications of selecting and then bringing children to England to stay for care and education took faith and courage for everyone, in particular the parents of the children. Eventually five girls arrived in Woking and their education and care began. Joyce and Margaret were assisted by Joyce's cousin Ruth Hicks who had taken over a small school in Woking called Greenfield. The arrival of the "First Five" was the beginning of the story of The Ockenden Venture, which in time transformed the lives of thousands of people in all parts of the world. Ockenden Venture became a registered charity in 1955.

Joyce would say she had no idea what the next step would be but she believed in the working of the Holy Spirit and she would say yes to something even when she did not have the resources only the belief. In this way Ockenden grew and reached out to refugees and displaced people in countries such as: Poland, Latvia, Tibet, Vietnam, Sudan, Afghanistan, Laos, Biafra, Hungary, Macau, Tanzania, Chile, Bosnia, to mention only a few. In some cases children and families were brought to England for care and sometimes re-settlement, in other situations individuals and families were given training in their home countries and helped to become self-sufficient. The founders and their volunteers were untiring in their dedication to Ockenden's vision of home, health and education for all, some of Joyce's favourite phrases were "There is always something you can do", "Compassion can rise above politics in the face of human need". She was to prove both these beliefs many times over.

Towards the end of Joyce's life she began to look to the future. Things were changing fast in the world of refugees and in the political responses to them. In 1984 she launched a manifesto called "A Strategy Of Hope For A World In Crisis". This manifesto (see below) was launched in the House of Commons by Prince Sadrudin Aga Khan. Joyce died in 1985. Ockenden Venture continued its work in the UK and overseas until in 1996 under a new director, the name Ockenden Venture was changed to Ockenden International and work in the UK came to an end the concentration being on work overseas. Ockenden International has now decided to end its project work and take on the role of a grant making body.

However, it seems that the Strategy of Hope launched in 1984 remains alive. This year The Woking Community Play Association has decided to produce a community play about Ockenden's work. This is a huge challenge because through the story of Ockenden must shine the whole spirit of The Strategy of Hope for a World in Crisis. The research group set up to prepare the content of the play will be reaching out around the world for inspiration. The fund raising group will be seeking funds to make this play into a real force for good through the Strategy and will be seeking a professional writer of community plays. The publicity group is keen to inspire the local people to take the story to their hearts so that when the production itself begins we shall have huge community support.

This play is our new venture but one still based on the hope and belief that through it a more compassionate, loving, fairer world will - in time - emerge. For The Woking Community Play Association this is our strategy.

Note: This article has been written by Ailsa Moore, friend of the three founders and director of Ockenden Venture from 1988 to 1995. Anyone who can give support in any way is invited to contact Ailsa. Address is 5, Midhope Gardens, Woking. Surrey. GU22 7TZ UK. Email: ailsamoore@tinyworld.co.uk

V. Manifesto

A Strategy of Hope for a World in Crisis

As this world is experiencing changes faster than at any other time in human history, we declare our hope in the world to come. The new world awaits our decision, our faith, our work, our compassion.

Fellow citizens, the world of our dreams is within our reach,
a world without hunger,
a world without war
a world without homelessness,
a world without anxiety about pollution,
disease and vanishing resources.

It is madness to poison the earth, its air and its waters.
It is madness to pile arms upon arms.
It is madness to make the poor even poorer.
It is madness to destroy the trees and turn
the green land to desert.
It is madness to deny food, work, dignity and
respect to our fellows.

We call upon all the citizens in the family of the coming world to live in peace, to care for their fellows and their world, to share the new vision with their children, and to celebrate world-wide this new age for humanity.

Our hope is simple and grounded in what is possible:

We CAN live in peace;
There is enough food and resources;
Clean energy CAN be made in abundance.

We DO NOT accept that our world has to be one of suffering and strife, for we have seen the beauty and the unity that will transform our global home.

VI. Third Arab Renaissance

In an article distributed by the Common Ground News Service, HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal shares his belief that the time has come for the emergence of a 'third renaissance'.

Twice before in times of great challenges and difficulties, has an Arab renaissance revived the spirit of hope, but although the vision and the words of the enlightened sources of wisdom will forever continue to inspire, the suffering and violence caused by ethnic, sectarian, religious and other discord has led to the absence of values and standards.

Prince El Hassan bin Talal believes that, having learnt from past mistakes and transgressions, the third renaissance *'should begin with the concept of citizenship and should culminate with a charter of hope: an Arab Citizen's Charter, a document to clarify duties, rights and responsibilities for individuals and groups'*.

It is hoped that such an Arab Citizen's Charter might be achieved, even if in broad terms, at the 'Citizenship in the Arab Nation' conference, hosted by the Annual Intellectual Symposium of the Arab Thought Forum in April 2008 in the Kingdom of Morocco.

The article speaks of the many dimensions to a full and proper citizenship as referred to in the Arab Citizen's Charter, and defines these as:

"The Human Dimension: compassion; solidarity; cooperation; gender equality; rejection of all forms of discrimination; freedom; and the right to choose and practice one's faith.

The Democratic Dimension: freedom to choose political authority; peaceful deliberation over authority; emphasizing the participatory concept – in both the public and private dimensions; empowering democratic actors and the public and enhancing a democratic climate in various ways, so that democracy does not remain a mere slogan or a hollow term; honouring the principle and practice of plurality, based on a profound awareness of diversity and difference within a civilized framework that absorbs cultural, religious, ethnic, tribal and sectarian distinction: diversity within the framework of unity.

The Environmental Dimension: preserving and protecting the environment; nurturing the earth; and recognizing its capacity and limitations.

The Legal and Constitutional Dimension: respect for law, constitutions and standards that guarantee individuals and groups freedom of expression."

The aspiration is to firmly establish a 'full and meaningful citizenship, with a charter that guarantees equal rights for individuals and groups to participate in decision-making, share the wealth of the state and enjoy an equal presence in the public space.'

Prince El Hassan bin Talal, brother of the late King Hussein of Jordan, and chairman of many different organizations, from diplomacy and interfaith studies to science and technology, concludes the article by saying: *" Let us, at the very least, contemplate a transitional citizenship, along the concepts of transitional democracy and justice, in order to open a window of hope, so that these ideas spread to all Arab citizens"*.

The full article can be read at

http://www.commongroundnews.org/print_article.php?artId=22093&dir=left&lan=en

VII. Communique of the Third Global Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace, Japan 2007

Summit Calls for Ministries and Departments of Peace in All Nations

The 3rd Global Summit for Ministries and Departments of Peace took place September 21-26 in Kisarazu and Tokyo, Japan. This extraordinary event began on the International Day of Peace and Global Ceasefire declared by the UN. It featured 21 country delegations*, representing both civil society and parliamentarians, from all five continents, including Nepal, which became the second country after the Solomon Islands to form a Ministry of Peace, and Rwanda, a country that experienced genocide in 1994. The event was sponsored by the Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace numbering more than 25 countries and hosted by its Japanese member, Japan United for Ministry of Peace (JUMP).

Ministries and Departments of Peace are dedicated to creating a culture of peace within and between countries where the Ministers of Peace would meet to reduce violence and war through non-violent conflict resolution.

A principal purpose of this Summit in Japan was to support the peaceful nature of the Japanese Constitution, now under review, and to advocate that all countries create peace constitutions.

Over the four days of meeting, the summit heard reports from each country, carried out a series of intensive training towards the formation of Ministries and Departments of Peace within their respective governments, and resolved to witness the creation of at least two more ministries by the next Summit, with Costa Rica as the most likely to declare. *“This summit empowered each one of the participants and gave the Global Alliance the power to go forward”*, said Yumi Kikuchi, founder and chair of JUMP.

At the summit the Africa Alliance for Peace emerged, initiated by delegates from Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda.

The Global Alliance calls for structures in governments and civil society that support a culture of peace, working together with all sectors in each country, especially youth, towards that goal.

* Countries represented were: *Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, UK and USA*

The 2008 Summit will take place in Australia. For more on the Summit in Japan contact Yumi Kikuchi of Japan United for Ministry for Peace (JUMP), a member of Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace (e-mail: info@ministryofpeace.jp)

VIII. UN Conference on Climate Change **Bali 3-14 December**

It is estimated that this conference will be attended by more than 10,000 participants and some 130 Environment Ministers.

This conference intends to provide the widest possible platform for discussions on a wide range of issues regarding the impacts of climate change and also for starting a process of comprehensive negotiations on a new climate change agreement so that it can be ready and in place as the current phase of the Kyoto Protocol comes to an end (2012).

The report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), launched on 17 November, will be formally presented to the Bali Conference. A summary of this IPCC Fourth Assessment Report, which is based on the assessment carried out by 3 working groups, will provide Policymakers with an easy-to-read overview of their findings and a guide to the scientific data on the wide ranging effects of climate change on our planet, while also offering direction as to ways on how to deal with these effects.

The report makes it clear beyond any doubt that climate change is a reality, and that it will affect developing countries the most. It also unequivocally states that climate change will seriously affect the eco-systems as well as the economic and social development worldwide.

Another comprehensive report, published October this year, which will also provide valuable information for the Bali conference is the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Environment Outlook 4 (GEO-4). Published 20 years after the World Commission on Environment and Development produced "Our Common Future" (the so-called Brundtland Report) it shows some of the real progress made since 1987 but points to the 'huge challenges' that must be met and dealt with.

In 8 chapters the GEO-4 deals with the state of the global environment, assesses the current state of the global atmosphere, land, water and biodiversity and tells the world that, common to all regions, is the fact that: *'the world's population has reached a stage where the amount of resources needed to sustain it exceeds what is available... humanity's footprint is 21.9 hectares/person, while the Earth's biological capacity is, on average, only 15.7 hectares/person....On a regional level the differences in footprint are profound...'* (quote taken from the GEO-4 - media brief)

The final chapter reiterates the statement in the Brundtland Report that the world does not face separate global crises – 'the environmental crisis'; the 'development crisis'; the 'energy crisis – they are all one. In conclusion the GEO-4 appeals to all peoples for joint as well as individual action, saying that *"while governments are expected to take the lead, other stakeholders are just as important to ensure success in achieving sustainable development. The need couldn't be more urgent and the time couldn't be more opportune, with our enhanced understanding of the challenges we face to act now to safeguard our own survival and that of future generations"* (GEO-4 is available from www.unep.org/geo/geo4/)

The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon underscored this point in his address to the United States Chamber of Commerce (October 2007) saying that *'we need an enhanced global response to climate change, involving strong mitigation, large-scale adaptation, classical and innovative sources of financing, and an unprecedented push for developing and disseminating climate-friendly technologies.'*

The Secretary-General also pointed to the responsibility of 'those who have benefited from industrialization for many years now' and who also have contributed more to the problem will need to show leadership in addressing it. And the developing countries which are now industrializing 'should be offered incentives to commit to clean growth, so that their drive towards higher standards of living and poverty alleviation is not endangered.'

At the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference in Bali, the international community will be 'entering into an exciting 'design phase' of the post-2012 regime and needs input from the business community on key design choices and policy options' said Ban Ki-moon.

Although the Bali Conference is not expected to deliver a fully negotiated and agreed climate agreement it aims to start the process getting agreements on the key areas that the new climate deal should cover, such as mitigation (including avoided deforestation), adaptation, technology and financing. (e-mail: jhay@unfccc.int)

Said Ban Ki-moon: *Today, the world's scientists have spoken, clearly and with one voice. In Bali, I expect the world's policymakers to do the same*

IX. Simultaneous Policy (Simpol): Rediscovering the Sense of our Collective Humanity

Excerpt from a Simpol-UK press release, 12th October 2007: *Citizens use their votes to drive international support for global justice*

'Citizens have found a new and powerful way of voting which drives politicians and nations to cooperate in solving global problems such as climate change, unfair trade and unsustainability. By supporting the Simultaneous Policy (SP), a global campaign aimed at getting governments to act together, citizens in the UK parliamentary constituency of Birmingham Sparkbrook and Small Heath today prompted Roger Godsiff, the constituency's Labour MP, to sign a pledge to implement SP alongside other governments. He joins twenty-one other MPs from all the main UK political parties who have signed the Pledge so far. MPs in other countries are also signing on.

Concerned at the inability of governments to unilaterally implement stringent environmental controls for fear of capital and jobs moving to other countries, the Simultaneous Policy is to be implemented *simultaneously*, only when all or sufficient governments have signed up. In this way, supporting SP is no-wish either for politicians or citizens and is helping to build international and cross-party support while opening the way to more robust measures being adopted than those presently envisaged under relatively weak agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol.

While many MPs support SP on its merits, citizens who support SP, known as Adopters, provide a vital electoral incentive by undertaking to vote at elections for *any* candidate, within reason, who has signed the pledge to implement SP alongside other governments, or to encourage their preferred party to support SP. In this way, while harmful competition between nations is eliminated, electoral competition between candidates is intensified so that politicians who fail to support SP risk losing their seats to those who do. With an increasing number of parliamentary seats and even entire national elections being won or lost on fine margins, only a relatively small number of Adopters may be needed to make it in the vital interests of all politicians to support SP. Citizens in all democratic countries are seeing SP as a way of seizing the political initiative and of driving even uncooperative politicians and nations, such as the U.S. administration, towards the internationally co-operative solution that SP provides.’

Adopting SP is free. http://www.simpol.org/en/main/Concept_FS.htm .
More information at: www.simpol.org email: info@simpol.org.uk

X. A Culture of Peace *poem*

The following poem, written by Meg Hartfield, Wanganui, was dedicated to the opening of the “Building a Culture of Peace: for the children of the world” exhibition in the Wanganui Community Arts Centre (New Zealand) 10 November 2007, where it was shown for 3 weeks. This exhibition was created by Soka Gakkai International.

A Culture of Peace –
our customs - peace-filled
our institutions - peace-filled
our achievements - peace-filled
all that we think, all that we say, all that we do - peace-filled.

As the child learns to build
brightly-coloured blocks precariously balanced
So is our world precariously balanced
hatred, greed, violence, famine, flood, suffering,
black blocks of indifference

These must be toppled, supplanted
Forming new patterns Of light and colour,
Airy spaces, where souls can grow and be free
perfectly fitting together in love invincible –
a world of peace for the children
and their children - and their children’s children –
This is our dream - And our resolve

XII The Great Invocation

From the point of Light within the Mind of God
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men
May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known
Let purpose guide the little wills of men –
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the plan on Earth.