

# *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 116**

**June 2011**

- I. EDITORIAL: MORALITY**
- II. 2012 – UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES**
- III. YOUTH, THE FUTURE OF CO-OPERATIVE ENTERPRISE**
- IV. YOUTH, DIALOGUE AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING**
- V. THE WASTE OF FOOD**
- VI. PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT EDUCATION (PRME)**
- VII. AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND FIRST PRME FORUM**
- VIII. MAKING FINANCE WORK FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET**
- IX. UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, BONN**
- X. FOURTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ISTANBUL**
- XI. BUILDING A FUTURE WITH DECENT WORK, INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE**
- XII. CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF ANTHONY BROOKE, SARJEANT GALLERY, WANGANUI**
- XIII. PEACE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESPECT FOR THE SACRED, REKOHU (CHATHAM ISLANDS)**
- XIV. THE GREAT INVOCATION**

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## *I. Morality*

In this changing world humanity's basic moral codes of conduct seem to be undermined. The Ten Commandments as well as other more recent commonly agreed pacts and laws specifying behavioural boundaries, seem unable to hold our societies together. The cloak of decency can no longer hide the many ways people within all stations in life have broken, ignored or circumvented every single moral code for personal gratification.

But these moral codes, which C.S. Lewis has defined as: a) moral standards with regard to behaviour; b) moral responsibility, referring to our conscience; and c) moral identity, referring to consciousness, have nevertheless given us a greater understanding of what is and is not good and taught us much about cause and effect.

Humanity appears to have reached a threshold in its evolution where we as individuals are challenged to open up to a wider view of the whole, and to give serious thought to our moral responsibility to move into the future as one human family and also consider the welfare of the other life forms within our common habitat. And modern technology continues to provide us with new and almost instant ways and methods of communicating, relating and interacting with one another, all of which will require greater sensitivity, accuracy and honesty from us all as we learn how to use this new medium to inform, help, and connect with each other.

It might be useful to take a look at some of the habitual thinking that could have invaded our minds while grappling with the moral codes of the past, and how people in power, whether heads of state or family, religion or culture, might have manipulated these to keep control over their subjects. The notion that we are incurable 'sinners' or powerless victims of circumstances is still lingering in many places; some still believe that Karma sums up the total of human failures, and that the rebellious spirit within the human being must be tamed and subdued - all of which could have contributed to a general fear of the future, a clinging to the past, and a weakening of our inner strength and sense of purpose.

However, ancient scriptures assure us that karma is not a hard and fast rule; that the aim of the law of cause and effect is *not* to punish but to teach humanity the consequences of choices made, both good and bad, and to ensure the forward progression as lessons are learnt and greater understanding achieved. We are also told that the human being is not destined to be the helpless victim of circumstances but to become an intelligent, self-conscious arbiter of his or her own destiny and thus become an expression of the inner intent at the heart of all creation.

The rebellious spirit inherent within the human being has since the dawn of history been the driving force behind all progress. The human soul has toiled through the rise and fall of many civilizations and cultures, in its desire to express, through form, that which dwells within. And gradually human conscience and consciousness have been refining the physical vehicle to allow a more adequate expression of the fullness of our being.

Our world today may seem as brutal, selfish and divided as ever, but ***'just when from the earthly point of view everything has been transgressed, it may be that at the same time most beautiful concepts are already being born'*** ('Brotherhood' 1937). So let us wean ourselves off the old habitual patterns and learn to look for and nurture the good and most beautiful in each other.

## *II. 2012 – United Nations International Year of Cooperatives*

Recognizing the important role that cooperatives play in ‘poverty reduction, employment generation and social integration’ the UN General Assembly, on 18 December 2009 (RES 64/136), declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives. (for more information: Felice Llamas, [llamas@un.org](mailto:llamas@un.org) )

In its Statement on the Co-operative Identity, the International Co-operative Alliance, ICA, ([www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop) ) defines a co-operative as an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise. The Statement describes the basic values of co-operatives as: self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity, and says that: “in the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the ethical values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others”.

Co-operatives will put their values into practice through the guidelines, outlined in 7 principles:

**Voluntary and Open Membership:** membership is open all who accept the membership responsibilities without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination;

**Democratic Member Control:** at all levels co-operatives are organized in a democratic manner;

**Member Economic Participation:** all members contribute equitably, and democratically control, the capital of their co-operative;

**Autonomy and Independence:** co-operatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members;

**Education, Training and Information:** Co-operatives provide education and training for their membership. They inform the general public – particularly young people and opinion leaders – about the nature and benefits of co-operation;

**Co-operation Among Co-operatives:** co-operatives serve their members by working together through local, national, regional and international structures;

**Concern for Community:** co-operatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members.

## *III. Youth, the Future of Co-operative Enterprise*

The International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) will link with the UN International Year of Youth (concluding 11 August this year) through its chosen theme for the International Day of Co-operatives, 2 July: Youth the future of co-operative enterprise.

On this international day ICA members will discuss ways of promoting the participation of more young people and is calling on co-operators throughout the world ‘to engage young people in the co-operative movement and to invest in their future leadership’. It is hoped that more schools will include information about the co-operative model of enterprise in their curricula.

In preparation for the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives ICA is organizing an artistic competition, the Coop’Art competition, for young people between 16 and 35, which will aim to promote the values and principles of co-operation among youth. The Coop’Art competition will have three different categories: *music, video and photography*. Participants will be able to submit their projects through a dedicated webpage from November 2011 (e-mail: [ica@ica.coop](mailto:ica@ica.coop) website: [www.ica.coop](http://www.ica.coop) )

Early this year, the Coop Connect Forum of National Cooperative Union, India, organized an Inter-School Debating Competition on Cooperatives. The objective of this debate was to make schools and their students within the Delhi area more aware of the activities and achievements of the cooperative sector, and to help bring the subject of cooperatives into the mainstream of school education.

The topic of the debate between the teams from the 8 participating schools was “Involvement of Youth is Vital for Cooperative Development in India”. Each school was represented by one team and had two speakers; one speaking for and the other against the motion, and one ‘injector’, who could ask both speakers one question each. (<http://www.icanews.coop/en> )

#### ***IV. Youth, Dialogue and Mutual Understanding***

On 25 and 26 July the UN General assembly will hold a high-level meeting on youth on the theme ‘Youth, Dialogue and Mutual Understanding’. Two informal round tables, chaired by member states, will take place on the first day and two plenary meetings on the second day. The round tables will discuss:

- *Strengthening international cooperation regarding youth and enhancing dialogue, mutual understanding and active youth participation as indispensable elements towards social integration, full employment and the eradication of poverty; and*
- Challenges to youth development and opportunities for poverty eradication, employment and sustainable development.

A Fact Sheet, prepared by the World Bank, entitled ‘Youth as a Smart Investment’, warns that failing to invest in children and youth can lead to substantial economic, social and political costs and that ‘preventable risky behaviours induce losses to society that reach into billions of dollars’. Investment in youth should begin during early childhood and adolescence when life-long patterns of behaviour are established. ([www.facebook.com/Unyouth](http://www.facebook.com/Unyouth) )

#### ***V. The Waste of Food***

The Swedish Institute for Food and Biotechnology was commissioned by UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to prepare a report for the international congress ‘Save Food’, which took place in Düsseldorf, May this year. The report entitled: Food losses and Food waste: extent, causes and prevention, will contribute to the congress’s aim of raising public awareness on the massive, and increasing, food losses and waste, and providing the world with a stark picture of the impact of these on the poverty and hunger in the world, on climate change and on our natural resources.

The report shows that consumers in rich countries are wasting – each year – almost as much food (222 million tonnes) as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa (230 million tonnes); and that about 1.3 billion tonnes are either lost or wasted globally.

The waste of food per capita in Europe and North-America is estimated to be between 95 and 115 kg per year and 6 to 11 kg per year in Sub-Saharan Africa and South-Southeast Asia.

The report points out that food loss and waste can also mean loss and waste in the production of food and the unnecessary production of greenhouse gas emissions. Food waste in industrialized countries could be reduced if the awareness is raised among food industries, retailers and consumers on how to make better use of the food that is now being thrown away. It also recommends that food supply chains in developing countries diversify and up-scale the production and marketing of small farmers, and strengthen the infrastructure, transportation, food and packaging industries through public as well as private investments.

The report stresses that: “*in a world with limited natural resources (land, water, energy, fertilizer), and where cost-effective solutions are to be found to produce enough safe and nutritious food for all, reducing food losses should not be a forgotten priority.*”

(<http://www.fao.org>)

## ***VI. Principles for Responsible Management Education***

More than 220 deans and faculty of leading academic management schools and departments worldwide met in Brussels, June this year, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). The Summit was co-hosted by the European Foundation for Management Development and the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative, with the support of the UN Global Compact, the Aspen Institute’s Center for Business Education, Net Impact and others.

At the Summit plenary speakers stressed the urgent need for leading companies to place increasing importance on high levels of integrity among their employees, and Josef Winter, Chief Compliance Officer, Siemens AG, highlighted the company’s implementation of a strict code of conduct and a clear anti-corruption policy and training, following its recent corruption scandal. Panelists and participants presented good practices and reported on progress in aligning curriculum and research with responsible management practices. The need for developing an anti-corruption curriculum was also highlighted and discussed.

The Summit key-speaker was Elizabeth Thompson, the Executive Coordinator for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), who called on academic institutions, participating in the PRME initiative, to convene at Rio+20 ‘*with a clear commitment to educate students and future business leaders according to principles of sustainable development*’.

The Brussels meeting was structured around PRME’s six principles. These principles, which ‘*seek to establish a process of continuous improvement among institutions of management education in order to develop a new generation of business leaders capable of managing the complex challenges faced by business and society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*’, are:

**Purpose:** We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable values for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

**Values:** We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

**Method:** We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.

**Research:** We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.

**Partnership:** We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

**Dialogue:** We will facilitate and support dialogue and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> PRME Forum on Responsible Management Education will take place 29-30 May 2012 in conjunction with the Rio+20 Conference. ([www.unprme.org](http://www.unprme.org))

### ***VII. Australia/New Zealand first PRME Forum 22 July 2011***

The aim of the Forum is to establish the Principles for Responsible Management Education initiative more firmly among universities and business schools in Australia, New Zealand, and the region.

Among the speakers are Jonas Haertle, Head of Office of the PRME Secretariat at the UN Global Compact (<http://www.unglobalcompact.org/>), and Professor Tony Buono (Coordinator of the Bentley University Alliance for Ethics & Social Responsibility).

The venue for the Forum is the AGSM building of the University of New South Wales, and registration must be made by Friday, 8 July, to [anabelle.alis@unsw.edu.au](mailto:anabelle.alis@unsw.edu.au)

### ***VIII. “Making Finance Work for People and the Planet” Public Symposium 22-24 June, 2011 Palais des Nations, Geneva***

This meeting, organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), will be open to representative from civil society, member States, academia, private sector, as well as international organizations and parliamentarians, and simultaneous interpretation will be available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian.

The two-day Symposium will include plenary debates and paralleling group discussions on issues around two key themes:

- 1) Financial and Monetary Reforms for Sustainable Development: global and regional Initiatives; and
- 2) Making the transition to a green economy fair and equitable. (for details <http://www.unctad.info/en/Public-Symposium-2011/>)

The discussions around these two key themes will offer an opportunity to brainstorm on how the forthcoming 2012 UNCTAD Conference might be able to contribute new and innovative impetus on these issues, and also on how the 2012 Conference could play a *‘strategic complementary role in unblocking some of the long-standing trade, financial and technology transfer issues that have remained points of contention on the sustainable development debate since the 1992 Rio Summit’*.

UNCTAD, established in 1964, aims to promote the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy, and cooperates with governments, UN, NGOs, the private sector, research institutes and universities worldwide. Its key functions are to serve:

- ! As a forum for intergovernmental deliberations;



- ! Undertake research, policy analysis and data collection;
- ! Provide technical assistance to the specific requirements of developing countries, especially the least developed countries and economies in transition. When appropriate, UNCTAD cooperates with other organizations and donor countries in the delivery of technical assistance. ([www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org))

***“Translating these goals into reality in a practical and workable way is the real development challenge. Talking about poverty without creating the space and scope for poor people to participate in the process of change is the biggest mistake all governments make. They assume that if the political leaders of that area agree, the people agree. But that is never the case”***  
*(Slum dweller Mr. Jockin Arputham, Founder of the National Slum Dwellers Federation in India”*

## **IX. UN Climate Change Conference Bonn, 6-17 June 2011**

183 countries were represented at the Bonn meeting, with more than 3,000 people, included government delegates, representatives from business and industry, environmental organisations and research institutions, participating in discussions in preparation for the UN Climate Conference in Durban (28 November – 9 December).

A week prior to the Bonn meeting, the International Energy Agency estimated that the 2010 emissions from global energy generation had unexpectedly returned to record highs, and in the same week the Hawaii-based Mauna Loa laboratory, a key scientific monitor for global climate change, reported that carbon dioxide concentrations had peaked yet again in May.

In her opening remarks, Christiana Figueres, the executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said that governments have an ‘unavoidable responsibility’ to make clear progress towards the 2011 climate objective they had agreed upon in Cancun: *“Governments lit a beacon in Cancun towards a low-emission world which is resilient to climate change. They committed themselves to a maximum global average temperature rise of 2 degrees Celsius, with further consideration of a 1.5 degree maximum”*

Ms. Figueres said that governments have an ambitious agenda, which goes all the way from the procedural to the political; they have high expectations of themselves and their partners, as well as a decisive willingness to come out of Bonn with significant progress, adding that there is a *“growing momentum of global climate action which governments need to capitalise on”*. (<http://unfccc.int/> )

## **X. Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul 9-13 May 2011**

At the opening of the Conference, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for a new vision to reverse the profound poverty of the people living in 48 of the least developed countries (LDCs) in the world. And the UN General Assembly President Joseph Deiss, stressed that *“Eradicating poverty and reducing vulnerability in the least developed countries is a duty that we have towards the millions of people living in those countries”*. This will, he said, help make this world safer, more prosperous and dynamic, and also more democratic and united.

The newly elected President of Turkey, Abdullah Gul, pointed out that the people living in the least developed countries accounted for almost 13 per cent of the world population, and that their marginalisation was widening in terms of income, education, child mortality, agricultural

productivity as well as other areas. This situation is not sustainable, said the President, “*not only in moral terms, but politically as well*”. To overcome this ‘dismal situation’ it is important that the outcome of the Conference is a strong and clear commitment for change. We must, insisted the President, “*renew the hopes in the minds of 900 million people that their aspirations will be realised*”, through the Istanbul Programme of Action.

During the week-long discussions regarding the text and content of the Istanbul Programme of Action an interactive debate was held on “human and social development, gender equality and empowerment of women”. Here Selma Aliye Kayaf, State Minister in charge of Women and Family Affairs of Turkey, said that “*we have to make sure women have a say about their future and their lives*”; States must create equality laws, she said, and – perhaps more importantly – implement them and encourage their acceptance by society at large. The Minister also told the meeting that Turkey aimed to raise its primary school enrolment to 100 per cent and to eliminate sexist reference from textbooks.

The Vice-President of Burundi, Gervais Rufyikiri, agreed that although women often were the ‘*catalysers of socio-economic development*’ much had to be done to reduce the salary gap, improve education, and opportunities for inclusion in decision-making. He also mentioned that, after the recent election, 19 out of 41 senators of the Burundi Senate are women.

Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), agreed with other delegates that there was much more to be done to improve the lives of women, especially those living in rural areas. When women had their own income they spent 90 per cent on their family to meet food, health and education needs, while men will spend about 30-40 per cent of their earnings on the same needs. In some countries rural women represent 80 per cent of the agricultural workforce, and the world community urgently need to help improve their lives so that they can have equal access to land, credit and other services.

There was general agreement among key speakers and panellists that gender equality was an essential precondition for reducing poverty, achieving sustainable development and fostering good governance, and that women’s social, political and economic equality is essential for achieving the Millennium Development Goals “*each of which was in jeopardy until equality prevailed*”. As one panellist put it: “*It is all about sharing a common vision*”.

In his Closing Statement on the last day of the conference, H.E. Ahmet Davutoglu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, said that ‘*one of our priorities has been to evoke the collective conscience of the international community*’, and recalled President Gul’s earlier remark that “*a world that tolerates extreme inequalities is not a world built upon shared values and objectives*”.

The Istanbul Programme of Action aims to create a new momentum for an accelerated, sustained, inclusive and equitable economic development in the least developed countries. Building on lessons learnt from the Brussels Programme of Action, which seemed to lack the capacity for efficient monitoring, the Istanbul Programme of Action is making a special emphasis on monitoring the implementation of and the delivery on the commitments made. It also seeks to address wider concerns, such as investment technology, tourism, education, health, agriculture, climate change and food security. The 50-page document also underlines the importance of regional cooperation and integration and the role of women in development.

As the host country, Turkey has committed to making US\$ 200 million annually available to the least developed countries (LDCs), which will be used for technical cooperation projects and



programmes as well as scholarships. Turkey will also host an “International Science, Technology and Innovation Center” as well as an “International Agriculture Center”, dedicated to LDCs. Turkey will also host a Mid-Term Review Conference of the Istanbul Programme of Action, scheduled to take place in Istanbul during 2015.

In his closing statement the Minister appealed to the meeting that the world community move away from ‘*categorizing nations by their current shortcomings*’. “Let us”, he urged, “*be part of a process that builds hope and aspiration that is grounded in achievable potential*”. He proceeded to propose that in the future the Least Developed Countries would be referred to as “**Future Developing Countries**”. This name, he said, would better recognize “*the win-win situation that creates a better, brighter future for us all*”. ([www.unohrrls.org](http://www.unohrrls.org))

## ***XI. Building a Future with Decent Work International Labour Conference June 2011***

The International Labour Organisation’s main aims have since its inception been to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection and strengthen dialogue on work-related issues, and to ensure that the equal voice of workers, employers and governments is reflected in labour standards as well as in shaping policies and programmes.

During the 100<sup>th</sup> session of the ILO Conference, 2011, a series of High Level Panels was held on:

“Arab Youth: Aspiring for Social Justice”

“Global Youth: Leading Change”

“Employment and Social Justice in a Globalising Economy”

“The role of decent work in a fairer, greener and more sustainable globalization”

“The need for a new era of social justice”<http://www.ilo.org/>

**In a video message, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**, the former General Secretary of the National League for Democracy, appealed to ILO to expand its activities in Myanmar. The following is from the text from this video appeal:

“The Preamble to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation starts with the very strong and simple statement that universal and lasting peace can be established only if it is based on social justice. Further on, it declares categorically that the failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labour is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve conditions in their own countries. This is a magnificent assertion of the linkage between the destinies of different nations made at a time when globalisation was hardly recognised as a word, let alone a concept.”

“The ILO showed itself thus to be an organisation for all times, its mandate firmly rooted in a pragmatic assessment of what needs to be done if our world is to be regulated by peace and justice. Moreover, member States of the ILO are represented not only by government delegates, but also by delegates of employers and workers, thus making the Organisation not only unique among international agencies, but uniquely geared towards the future when international agencies and organisations would need to be the voice not only of governments but of the true representatives of nations – the people.”

“In choosing the need for a new era of social justice as the theme of this 100<sup>th</sup> Session, the ILO has shown itself once again to be not just in sync with the times, but perhaps even to be running a little ahead”.

“Universal and lasting peace has certainly not been assured for the human race and there is an urgent need to try to find new and better roads towards that goal which must be kept in sight, even if all too often it seems to be unobtainably remote”.

“Globalisation presents new opportunities but it also poses new dangers which include, to focus on the most obvious, the easy dissemination of the propaganda and weapons of hate and terrorism. It is therefore

imperative to intensify the quest for peace if we are to keep the earth secure for us and for coming generations.”

“When the ILO was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1969, the Chairman of the Nobel Peace Committee recalled the Organisation’s founding principle, that social justice was the base of lasting peace as stated. There are few organizations that have succeeded as the ILO has in translating into action the fundamental, moral ideal on which it is based. Moral ideas, vitalized to become the driving force of practical change, are an exhilarating and - as the ILO has proved - not an impossible dream.”

“The current guiding philosophy of the ILO, the Decent Work Agenda, based on international labour standards, employment, social protection and social dialogue, could constitute enormous strides towards social justice, and hence, progress and peace. We look to the Organisation to uphold its record of success through the achievement of these objectives and, in keeping with its credo, to ensure that no nation must be allowed to fail, if all nations are to triumph”.

“Here I would like to make a special appeal to my own country, Burma. Once upon a time it was considered the nation most likely to succeed in South-East Asia. But now it has fallen behind almost all the other nations in this region. The work of the ILO in our country has highlighted the indivisibility of social, political and economic concerns. In its attempt to eliminate forced labour and the recruitment of child soldiers, the ILO has inevitably been drawn into work related rule of law, prisoners of conscience and freedom of association”.

“Six months ago, the National League for Democracy and other organizations and individuals who have been struggling for political change in Burma established a people’s network that incorporated social and humanitarian projects into a broad programme for democracy and human rights. The growth, rapid beyond our expectations, of this network is evidence of the indivisibility of social, economic and political concerns, and of the hunger of our people for a society secured by acceptable norms of social justice, joined to political and economic progress.”

“We look to the ILO to expand its activities in Burma to help usher in an era of broad-based social justice in our country. We are particularly concerned that our workers should be enabled to form trade unions, concerned with the highest international standards as soon as possible. Labour rights are integral to the triumphant development of a nation and, once again, may I reiterate the declaration of faith of the ILO that, failure in one nation raises obstacles in the way of progress in all other nations. Burma must not be allowed to fail and the world must not be allowed to fail Burma.”

“I would like to conclude with a heartfelt expression of appreciation for what the ILO has been able to achieve in Burma, in spite of many difficulties. I hope that a progressively closer cooperation can be developed between the Organisation and all those who sincerely wish for lasting peace solidly founded on social, economic and political justice, not just in our country, but throughout our world”

## ***XII. Celebration of the life of Anthony Brooke***

Gita’s thanksgiving at the end of an evening of celebration in  
Sarjeant Gallery, Wanganui - 29 May 2011

“My heart is singing with thanks! Words seem too small to express what I feel. But how wonderful it has been – is - to be here together with you all, celebrating Anthony and reflecting on his long life. And how right and meaningful it is that the celebration of Anthony has taken place within the walls of this magnificent gallery, dedicated to recording and displaying humanity’s unfolding vision, and maintaining it for future generations. My warmest thanks to each and everyone who contributed to making this celebration possible. So many hands and hearts have been involved in this.

I would like to express my gratitude to your Excellency (the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom) for coming to our celebration of Anthony. I know that my husband would have been

deeply appreciative of your presence here. And thank you so much, Laurie for sharing your memories of Anthony's disarmament work.....

Bless you, Lionel, Jason, and Laurence for taking the long journey, flying, driving and kayaking, to be here with us today.

It was so moving to hear Anthony's voice blending with the voice of his grandson, giving us glimpses of his life and work in Sarawak. Anthony's thoughts were never far from the people of this country he loved so deeply.

This presentation was made possible by the generosity of the Whanganui School of Design who provided all the equipment and the expertise of a very special member of its staff. And a warm thank you Jill and Lynne, and the choir, for singing one of Anthony's favourite songs.

Anthony and I will always be grateful to Alma Farrant for establishing our first contact with New Zealand, when she and her husband visited us in Sweden, already in 1976. Their Paekakariki home became a haven for us during our travels.

And on behalf of Anthony and myself I want to – once again - thank the Wanganui Community for including us in your family, and for all the friendship and love that has been enfolding us throughout the years, not least during the last years of Anthony's life. Wanganui is the place where Anthony's long globetrotting pattern came to a halt. People have often asked us why we settled in Wanganui, and we never quite knew how to answer this. But I think it is quite simple really. We, like so many others, fell in love with Wanganui. Maybe one shouldn't seek to analyze love.

My deepest, most profound and eternal thankfulness, which no words will ever describe, goes to Anthony, my beloved husband of more than 30 years; this soul-infused human being who overcame his intense shyness and dreadful stammer; who steadfastly held to his principles in the face of political pressures, innuendos, and small-mindedness, and who with never-ending faith and unflinching optimism made people throughout the world believe in the power of the invincible human spirit within themselves.

I have been asked to share a few words about Anthony and our life together that could add yet another beam of colour to the picture of this multifaceted human being.

Anthony breezed into my life in the early 1970s while I was still living in Sweden on a small peninsula called Saro, about an hour's drive from Goteborg. Anthony's travel plans had suddenly crashed and stranded him in Goteborg, and a mutual friend asked if we could put him up for a night or two.

Although there was a deep and instant inner recognition, as if we had known each other forever, it could not be called love at first sight. But it was the beginning of many feisty and fiery discussions: on the purpose of life, human rights issues, the challenges and opportunities facing the world.... But this was always a 'friendly fire'! We both found these discussions utterly invigorating; we both enjoyed being able to discuss - not argue - these issues we cared about so much. Anthony continued his travel pattern, but now routinely stopped by at Govik - each time staying a little bit longer. From the beginning to the very end, our relationship never stood still; it kept evolving in leaps and bounds.

When we met, my self worth was well below zero, so when my circumstances inevitably erupted and collapsed I was swept up and included in Anthony's traveling programme. But with no time to heal wounds I became, truth be told, a bit of a challenge to him. And Anthony, although patient

and serene, was frankly not interested in my sad and rather self-absorbed state of affairs. His mind was focused on helping to bring peace and human rights to the whole world, always emphasising that the establishing of human rights and peaceful human relations depended on each and everyone within the human family doing their bit (me included!) And that within each one of us is that spirit of goodwill which can - and will - bring it about.

I think it is most appropriate that the UN General Assembly - 36 years after the birth of Anthony – signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on his birthday – the 10<sup>th</sup> of December!

Meanwhile I found myself on a steep learning curve. Meeting and interacting with people from many different countries and cultures, in very different and sometimes challenging places and circumstances taught me so much about relationships. And Anthony and I both had to learn what it takes to build a day-to-day, dynamic and interactive working relationship while traveling from place to place, country to country for about 10 years, within time limits always determined by tourist visas, with no stable home address and no insurance. Sorting out one's priorities became an urgent necessity.

This continuous traveling would have been futile and useless, unless we learnt the discipline of holding the aim and vision clear and steady; learnt to be in the right place at the right time, - and possessed just the right amount of foolhardiness. But the most important lesson for us both was to be fully present in the moment - not linger where we *had* been - or *would* be next.

Through this time of travel we came to appreciate and better understand the deep-running complexity of the many conflict situations in places, such as for instance South Africa and the country then called Rhodesia, that were going through difficult and traumatic steps and stages of re-discovering and re-identifying themselves. The situation was tense and polarized as in so many other places in the world. But here, as elsewhere, we witnessed people of all ages and from many different ethnic and religious backgrounds, who were struggling to overcome their own hurt, their own fear and mistrust, and who - under the radar of all outer noisy discords and power posturing – were showing the will and the courage to reach out to one another in friendship and cooperation. And today this rapidly growing people's movement of goodwill is becoming a force to be reckoned with. Each UN Summit of the past decades has seen an increasing number of NGOs, civil society representatives, and groups of individuals coming together and contributing their proposals and recommendations to the UN meeting between leaders and heads of state.

Perhaps one could say that, while Anthony opened the door for me to the wider world, I introduced him to the many intricate duties of house keeping. In Sweden, he began to wash up with me and weed the garden, and slowly the black suit and tie changed into open shirts, comfortable sweaters and gumboots. He came to love our group excursions into the woods, picking blueberries, mushrooms, nettles and cranberries. And he was the doting caretaker of our 7 chooks. Between us, we became a good clean-cook-and-gatherer team which we were keen to put to good use whenever and wherever possible. It is amazing how many seeds can be sown for future cooperation while washing up together! (Perhaps a good idea for the UN?)

Our foundation, which we named Peace Through Unity came into being in Sweden 1975. Later Anthony added the word Operation, to underscore that this is an action-oriented non-governmental organization. It is committed to promoting the Principles enshrined in the Preamble of the UN Charter and is an NGO with UN accreditation. From 1982 we have been distributing widely our quarterly publication, Many to Many, now also available on our website.

The Peace Through Unity foundation is now based in Wanganui. And I would just like quickly to mention that we decided to give our Wanganui home to the Peace Through Unity Charitable Trust.

In a letter of wishes we have expressed the hope that the “house, its contents and the garden may continue to be used for the work and serve as a place of peace”; and to become ‘an asset to the Wanganui Community’. It is our hope that a ‘group of friends’ will come together to develop the ideas in our proposal, which could then be presented to the community for further discussion.

In 2002 the sculpture Handspan was dedicated to the promotion of the Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, and so is our home which Anthony named Rumah Brooke/Brooke House. I want here to express Anthony’s and my deep gratitude to our dear friend Kaumatua, John Maihi, who guided us throughout the creation of Handspan and today opened our celebration of Anthony with a karakia.

In the eyes of some people Anthony could be, and sometimes was, seen as a champion of lost causes. For different reasons people would cast doubt on the motivation for his passionate actions when he believed the rights, dignity and worth of peoples were ignored or trampled upon. But I know that Anthony’s passion came from that place within us all where the fire of Life and Love meet – the Heart. Anthony assured everyone he met, that it is from this inexhaustible wellspring within, that healing and transformation of all relationships will come, when women and men of all ages, cultures and ethnicity unite and resolve to make it so. So, let us prove him right.

***XIII. Peace, Sustainability and Respect for the Sacred***  
**Me Rongo Peace Congress, 7 to 21 November 2011,**  
**Rekohu (Chatham Islands)**

The vision for the Peace Congress is to create a meaningful and lasting practice of mindfulness amongst all who attend. We believe that when you have hope for future generations, peace prevails. The main objective of the Congress is to gather peace makers together (physically and by video-link) in order to draft a Rekohu Peace Declaration based on principles of sustainability and respect for the sacred. A critical part of this declaration will be a synthesis of conflict resolution methods discussed at the Congress.

<http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/merongo01.pdf>

***XV. 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.