

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. Climate

Global warming, greenhouse gases, and extreme atmospheric disturbances are all indicators that irreversible changes to the earth's climate are taking place.

Mountain glaciers and polar ice are melting, ocean levels rising, and 100-year hurricanes, floods and droughts are now happening more than once in an individual's lifetime, adding to the stress and fatigue of many eco-systems within an already overworked, polluted and plundered global environment.

This is indeed a pitiful sight and a sad testimony to the kind of values that generally have been allowed to motivate our actions and relationships.

But nature reflects with equal exactitude the folly of our ways and the road to healing and reconstruction. As an integral part of the planetary ecosystem humanity is sharing the burden of the degradation and depletion of nature's resources; and as conscious manipulators of a common habitat, humanity is responsible for and capable of creating a good environment for all lives, now and in the future.

It seems so timely and apposite that nature is highlighting the importance of climate to the life and well being of all on earth. The violent eruptions between people of different cultures and religions, the extreme imbalances between rich and poor, the unequal access to health and education, and not least the corruptive atmosphere of power politics and money, have all contributed to creating a climate of despair and divisiveness. But it has also awoken the human spirit.

An old text speaks of a season when life flourished and flowered: "and then the drought arrived and man removed himself. That which had nourished and contained his life became an arid waste and naught was left but bones and dust and a deep thirst which naught in sight could satisfy".

The text goes on to indicate that this 'deep thirst' can only be quenched by 'the waters of life'; that when humanity itself becomes the carrier of this water of life, bringing it to others to quench their deep thirst, then the desert will flower anew.

It seems that when materialism becomes the main goal in life; when personal appetites become insatiable - a 'drought' sets in, which nature alone can neither prevent nor remedy.

Throughout the ages the earth's resources have been bent to serve human desires. Facts and figures now tell us what impact this has had on the entire ecosystem. Global warming will inevitably be changing our planetary habitat and affect all lives within it. But we can, with nature's help, prepare for the coming season. We can change and transform all relationships.

We will learn to become the water carriers: the bringers of 'the waters of life' to all who are thirsty; the transformers of society; the builders of a new civilization – the creators of a new climate in which all life on earth can prosper and evolve.

II. Proposed Establishment of a Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies in Aotearoa New Zealand

From now and forever, never again let there be war as this day has seen—Nunuku Whenua, Chatham Islands.

If a student in New Zealand wants to do a degree in peace studies they would now have to go to an overseas University. A small group of peace activists has been working since 2005 to change that. They would like to establish a New Zealand Peace Centre inspired by one started in 1973 at Bradford University. The plan is to establish an Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre (ANZPCSC) based at one New Zealand University, which would cooperate with other universities. Classes would start in early 2008. Early phase negotiations with Universities have now begun.

Aotearoa New Zealand has a rich heritage of peace initiatives. Early New Zealand history has examples of groups of indigenous people who really believed in peace and would not fight. The best known of these were the Moriori on the Chatham Islands and the Maori at Parihaka. These traditions are still alive today. Maui Solomon is a spokesperson for the Chatham Islands peace group, and is on the Steering Committee of ANZPCSCS.

The Centre would offer courses at undergraduate, honours and masters levels in subjects like peace and conflict studies, disarmament, arms control and proliferation, religious aspects of peace and conflict, cooperation and security, thinking and making peace, and conflict resolution. It would also provide opportunities for research degrees, training programmes, and short courses. Some courses in Peace Studies already exist in various departments of several New Zealand Universities. There is, however, little overall focus, and not much communication among the various groups.

A new Centre would provide for New Zealand students to study for a full degree in Peace Studies at home, and the Centre would attract overseas students, especially those from the Pacific and Asia. Some of these might be eligible to apply for support from International Rotary which already supports Peace Centres in overseas Universities. The Centre would also liaise with academically rigorous Peace Centres in other parts of the world.

A series of lively meetings has been held in Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Christchurch and Dunedin. A Steering Committee of 15 people representing these places has drawn up a Strategic Plan. The new Peace Centre would build on the reputation New Zealand currently has for peace initiatives. The Centre would aim to offer training programmes and short courses for Government Departments, NGOs and business and professions. It would also act as a liaison for peace initiatives in the community.

The values and principles of the new ANZPCSCS would include

- Non-violence in all areas
- The international human rights framework
- Truth, compassion and social justice
- The treaty of Waitangi
- Bicultural principles and processes within our multi-cultural society

- Academic endeavour, integrity and credibility at the highest levels of the universities
- Wider community education
- Inter-faith and intra-faith exploration and dialogue in the area of peacemaking
- Recognition of the role of religion and spirituality in providing resources for peacemaking
- Recognition of the role of women in peace-building.

Finance is needed. The trustees and Steering Committee are aiming to endow this Centre so that it will not rely wholly on changing University fortunes. A charitable trust has been formed to endow such a Centre with three trustees who were part of the original planning group. So far nearly a million dollars has been pledged. Additional funds will be sought from individuals, businesses and foundations. The endowment is necessary so that the trustees and stakeholders can have some ongoing input into the Centre wherever it is established. We would like to have at least \$5 million before beginning the Centre, and \$10 million would ensure its continuing importance within a University. If anyone is interested in helping further with this funding they can get in touch with **Marjory Lewis, PO Box 56, 719 Mt Eden, Auckland 1030. Email: anzpcsc@ihug.co.nz**

By talking to individuals, groups and foundations, and by writing in journals and publications, we hope to persuade many people that New Zealand really does need such a Centre, and that the support given will ensure that New Zealand continues to educate students who wish to pursue these studies, and let Peace thinking and making have the place it should have in the University environment.

Kevin Clements, who is the director of the Peace Studies Centre at Queensland University, said at the Auckland and Wellington meetings: “Without a vision of a dedicated, well-funded New Zealand Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, New Zealanders will be diminished, and unlikely to play the role which they should and could be playing domestically and internationally. It is a question of personal, academic and political will.”

One of the trustees said: “My own commitment to this cause has three parts to it. I do not want more lives lost, or more people injured in armed conflict and violence of all kinds. I do not want students to have to go overseas to study what we should be teaching and researching in New Zealand, and I want to support peace education because of its long term goal of working out alternatives to war and violence.”

“Diversity need not become a cause for division. A challenge to governance is to make it a source of enrichment.

If tragedies are not be multiplied one-hundredfold, concern for the interests of all citizens, of whatever racial, tribal, religious, or other affiliation, must be high among the values informing the conduct of people in the world that has now become a neighbourhood”

- Our Global Neighbourhood

III. International People's Initiative for Departments of Peace

The 'International People's Initiative for Departments of Peace' came into being during the first people's Summit for Departments of Peace (UK 2005), co-sponsored by the Ministry for Peace (UK), the Working Group for a Federal Department of Peace (Canada) and the Peace Alliance Foundation (USA).

Its aim is to become *“an expanding movement throughout the world for governments to organize around the principles of non violent conflict transformation and peace building. As we create an infra structure for peace we will together realize a culture peace”*.

It is working towards the establishing of ministries and departments of peace within all the world's governments *“so that national ministers of peace may meet on a regular basis, especially during crises, with a mandate to seek and maintain an ongoing focus of reaching peace by peaceful means”*.

In response to the growing tension between Iran and other countries within the international community a “Negotiate Peace” petition has been launched which calls for ‘a fresh approach to resolving international conflict’. The following is the text of this petition:

“We, the undersigned, are gravely concerned at the growing conflict involving Iran, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, China, and the United Nations. We call on our Government to use the proven tools of conflict transformation to resolve this situation.

As Earth's climate warms up at an alarming rate, threatening widespread global devastation, humanity faces the biggest challenge to its survival in history. For our children, our children's children and the planet, we must now avoid wasting our precious resources engaging in costly, destructive wars and instead employ well-trying, non-violent methods of resolving conflicts around the world. We can then focus our energy, creativity, wisdom, and prudence on providing for a sustainable, and thus safe and secure, future.

While recognizing the efforts of all parties to resolve this dispute through negotiation, we are also aware that frustration at the lack of agreement can lead to increasing polarization, harsh language and even the extreme violence of military action. As with past conflicts, this is likely to produce a similar result – war, chaos and suffering. We urgently call for a change in the manner in which conflict is dealt with so as to meet the fundamental needs of all humanity for security, mutual respect and justice.

The good news: non-violent conflict resolution is possible and already happening. Indeed, we have within the human family many men and women experienced in successfully facilitating the non-violent resolution of conflict within and between nations and states. We call on our Government to seek immediately their input and action.

It is time to create a world in which we all pursue the non-violent resolution of conflict. The stakes are too high for any other course of action.”

True to its name this People's Initiative petition asks for the name, address and e-mail of individuals, not that of organizations. Further information as well as a copy of the petition can be obtained on their website: www.negotiate-peace.org

IV. “The Creative Imperative”

The Creative Imperative was the theme chosen for the 2006 Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, which took place in Davos, Switzerland, between 25-29 January this year. Here, as in previous years, some 2500 leaders within the fields of politics, business, academia and other areas of the global society, came together to discuss and formulate strategies on how to respond to the challenges facing the world.

Participants focused on the five challenges that were outlined for the meeting: disaster relief, hunger, anti-corruption, financing for development and public-private partnerships, and decided that solutions needed to be developed by global stakeholders and policy-makers within three broad and interrelated areas,

Firstly, the rebuilding of trust in public and private institutions:

Through a bi-annual global public opinion poll, conducted by GlobeScan Incorporated, the Forum has been monitoring public trust levels. These reveal that public trust in national governments and the United Nations has fallen the most over the past two years, and that public trust in global companies is now at its lowest since tracking began.

“The unfortunate thing is”, says Professor Michael E. Porter, Bishop William Lawrence University, Harvard Business School, “that companies haven’t done a good job of building trust by managing themselves in a positive way. “

There was general agreement that national governments, multinational corporations, and international organizations are no longer functioning well and are in great need of change and transformation.

Secondly, effective leadership in managing global risks:

New, more comprehensive and effective mechanisms are needed to help identify and resolve threats such as terrorism, environmental degradation, natural disaster and economic instability.

Two surveys, instigated by the World Economic Forum in preparation for the Annual Meeting - one reflecting the “Voice of the People” (by Gallup International) the other the “Voice of the Leaders”, asking both groups the same questions regarding a safer and more economically prosperous world for coming generations - showed that people in general were optimistic about security and prosperity despite lack of faith in leaders, while the leaders were optimistic on economy but pessimistic on security.

Although both groups shared the same concerns about economic as well as personal security, they often had very different priorities. The Annual Meeting participants recognized the importance of taking into account the hopes and fears of the wider populations and incorporate these into their discussions and decision-making.

Thirdly, innovation, creativity and design strategy:

This third area was seen as holding the key to finding solutions to the other two, and many workshops and discussions highlighted the need for rewarding innovation, encouraging unconventional thinking and promoting cultural cross-fertilization in every region and at every level of society: *“Change – both sweeping and fundamental – appears to be the one constant as the world moves deeper into the 21st century. Political, corporate and social leaders no longer have the option (if they ever did) of relying on inertia and habit to carry them through the currents of global integration. They must respond – often in real time – to powerful forces that cut not just across national borders, but across cultures, markets and technologies”.*

As UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan pointed out: *“Institutional frameworks designed to respond to cold war threats are not appropriate to deal with global warming, international terrorism or poverty reduction. Leaders themselves will need to learn or re-learn skills if they are to drive organizations to innovate and adopt new ideas. For policymakers in the developed and developing world the challenge will be to create educational curricula that will provide today’s youth with the tools they will need tomorrow.”*

It was acknowledged at the meeting that, until now, globalization had largely been about ‘economic efficiency, expanding trade, slashing labour costs and maximizing comparative advantage through the creation of global production chains.’ This trend has now reached the point of ‘diminishing returns’, and companies as well as society at large will have to create new products, anticipate new needs, new markets, new technologies – all of which will create new jobs to replace those that have been lost. Until now populations have been excluded from the progress of globalization – or made more vulnerable by it. Says Jacqueline Novogratz, Acumen Fund Executive: *“We won’t have a creative and flourishing world without bringing everyone into the global economy”.*

Under the heading “A World of Opportunities” the Forum warns that it would be a mistake to view the next phase simply in terms of risks and looming crises. There are tremendous opportunities ahead for all – including the global business community, such as an increasing demand for environmentally-sensitive, energy-efficient products and services. As William McDonough, Chairman, William McDonough + Partners Architecture and Community Design, USA expresses it: *“We believe it is possible to create a virtuous cycle in both our ecological and our social systems”.*

The summary of the meeting concludes by stating that there is no guarantee that mankind’s ingenuity will continue to trump its knack for self-destructive behaviour, but: *“given the innovative thinking on display at this year’s Annual Meeting, it still looks like the smart bet”!*

The World Economic Forum is an independent organization, committed to improving the state of the world by engaging leaders in partnerships to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

For full report and more information: <http://www.weforum.org>

V. “New Mindset”

In his address to the 2006 World Economic Forum in Davos, the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan reminded the audience of corporate executives, political leaders, scholars, scientists and philanthropists that, when in 1999 he called for a ‘global compact’ between the United Nations and the private sector, “*many of my colleagues in the Secretariat – and many representatives of member States – would hardly have been more shocked if I had proposed a compact with the devil.*”

During his time in office Kofi Annan has sought to change the mindset which ‘sees international relations as nothing more than relations between states, and the United Nations as little more than a trade union for governments’, arguing that the United Nations can only fulfill its vocation and be of use to humanity in the 21st century if ‘all the new actors on the international scene’ are involved. These actors include the private sector as well as parliamentarian, volunteers, non-profit organizations, global media, labour unions, mayors and local administrators and many others.

Kofi Annan conceded that “*Changing the mindset of the United Nations, so that it can both reflect and influence the temper of the times, is a never-ending challenge. There will be plenty more work to do in the years and decades to come*”.

VI. Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)

“Principles for Responsible Investment” is a historic project, initiated by the UN Secretary-General, implemented by the UN Global Compact * and the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative *, and backed by some of the world’s largest investors.

At the international launching in New York, 27 April this year, the heads of leading institutions from 16 countries, representing more than US\$2 trillion in assets owned, signed the Principles at the New York Stock Exchange. These Principles were formulated through a year long process of collaboration between the UN Secretary-General, the UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and the UN Global Compact.

The Principles for Responsible Investment document outlines a series of codes of conduct and suggestions to “possible action” to which corporations can commit on a voluntary basis. The document opens with the following words: “*As institutional investors, we have a duty to act in the best long-term interests of our beneficiaries. In this fiduciary role, we believe that environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) issues can affect the performance of investment portfolios (to varying degrees across companies, sectors, regions, asset classes and through time). We also recognize that applying these principles may better align investors with broader objectives of society*”.

Among the guidelines, which the corporations will agree to follow, are: to incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes; to be active owners and incorporate ESG into ownership policies and practices; and to work together to enhance effectiveness in implementing the Principles.

Denise Nappier, Treasurer of the State of Connecticut, who is the principal fiduciary of \$23 billion in pension fund assets, acknowledged that *“Financial markets tend to focus too heavily on short-term results at the expense of long-term and non-traditional financial fitness factors that could affect a company’s bottom line. For many institutional investors it is the long term that matters and in this context environmental, social and governance issues take on new meaning.”*

Corporations will also report on their progress in complying with the Principles.

* The UN Global Compact was launched in 2000 and is now the world’s largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative, bringing together over 2500 companies from more than 90 countries, cooperating with UN agencies, labour, civil society and governments to advance universal principles in the area of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. (www.unglobalcompact.org)

* UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is the oldest and largest partnership between the UN and the global financial sector. UNEP FI works with 160 financial institutions to develop and promote linkages between sustainability and financial performance the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practices at all levels of financial institution operations. (<http://www.unepfi.org>)

For full text of the Principles for Responsible Investment and other information see <http://www.unpri.org>

VII. SWISS BUSINESS SCHOOL

Based in Zurich the Swiss Business School (SBS) is one of the most prestigious and forward looking business schools in Switzerland which offers many courses in international management, entrepreneurship, marketing, global finance and banking, as well as human resources management and E-Business. It also offers courses in Executive MBA, designed to provide managers with new approaches to leadership in changing business environment. SBS is fully accredited by the International Assembly of Collegiate Business Education, the Foundation for international Business Administration Accreditation, and others.

SBS’s mission statement reads: *“Our mission and objectives lie in preparing our participants to undertake leading positions in their various organizations, communities, meeting and adapting to the changing forces of globalization. This analysis begins with understanding oneself and charting a course where self development and fulfillment can be achieved. This can only be achieved against the backdrop of social, corporate responsibility, and ethical standards.”*

This SBS aims to do through

- Providing an environment that encourages experimentation and innovation by students, faculty, staff and the community;
- Encouraging students, faculty, and staff to develop a moral and ethical commitment to themselves, work, society, and the world;
- Operating an institution that ensures cost-effective use of variable resources and maintains sound business practices;

- Maintaining the necessary flexibility and meeting the changing educational needs of communities it serves;
- Developing a strong public image through public relations, professional conduct, and quality educational programmes;
- Providing an environment for employees that stimulates and challenges the development of abilities and the pursuit of personal growth while maintaining the goals of the institution;
- Developing systems of administration that will provide efficient and effective management while maintaining centralized control and coordination of decentralized operations.
- Advancing the well-being of people in the global community

The school's Honorary President, Dr. Charles Mercieca, describes a leader as "*one who is capable of inspiring and enlightening others to see things into true perspective, to straighten their priorities in life as a result, and to perform activities that are solely conducive to the universal welfare of all people across every continent.*"

For more information, email: info@sbs.edu website: www.sbs.edu

VIII. CONVENTION ON DISARMAMENT ***Threats to Peace and Disarmament: the Way Forward***

An international Convention entitled: *Threats to Peace and Disarmament: the Way Forward* was held in Wellington, New Zealand, in May 2006, at which distinguished speakers from Japan, Australia, Brazil and New Zealand inspired the participants to keep up the momentum currently evident in civil society, particularly for peaceful conflict resolution in all communities, and for nuclear disarmament and ultimately the elimination of all nuclear weapons.

Emphasis was given to:

- the erosion of multilateral agreements;
- the changing regional and international scene;
- the perspective of developing and non-aligned states;
- threats to peace such as the weaponisation of outer space;
- US foreign policy;
- the impact of small arms;
- regional issues such as Australia's uranium industry and the effect on aboriginal people; and the lasting impact of nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Organisers of the Convention, the NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT, Chair, BOB RIGG, aimed to develop strategies to get the message of the importance of peace and disarmament across to governments and peoples worldwide, so that more concerted interaction among those dedicated to the cause could result in concrete measures to establish a true culture of peace in the generations of young people growing up today. Hopefully they would find new ways of resolving disputes without the traditional path of 'perceived' settlement - that of killing people.

An impressive assembly of overseas speakers included MAYOR AKIBA of HIROSHIMA, AMBASSADOR DUARTE, of BRAZIL, retired Ambassador-at-Large for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation; DR. SUE WAREHAM, former president Medical Association for the Prevention of War, Australia; JOHN HALLAM, Friends of the Earth, Australia, and anti-nuclear campaigner; LEANNE MINSHULL, Australian Conservation Foundation on environmental racism and the politics of the Australian uranium industry.

Apart from listening to the speeches and discussions on the contents of these, the participants took part in workshops where there was lively exchange on a number of issues: disarmament education; the Middle East: Iran- a nuclear end-game?; an Indonesian peacemaking case study; depleted uranium; non-violent communication.

MAYOR AKIBA spoke strongly in support of the campaign, Mayors for Peace - the Emergency Campaign to Ban Nuclear Weapons. This comprises; lobbying the nuclear-weapon states to implement their obligations in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, in particular Article VI, which requires them to pursue negotiations for general and complete disarmament; also urging the United Nations to establish committees to commence deliberations on: a) a disarmament; d) prevention of an arms race in outer space.

Mayor Akiba and ALYN WARE, of PARLIAMENTARIANS NETWORK FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT, appealed to participants to encourage mayors in their respective cities and towns to join the Mayors for Peace Campaign.

AMBASSADOR DUARTE spoke of the disappointing result of the NPT Review Conference earlier this year, but said there was now a strong feeling that the NAC, New Agenda Coalition (of seven states of the UN including New Zealand and Brazil) must revitalize action at the UN for the promotion of Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones, and for all measures leading to a world free of nuclear bombs, a world in which multilateral action would prevail.

LEANNE MINSHULL gave a dramatic illustrated presentation outlining the effects of the uranium industry, particularly on the lives and lands of the indigenous people of Australia; JOHN HALLAM, anti-nuclear campaigner, Friends of the Earth, Australia, is a mine of information on Iran and the United States: we heard details of the gross ambiguity of allegations of the development of nuclear facilities in Iran, while vast stockpiles of nuclear war-heads are held in the US and Russia.

TREASA DUNWORTH of Auckland in an excellent address on *The New Multilateralism* gave a clear explanation of how the American-initiated Proliferation Security Initiative related to the UN Law of the Sea, in respect of a country's right to seize what might be deemed to be illicit goods in a ship suspected of aiding terrorist activities.

DR.SUE WAREHAM of Sydney entitled her talk: *Can Reason Prevail?* She invoked the words of Dr. Bernard Lown, founder of IPPNW, who said, in 1985: "We must hold fast to the dream that reason can prevail". He believed fervently that when we limit ourselves to what seems possible rather than what is necessary we are not aiming high enough. Later she developed the theme that mankind is not inherently violent, and referred to the work of an anthropologist, Douglas Fry, who detailed evidence of conflict resolution strategies in a large number of human societies.

Preceding the Convention a PEACE CONCERT was held in the main convention centre in Wellington, at which some 1800 young people listened to popular bands and sang and danced to the music. During the concert Mayor Akiba was called to the stage and delivered a stirring message for peace in our time, and appealed to the young people to do all they could to make this happen.

Subsequently at the Convention a resolution was passed calling on all MAYORS FOR PEACE in New Zealand to hold concerts in their respective municipalities.

The other major resolution from the convention called for the government to hold a major conference bringing together ministers, government officials, mayors, local body officials, and non-governmental organizations, to focus on the 20/20 vision of eliminating nuclear weapons. This could include endorsing the No Targeting of Cities proposal, the implementing of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice regarding the illegality of nuclear weapons, and the 13 Steps resolution of the NPT of 2000, by using the recommendations of the Canberra Commission and the Model UN Convention.

Note: speeches and other information available on website: www.nccd.org.nz

Laurie Salas,
Wellington

IX. Water for Life

Although the first water decade (1981-1990) brought great improvements to sanitation to some 77 million people and safe water to more than a billion, it left much still to be done: 2.4 billion people without adequate sanitation and 1.1 billion without adequate water. When the second decade on water was launched, 22 March 2005, a commitment was made to make it a decade for action and endeavour to meet the water related goals in the UN Millennium Declaration: “to stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies”.

In this UN International Year of Desert and Desertification the importance of water, and the consequences of the lack of water have been highlighted throughout the world. Water is essential to every aspect of life, from health, environment and culture, to economy and politics.

As part of a wider UN initiative to promote water security in the 21st century, UNESCO has launched the project: “From Potential Conflict to Co-operation Potential (PCCP)”, which aims to foster cooperation between stakeholders in managing shared water resources.

The 2006 World Water Week, organized yearly by the Stockholm International Water Institute, SIWI, will take place in Stockholm between 20-26 August with the theme: “Beyond the River – Sharing Benefits and Responsibilities”. (www.worldwaterweek.org)

SIWI is a policy institute that contributes to the world’s escalating water crisis. It advocates future-oriented, knowledge-integrated water views in decision making, nationally and internationally that lead to sustainable use of the world’s water resources and sustainable

development of societies.: “Investing in the health of people, ecosystems and more efficient water use are investments that not only yield immediate economic benefits but also safeguard future economic gains.”

Sources: <http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp>; http://www.worldwaterday.org/www.who.int/water_sanitation_health; www.siwi.org

X. Using the Great Invocation on June 11

Today an increasing number of people from all faiths and spiritualities value meditation and prayer as effective and useful tools in the work of building cultures of peace and non-violence. They recognize that the ethics and principles of wholeness and of the rights and responsibilities of the individual ARE taking shape within the collective mind and heart. And they also know that it is here, in the mental and emotional environment, that the powers of thought and concentrated aspiration can have their greatest impact.

We should not be surprised that there is resistance from instinctual, habitual forces of separation and competition. The new emerging principles as well as the resisting forces are not things happening only outside of us and reflected in world events – they involve each of us personally as we respond in myriad ways (sometimes positively, sometimes not quite so positively) to our ever-deepening awareness of interdependence.

Every issue of *Many to Many* includes, as the final item, an Invocation for Light to stream forth into human minds, Love to pour into human hearts, and Enlightened Purpose to guide human wills. It is a prayer that belongs to all peoples and all faiths, for, although there is direct reference to Christ’s return to Earth in the version used in *Many to Many*, the Christ being addressed is a universal figure, known in different religions by different names. Indeed, there are versions of the Great Invocation referring to Krishna, the Messiah, the Maitreya, the Imam Mahdi, and the Coming One.

The growing community of people from different faiths and philosophies who include the Great Invocation in their spiritual practices put a special focus on its use at three times of the year – three Spiritual Festivals. Each of these festivals occurs during the period of a full moon. The first of the three Festivals coincides with the full moon that, since earliest days, has been used to fix the date of the Easter Festival in the Christian Calendar. A month later the second Festival occurs during the May full moon, honoured down the centuries by Buddhists as the festival of Wesak – marking the birth, enlightenment and death of Gautama, the Buddha. The sequence climaxes at the time of the June full moon with a special Festival honouring humanity and its uniquely human quality of goodwill. This Festival of Goodwill is also observed as World Invocation Day – a day when people around the world are encouraged to make a special effort to use the Great Invocation and call on the forces of divinity to empower, enlighten and inspire us in our efforts to bring to birth a world of unity, justice and peace.

Observing these three festivals in relation to the full moon helps to link us to the rhythms of the universe and its relations with our planetary home, the Earth. Since ancient times (way before the Easter and Wesak festivals were fixed by religious authorities in relation to the lunar calendar) human beings have used the position of the moon in the night sky as a marker, setting the times of prayers and ceremonies honouring the sacred. This is not surprising for when the moon is full, not only do we experience the beauty of its round face in the night sky – we also enjoy an extra

flow of light. The full moon reflects the light of the sun to the greatest extent in the monthly cycle. The light that gently illumines the night at this time is actually sunlight, reflected off the surface of the moon and onto the face of the earth. Quite simply this is a time when there is a lot of light, of solar energy, around. And light has ever been used as a symbol of enlightenment, vision and understanding.

This year **World Invocation Day occurs on Sunday June 11**. Around the world there will be local gatherings in many areas – while in the Americas and in New Zealand there will also be 24 hour Vigils (see www.intuition-in-service.org ; www.sabiduriarcana.org/dmi-vigilia-tabla2005.htm ; www.trianglecentre.org.nz). It is a Day when we can work with mind and heart to focus the core aspiration of human beings for a better world of goodness, beauty and truth. Let light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

X. The Great Invocation in English and Maori

THE GREAT INVOCATION	TE INOINGA NUI
From the point of Light within the Mind of God Let light stream forth into the minds of men. Let Light descend on Earth.	Na te maramatanga kei te Ngakau o Te Atua Kia koha te maramatanga ki te Ngakau o te tangata Kia koha te maramatanga ki te ao
From the point of Love within the Heart of God Let love stream forth into the hearts of men May Christ return to Earth.	Na te aroha kei te ngakau O Te Atua Ki horapa te aroha ki te Ngakau o te tangata Kia hoki mai ano te Karaiti Ki te ao
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.	Na te mauri o Te Atua Kia marama te haere a te tangata I te huarahi o Te Atua
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.	Na roto mai I te Tangata Ma te maramatanga me te aroha Tatau e arahi A ma tenei e pa kuaha ki te Kino
Let Light and Love and Power restore the plan on Earth.	Ma te Maramatanga, Ma te Aroha, Ma te Kaha e whakau Te whakaaro nui te ao

