

# *Many to Many*

A Quarterly Publication

Issued by

**Operation Peace  
Through Unity**

Accredited NGO in  
association with the UN  
Department of Public  
Information

*“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.*

**Issue Number 109**

**September 2009**

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## I. *Readiness*

Inherent within each nucleus, each seed, resides an ever-present readiness to express life. And in response to stimulus the indwelling urge to unfold and reveal the hidden design will become irresistible: again and again life will take advantage of every opportunity to perfect the inner potential in visible image and physical form.

So the general state of upheaval and collapse in today's world could be the sign of such stirrings within humanity - and within the entire planetary environment - of new things to come. The world could well be readying itself for deeply transformative changes about to take place, and humanity be waking up to the need for showing the courage to use the collective wisdom and skill for the greater good, and to accept that piecemeal solutions to matters concerning the welfare of the planetary whole are no longer acceptable.

As the world community prepares for the Summit on Climate Change, it is not only the voice of leaders, but also that of the women, men and children throughout the entire world that will be contributing to the discussions. We are becoming acutely aware of the interconnectedness of all lives within a shared environment, and we are also increasingly prepared to acknowledge our dependence on the living and breathing entity which sustains and provides for us all – the Being we call Planet Earth. But although humanity since ancient times has paid homage to the Mother, we – her children – have yet to show real understanding and consideration for the development of her own unique inner potential; the evolutionary journey and destiny of our Mother Earth. And while realizing that our health depends on that of the planet, we habitually continue to plunder, spoil and exploit the common habitat.

It could be the feverish activity on all fronts of modern living that have made us somewhat insensitive to the stirrings deep within; the awakening desire for new expression. But even if our daily activities may draw our attention to immediate concerns, the increasing number of people around the world who are envisioning and preparing for the emergence of a new world community are themselves the living proof of that for which they hope.

A long revered Teacher of Ageless Wisdom has said that *“as a gardener grows new fruit and fertilizes the soil, so let us be ready to assist the new and regulate the old”*, and the Teacher assures all those *‘who shake their heads in unbelief’* of the: *‘great readiness of young forces’*. Any teacher of the young is urged to be *aglow*, so that the teaching can be passed on *fierily*, because *“the happiness of the Teacher is in encouraging the disciples to dare toward Beauty”*.

For eons the Earth has served the needs of continuously evolving forms of life. It has provided the seasons and climates that have allowed for development and renewal of species, and for the eternal striving toward perfection. For ages humanity has thus been given the opportunity to aspire toward new horizons and to consciously include more and more of the universe in which Life is unfolding inner divine intent. And each year is taking us deeper into the Age of Aquarius, in which the human being may come to demonstrate how to share and how to serve - how to develop into the water carrier.

So, when humanity meets in December at the Copenhagen Climate Summit, let us take time to create a climate of mutuality and to get in touch with the ‘readiness of young forces’ within ourselves. Let us be aglow with the expectations of growing new fruit and take the opportunity at hand to regulate the old. Let us dare toward Beauty!

## ***II. Let Copenhagen be the Turning Point***

II.

Some 20 UN agencies, including UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank Group and others, have issued a joint statement to the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development (June 2009), in which they call on all nations to *'let Copenhagen be the turning point for ushering in a global green economy'*.

The statement points out that the solidarity of the international community is being sorely tested and that the ultimate test will come in December, at the Copenhagen Summit, where nations are expected to come to an agreement on a new climate change pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol.

Presenting the statement on behalf of the agencies, Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, said: *'this rapid harmonization of perspectives from so many agencies reflects their determination to be agents of change towards a sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> century'*, adding that *'delivering a transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient Green Economy cannot occur without the creativity, vision, actions and support of a broad cross-section of society.'*

The statement underscored the need for education *'to pave the way for sustainable development through training for new job skills and for newly-required health systems'*.

***"We're trying to communicate that climate change is very, very serious, but hey, by the way, this is an incredible economic opportunity"***

*Steven Chu, Political Scientist and U.S. Secretary of Energy*

## ***III. Global Climate Week, 21-25 September 2009***

The Climate Week will coincide with the UN Secretary-General's High Level Summit on Climate Change on 22 September, and synchronised activities will take place in more than 100 cities throughout the world, urging world leaders *'to seal a fair and effective climate agreement at the UN Conference on Climate Change in Copenhagen this December'*.

Cities, organisations, groups and individuals are invited to participate, and asked to enter their Global Climate Week pledge at [www.sealthedeal2009.org](http://www.sealthedeal2009.org)

### **Seal the Deal!**

The Seal the Deal campaign's aim is to mobilize the support of millions of individuals, businesses, community groups and other organisations from around the world, which would stimulate the political will to reach a comprehensive global climate agreement at the Copenhagen Summit in December 2009.

To this end the campaign, initiated by the United Nations, encourages individuals, groups, NGOs and organisations worldwide, to sign an online, global petition which will be presented to the world leaders, urging them *'to seal a deal to power green growth, protect our planet and build a more sustainable, prosperous global economy that will benefit all nations and all people'*. For more information contact: Contact the campaign team at: [sealthedeal@unep.org](mailto:sealthedeal@unep.org)

#### ***IV. Our Vision City of Copenhagen***

In its Vision statement of 2007 the City of Copenhagen has stated the aspiration to show global leadership within the environmental field, because *'this is an imperative for good quality of life, for future generations and for the survival of the animal kingdom'*.

Furthermore *"Copenhagen will be a major city which lives and breathes because of its concern for the environment, not in spite of it. The municipality will lead the way and its citizens will contribute actively to improving the environment through their daily activities"*. The visions and goals of Copenhagen will be included and specified in the municipality's other work, e.g. the Municipal Plan and the Agenda 21 Plan. (<http://www.miljoemetropolen.kk.dk> )

#### ***V. International Youth Conference on Climate Change Daejeon, the Republic of Korea***

During the Daejeon Youth Conference, organized by UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and attended by some 800 young people from around the world, a strong commitment was made to continue to make every effort to ensure that the issues and challenges posed by Climate Change remain an international priority.

The gathering also agreed on the text of a Declaration entitled: Listen to Our Voices: The Future Needs Strong Vision and Leadership, which opens with the words: *"We, young people – 3 billion of the world population – are concerned and frustrated that our governments are not doing enough to combat climate change. We feel that radical and holistic measures are needed urgently from us all"*. It stresses that *"climate change has serious consequences not only for ecosystems, but also for human health, job security and social development"* – but *"together we CAN make a difference."*

Among the Requests to Governments are:

- agree on a more fair, just and action oriented post-Kyoto agreement adopted and implemented by all countries,
- have strict laws and enforcement against those who pollute and degrade the environment, coupled with education and incentives to protect the environment,
- make engaging environmental education mandatory in schools and universities and promote community environmental awareness – an informed public is a powerful public, and
- pay attention to the conflicts that have developed throughout the world and the negative impact it has had on environment and develop conflict resolution strategies.

The Appeal to All Citizens of this Planet includes:

- to pressure governments to take short and medium term positive actions towards a global green economy,
- to use the rights, choices and awareness as consumers to pressure businesses, producers and governments to promote environmentally friendly products and eco-labeling policies (buy local seasonal product, avoid over-packaged and plastic products, purchase from eco-friendly companies), and
- to commit to sustainable lifestyles to reduce one's own carbon footprint.

The Young People themselves will:

- actively commit to undertaking the above action,

- expand their networks to reach out to other youth to organizations and networks to become involved,
- exchange, connect and encourage best practices of young people on climate change
- encourage schools and universities to become eco-friendly, and
- support and promote the efforts of the UN Secretary-General to Seal the Deal in Copenhagen.

*“This statement is the fruit of a diversity of views and voices from young people of different ages and cultures”,* said Achim Steiner, UNEP’s Executive Director, adding: *“We very much hope the spirit set by these young people will be reflected in the negotiations that will take place in December”.* (UN News Service; [www.un.org](http://www.un.org))

***VI. STATE OF THE WORLD FORUM:  
Transforming Conversations that Matter into Actions that Make a Difference  
Belo Horizonte, 4-7 August 2009***

The Belo Horizonte Forum saw the launch of the 2020 Climate Leadership Campaign and the Brazil 2020 Climate Leadership Campaign.

The aim of these new bodies are to:

- catalyze climate leadership everywhere so that people and institutions are empowered to take personal and institutional responsibility for the climate;
- reduce carbon emissions by 80 per cent by 2020 and establish sustainable lifestyles;
- assure all those adopting the 2020 timeline that success can be achieved using existing technologies and that climate leadership will catalyze savings, jobs, opportunities and innovations; and
- provide Rapid Response Teams of specialists to support any city, state or institution joining the 2020 campaign to ensure that climate leadership generates climate prosperity.

Numerous initiatives were announced at the Forum which can be read on [www.worldforum.org](http://www.worldforum.org) and in preparation for the 2010 World Forum a new online global hub has been created (<http://integrallife.com/group/state-world-forum> ) for media and the wider community, where information, initiatives and cooperation can be offered and read.

The 2010 Climate Leadership Summit will take place in Washington, DC, 28 February – 3 March. Jim Garrison, President, State of the World Forum, concluded his Summary from the Belo Horizonte Forum by saying that the focus of the 2010 Summit will be *‘to build on the achievements of Belo Horizonte and demonstrate that the 2020 goal is practicable, achievable, scalable, and leads to prosperity’.*

***VII. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT  
The UN General Assembly discusses the UN Secretary-General’s Report***

As the UN General-Secretary Ban Ki-moon introduced his report on Implementing the Responsibility to Protect (document A/63/677) to the UN General Assembly special session on the theme of the responsibility to protect (21 July), he reminded the Assembly of the Outcome Document from the 2005 World Summit in which Heads of State and Governments had unanimously committed themselves to preventing genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, as well as their incitement, and furthermore had agreed that the international community should assist States in exercising that responsibility. *“This universal and*

*irrevocable commitment was made at the highest level without contradiction or challenge*”, said Ban Ki-moon: *“Our common task now is to deliver on this historic pledge to the peoples of the world”*.

The Secretary-General therefore urged that the ideas and proposals in his report – not the world’s leaders’ solemn commitments – should be the focus of the Assembly’s discussions. *“The question before us is not whether, but how”*.

The report proposes a strategy which rests on ‘three pillars:

1. State responsibility, suggesting that the responsibility to protect is situated squarely under the UN’s roof and within the Charter: *“By developing fully UN strategies, standards, and processes for implementing the responsibility to protect, we can discourage States or groups of States from misusing these principles for inappropriate purposes”*.
2. International assistance and capacity-building, offers a balanced and nuanced approach to prevention and protection that will use the *‘full inventory of tools available to the United Nations and its partners’* and will also seek *‘to spur thinking and policy development on ways the international community can support states’*.
3. Timely and decisive response: acknowledging that this is the most controversial of the three pillars - with the pain and mistrust caused by of past failures to protect making progress difficult - the report proposes plans to engage Member States in a discussion about how to *‘sharpen UN capacities for early warning and assessment’*. Military action must always be a measure of *‘last, not first, resort and should only be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Charter. Moreover, armed groups and non-state actors must be held to the same standards for the responsibility to protect as states in territory under their control’*.

In his address the UN Secretary-General made a passionate plea to the Assembly *‘to resist those who try to change the subject or turn our common effort to curb the worst atrocities in human history into a struggle over ideology, geography or economics’*. Let us offer substance instead of rancor, policy instead of rhetoric and hope instead of despair.

Ban Ki-moon expressed the hope that his report would be seen as forming part of an ongoing dialogue of these difficult issues; *‘building on what has been achieved and setting markers for the future’*. (UN News Service <http://www.un.org/>)

During their debate, 23 July, discussing the text of the Secretary-General’s report, the General Assembly adopted a resolution, which stresses the critical need for a regional approach to conflict prevention in Africa.

The Assembly emphasized the central role of the African Union and sub regional organizations in addressing peace and security issues as it adopted, without a vote, the text on implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General’s report regarding the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa. The Assembly, also by the text, called for the enhancement of the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding, consistent with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). It further called upon Member States to support relevant UN bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission, and to help post-conflict countries make a smooth transition from relief to development.

## ***VIII. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P)***

Among the objectives of the Global Centre and all associated centres throughout the world are:

- *to advance and consolidate the World Summit (2005) consensus on R2P;*
- *to protect the integrity of the R2P concept; and*
- *to build capacity on R2P within international institutions, governments, and regional organizations.*

The Global Centre, created February 2007, is the initiative of the International Crisis Group, Human Rights Watch, Institute for Global Policy, Oxfam International, and Refugees International.

To achieve its objectives the Global Centre undertakes different types of activities, such as:

- promoting research and providing a common knowledge base on R2P;
- supporting and assisting efforts to generate the political will in governments and intergovernmental bodies to respond effectively to new R2P situations as they arise;
- developing close working relationships with key NGOs and relevant units of governments and international regional institutions working on R2P; and
- establishing linkages worldwide with a wide variety of civil society, academic, governmental, and international bodies involved in relevant analysis and research.

Web: [www.GlobalCentreR2P.org](http://www.GlobalCentreR2P.org) Email: [info@GlobalCentreR2P.org](mailto:info@GlobalCentreR2P.org)

## ***IX. World Humanitarian Day – 19 August 2009***

On 11 December 2008, the United Nations General Assembly decided to: *‘designate 19 August as World Humanitarian Day in order to contribute to increasing public awareness about humanitarian assistance activities worldwide and the importance of international cooperation in this regard, as well as to honour all humanitarian and United Nations and associated personnel who have worked in the promotion of the humanitarian cause and those who have lost their lives in the cause of duty, and invites all Member States and the entities of the United Nations system, within existing resources, as well as other international organisations and non-governmental organisations, to observe it annually in an appropriate manner.’*

19 August 2003 was the day when 22 human beings, who had devoted their lives and skills to humanitarian work, were killed in the Canal Hotel bombing in Baghdad. Among these were Sergio Vieira de Mello, one of the most outstanding humanitarians, who had served in Rwanda, Kosovo, East Timor and other troubled places before he joined his colleagues in Baghdad.

This day will each year highlight the selfless and non-political endeavours of all those who work within the most troubled areas of the world community, and who offer their skills and compassion to alleviate the suffering of millions of human beings whose lives are affected by ongoing violence and conflict and suffering the devastating consequences of climate change, chronic poverty, pandemics and population growth. We shall continue, says UN Secretary-General, *“to keep alive the memory of these talented, selfless, compassionate and irreplaceable people. They represent the best of all we stand for”*

This day will each year concentrate on making us all aware of the great magnitude of suffering in the world and, said Ban Ki-moon: *“for my part, I pledge to do all that I can as Secretary-General of United Nations to help victims while protecting the security and independence of those who work so hard to save them”*.

*“These instruments [the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments] provide the necessary building blocks to ensure that our common humanity is an inclusive one, built on values such as tolerance and dignity. The commitments they embody have been accepted voluntarily. It is the responsibility of all to ensure that they are respected”*

*Sergio Vieira de Mello*

## ***X. Global Peace Through Reconciliation Survey***

In honour of both this year’s United Nations declared *International Year of Reconciliation*, and the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns – NY (CSVGC) *Week of Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns*, 26-30 October, 2009, a survey will be offered to random groups of world citizens by the CSVGC Culture of Peace Working Group. Its purpose is to explore the concept of *Global Peace Through Reconciliation*.

Because the *International Year of Reconciliation* is dedicated to “developing reconciliation processes for lasting peace”, the group seeks to explore whether creating governmental peace structures (i.e. ministries/departments of peace) would provide a framework through which reconciliation processes would strengthen global peace... And whether implementation of such peace architecture would be a logical next step that would bring forth what is envisioned in the monumental 1999 United Nations Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. (<http://www.un-documents.net/a53r243.htm> )

It is especially timely to reflect on this as the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010 draws to a close and we look ahead to plan the next decade. It is anticipated that answers from this survey will help determine the best way forward.

The Survey will be introduced at the upcoming **Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace Summit in Costa Rica** on Government Day, September 21, the International Day of Peace: The theme of the day is *Building Bridges of Peace Together: Government-Civil Society Cooperation*. Patricia M. Mische, Ph.D, world-renowned peace educator and co-founder of the NGO Global Education Associates, will discuss "Cooperation between NGO's and the UN." OPTU alternate UN Representative Anne Creter will join her to present the Survey and unveil the proposed draft UN "Ministry & Department of Peace" Resolution Project both she and OPTU UN Representative, Iris Spellings, have been co-leading within the NGO community at UN headquarters for the last two years as co-chairs of the CSVGC Culture of Peace Working Group.

The CSVGC Culture of Peace Working Group will launch the survey during the *CSVGC Week of Spirituality Values and Global Concerns*, 26-30 October at the United Nations in New York. Responses will be reported anonymously and survey results will be posted on the CSVGC website ([www.csvgc-ny.org](http://www.csvgc-ny.org)) around January 2010. If you would like more information about this survey please write to [optu.ny@gmail.com](mailto:optu.ny@gmail.com).



***XI. Fourth Summit  
Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace  
San Jose, Costa Rica – 13-21 September 2009***

The theme chosen for the Summit is ‘*Building Bridges of Peace*’. It will be hosted by the government of Costa Rica (President Oscar Arias, Nobel Peace Laureate) and organized by Global Alliance members in cooperation with the Academy for Peace of Costa Rica, which is sponsored by the Rasur Foundation.

A 5-day course will be offered before the Summit itself (13-17 September), entitled *BePeace*. The Academy for Peace will be facilitating this ‘experimental’ course which will teach participants the practice of BePeace, which is described as “*the synergistic combination of heart-brain coherence through appreciation, with connection to self and others through compassionate communication*”.

A Global Youth Summit will also be held in collaboration with the Global Alliance (16-17 and 22 September) which will be an opportunity to build partnerships between youth organizations.

There will be the opportunity to see more of the country through participating in a 5-day post-Summit Tour of Costa Rica.

For more details write to [summit@mfp-dop.org](mailto:summit@mfp-dop.org)

***XII. A Ministry for Peace and Justice – Costa Rica***

The Fourth Summit could not have wished for a more wonderful lead up to its meeting than the news that the Costa Rican Parliament had just adopted a bill, with no opposition, which will amend the mandate of the current Ministry of Justice to become a Ministry for Peace and Justice and come to include conflict resolution, peace-building and peace-promotion strategies.

The Rasur Foundation has worked tirelessly toward achieving this goal since 2006 and has expressed its joy and gratitude, and also the beautiful timing of the Costa Rican government’s decision.

The Rasur Foundation’s Vision is: ‘*To contribute toward a worldwide culture of peace by strengthening the national model of peace in Costa Rica*. It’s Mission: ‘*to inspire, facilitate and educate toward a culture of peace in Costa Rica*. It’s Core Value: ‘*to live in a creative state of peace while creating a culture of peace*.’

For more information: [info@rasurfoundation.org](mailto:info@rasurfoundation.org). <http://academyforpeacecr.org/facilities.html>

***XIII. 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference  
Mexico City, Mexico, 9-11 September 2009  
For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!***

The title chosen for the 2009 UN Department of Public Information Non-governmental Organisations Conference is ‘For Peace and Development: Disarm Now!’ and will be the second

conference to be held outside the UN Headquarters in New York. This conference is being organized in partnership with the United Nations Department of Public Information, the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, the Government of Mexico and the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs.

The Conference aims to highlight some of the many ways in which civil society, in partnership with other actors, can contribute to the promotion of disarmament and peace, resulting in the promotion of sustainable development. More than 2000 global NGOs are working within the areas of disarmament, human rights, education, climate change, sustainable peace and social justice, and it is hoped that they, as well as others within worlds of business, media, the arts, academia, health care and philanthropy, will be attending the conference.

The organizers pose the question: “*World leaders tell us that billions are needed to safeguard ‘national security’, but how can the world be secure when people are hungry, thirsty, illiterate, unemployed and living in fear?*”, underscoring the urgency for the Conference participants to agree on practical solutions and strategies, which can help the world community become a healthier and safer place for all.

Keynote speakers will highlight the theme, and it is hoped that the exchange of ideas throughout the three-day conference will contribute to raise public awareness on these urgent issues and stimulate civil society to significantly ‘*influence the global discussions and lay the groundwork for the all-important 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference*’ ([www.unngodpiconference.org](http://www.unngodpiconference.org))

#### ***XIV. 2009 World Appreciative Inquiry Conference*** ***Kathmandu, Nepal, 16 – 19 November 2009*** **Creating A Positive Revolution for Sustainable Change**

The Conference will seek to find better ways to create a vibrant, peaceful, sustainable, and flourishing world community and explore factors that will promote global health, peace and welfare.

Living in a world steeped in interlocking challenges affecting us all one way or another, there are those who are already beginning to feel that we may be ‘*on the verge of a global shift in which there is a renewal of hope and optimism*’. The ‘Conference Overview’ suggests that this is a ‘strength revolution’ that is “*well complemented by Appreciative Inquiry and other strength-based positive change models of organizational change*”.

The Conference will address questions such as:

- How can Appreciative Inquiry (AI) and other strength-based approaches support the present day developmental challenges of the world?
- How can AI and other strength-based approaches contribute to bringing social justice, addressing equality and reducing gaps between rich and poor?
- How can we leverage the lessons about the transformative power of AI that have already been experienced in businesses and organizations to address the pressing environmental needs of our planet?
- How can we link the power of AI and other strength-based approaches to the most pressing issues of a global change agenda – from improving health and education to creating sustainable communities and deeper personal development?

Honorary Chair for the 2009 World AI Conference is David L. Cooperrider, Professor, Case Western Reserve University. For more details on the Conference see

Nepal has brought to a close a decade-long conflict and is now in the process of drafting a new Constitution through democratically elected Constituent Assembly Members who proportionately represent almost all ethnic groups in the country.

***“Everything has beauty, but not all eyes can capture it”***

*Jagadish Ghimire, Nepal*

### **What is Appreciative Inquiry?**

Appreciative Inquiry is a strength-based approach to change; it focuses on appreciating and then leveraging an organisation’s core strengths rather than seeking to overcome or minimize its weaknesses.

AI suggest that there is another, more powerful model for organizational change, that treats organizations as mysteries to be embraced rather than problems to be solved.

## ***XV. Nation Building: Working With the Divine Plan***

*Building a nation is like nurturing a human being from the state of infancy to the adult stage when the human being becomes a responsible and productive member of his community.*

Harry Juwe has lived most of his life in his native Nigeria, a state created by the British in the colonial era. In his new book, *Nation Building: Working With the Divine Plan*, he discusses the incredibly challenging task facing Nigerians (and so many nationals of other developing countries) who want to lead their compatriots on the path towards mature and responsible nationhood. The problems are laid out, along with practical ideas of possible ways forward in chapters on governance, education, poverty eradication, environment and healthcare and so on. Many of the ideas have been developed and explored over the years by groups meeting together in programs sponsored by the Nigerian Group for Goodwill.

Nigeria is a country where it is said that a new religion is born every day – the psyche is deeply imbued with a mystical and mythical sensitivity. So it is especially appropriate that Harry Juwe explores the very practical issues of nation building from a universal spiritual perspective. What he is looking at is how to promote sustainable development in every area of society in a way that fosters a vibrant ethical spirit, and is imbued with the wholeness vision.

*From the testimonies and teachings of all the major world faiths and religions ... we know that God is the essence of all Goodness, and therefore that whatsoever may be His planned purpose and intention for humanity and other forms of life on earth, this must be good also. With this in mind the development of the nation (any nation) is understood in terms of the general good of the nation and her people, and for humanity as a whole.*

*In this universe, every process of building has a definite place in the divine Plan because the evolutionary process is essentially a building one in which many individual parts are brought together and, under law, integrated and synthesized to form a larger whole that will embody and express some higher purpose.*

Discussing the Psychological Rehabilitation of Nations, Harry Juwe notes that Nigeria, like many developing countries, is a relatively new entity. While most developed nations have passed through thousands of years of challenges, sufferings, wars and hardships Nigeria (now the most populous country in Africa) was ‘assembled’ by the British in 1914, less than a hundred years ago. It is not surprising that different entities in the developing countries often *still see themselves as different ethnic groups fighting for their rights and for superiority over others*. The personality of the country is still in process of coming together and integrating itself as a nation – and this is happening throughout the developing world *in the midst of want, increasing poverty, international marginalisation, discrimination, internal strife, corruption and mismanagement*. Progress will come as a result of the activities of enlightened people of goodwill within the country and throughout the world.

In analyzing the causes of the social problems facing the developing world Harry Juwe draws extensively on the research and programmes of the United Nations. The same is true of his exploration of practical ways forward – but here the reader is also often treated with proposals that may not be so well known. In the excellent chapter on Education, for example, we learn that the system in Nigeria has suffered decades of decay. Ethical aspects have been neglected so that education has become *more like a lifeless certification process and a hopeful means to earn a livelihood*. Even the *husk* of the system that remains *has become defected and corrupted*. Yet nation building requires a system that promotes sustainable development, empowering people to move out of poverty while also fostering their enlightenment, their creativity and their skills in the art of living. Money we are told needs to be allocated to education – and for this to happen *the issue of taxation must be addressed urgently*.

Some private schools do offer a high quality of education for the wealthy, but *this creates its own unique and serious societal problems: it breeds unhealthy competition and encourages more corruption because every family desires the best for their children and will do all they can to get it; besides it further deepens the cleavage between the haves and have-nots within the society ....*

The news on education is not all bad. It is inspiring to read of the three decade long National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) government program (<http://www.nysc.gov.ng/index.php>). All Nigerian graduates are required to spend a year of national service following their graduation with the stipulation that they must complete this service in a state other than the one of their birth. This has played a strong role in fostering unity between different tribal and language groups. *As a result of this project, intermarriages between different tribes and tongues are now commonplace and gradually this is promoting unity ....*

The book includes a series of proposals for future curricula in Nigeria developed during a group discussion, and it discusses the relevance of UNESCO’s Education for All program. It also includes details of the not so well known World Core Curriculum developed by former UN Assistant Secretary General, Robert Muller, and the team at the Robert Muller School in Texas, USA. The curriculum is based on the belief that *the essential task of educators in this day and age is to prepare children to be world citizens*. See: <http://www.unol.org/rms/>

This is book that is well worth reading – bringing key issues of development into a wider framework of the spiritual and ethical direction of evolution, which is leading consciousness to new and higher levels of synthesis.

Harry Juwe, *Nation Building: Working With the Divine Plan*. Port Harcourt, Nigeria, Nigerian Group for Goodwill, 2008. Available from: Nigerian Group for Goodwill, PO Box 1382, Lagos, Yaba, Nigeria. Contact Harry Juwe at: [sjuwe@hotmail.com](mailto:sjuwe@hotmail.com)

***XVI. Peacebuilding in Eastern Congo  
Need for Reconciliation Bridge-Builders  
Rene Wadlow\****

The United Nations has some 17,000 UN forces (MONUC) in the Democratic Republic of Congo mostly in the administrative provinces of North and South Kivu. MONUC is the UN's largest peacekeeping mission, but their capacity is stretched to the limit. Their mission is to protect civilians, some 250,000 of whom have been driven from their homes since the fighting intensified in late August 2008. Despite the MONUC troops, there are large-scale occurrences of wilful violations of human rights and humanitarian law by all parties in the conflict, with massive displacement of populations, plundering of villages, systematic rape of women, increasingly rape of men as well, summary executions and the use of child soldiers.

On paper, the UN mandate is clear and comprehensive — to build the political, military, institutional, social, and economic structures needed to create a secure environment. However, there is no effective Congolese administration. The eastern area of the Congo has been the scene of fighting at least since 1998 — in part as a result of the genocide in neighbouring Rwanda in 1994. Efforts at reconciliation, reform, and reconstruction have not been carried out in the eastern provinces. The illicit exploitation of natural resources, the inability to deal with land tenure and land use issues, the lack of social services and of socio-economic development have created the conditions which led to the current violence. The UN troops are not trained to deal with cultural and development issues — especially land tenure and land use issues which are the chief causes of the conflicts.

The people in eastern Congo have lived together for many centuries and had developed techniques of conflict resolution, especially between the two chief agricultural lifestyles: that of agriculture and cattle herding. However, recent economic and political factors have overburdened the local techniques of conflict resolution and have opened the door to new, negative forces interested only in making money and gaining political power.<sup>1</sup>

UN peace-keeping troops are effective when there is peace to keep. However, what is required today in eastern Congo is not so much more soldiers under UN command, than reconciliation bridge-builders, persons who are able to restore relations among the ethnic groups of the area. The United Nations, national governments, and non-governmental organizations need to develop bridge-building teams which can help to strengthen local efforts at conflict resolution and re-establishing community relations.

World Citizens were among those in the early 1950s who stressed the need to create UN peace-keeping forces with soldiers especially trained for their task. Today, a new type of world civil servant is needed — those who in areas of tension and conflict can undertake the slow but important task of restoring confidence among peoples in conflict, establishing contacts and looking for ways to build upon common interests.

1. See Michael Nest, Francois Grignon, and Emizet Kisangani. *The Democratic Republic of Congo: Economic Dimensions of War and Peace* (Boulder; CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2006, 165pp.)

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***XVII. World March for Peace and Nonviolence  
International Launch – Wellington New Zealand, 2 October, 2009***

Throughout New Zealand people are preparing for the arrival of the international team of walkers who will arrive in the latter part of September. The team will have an opportunity to see a little of the country and also to participate in some of the pre-launch activities.

On 29 September the World Peace March team will be welcomed to Rekohu, the Chatham Islands, some 800 kilometers east of New Zealand, and hosted by the Hokotehi Moriori Trust. Here an opening blessing ceremony will take place at sunrise.

On 21 September, the International Day of Peace, the Walk from Wanganui to Wellington will start, after a short ceremony, linking with the International Peace Vigil which will take place at 12 Noon local time throughout the world. A statement based on the theme Reconciliation, Truth, and Bridgebuilding will be given to the World Peace March.

There will be Peace Heritage Walks in Auckland and Wellington and Christchurch and also civic receptions, public events preceding the International Launch of the World March for Peace and Nonviolence on the 2 October. ([www.worldmarch.co.nz](http://www.worldmarch.co.nz) )

***XVIII. The Great Invocation in English***

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.