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**Newsletter**

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## Newsletter

# International Association of Applied Psychology

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### CONTENTS

Editorial	Elizabeth Nair	1
The President Speaks	Michael Frese	2

### IAAP UN Reports

UN Midday Workshop at 58th UN DPI/NGO Conference	Judy Kuriansky	4
Summary Report of 58th UN DPI/NGO Conference	Walter Reichman	32

### News from Divisions

Division 4: Environmental Psychology	Terry Hartig	41
Division 8: Health Psychology	Aleksandra Luszczynska	46

### Announcements

FMD-ISSC Prize for Interdisciplinary Research	48
JOB subscription offer for IAAP members	49

<b>Useful Addresses</b>	50
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# EDITORIAL

In this first issue of the IAAP Newsletter for 2006, we read two accounts of proceedings at the 58th United Nations DPI/NGO (Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations) Conference. The first is a report on a Midday Workshop where our IAAP representative Judy Kuransky played a key role in assembling the speakers, and in the facilitation of the workshop. A highlight of this session was the finale presentations by two young people, Seth Green and Jyothi Ramakrishnan. They spoke with commitment, conviction, and presented practical, pragmatic plans for disseminating the message that was essentially the building of a global community, anti-poverty initiatives, and therefore anti-hate, and a direct offensive on xenophobia.

President Michael Frese reported with great joy of the admission of IAAP to consultative status on the UN ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council). Professor Emeritus Walter Reichman is our main ECOSOC representative. In his perceptive briefs on the 3-day DPI-NGO 58th Conference, Walter pointed out the refreshingly innovative proposal by the Director-General of the ILO (International Labour Organization), Juan Somavia. He spoke of the future of the UN as moving towards a global community of institutions comprised of parliaments, NGOs and large multilateral business organizations. If this is what it takes for the UN to successfully deliver its objectives and programs, then "Now" indeed is the time to move in this direction.

These are exciting times for IAAP to be involved with the UN, helping at the yoke to move the agenda of peace.

Elizabeth Nair  
Editor

# THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

*Michael Frese, President of the International Association of Applied Psychology*

Dear IAAP members,

**G**ood news again: IAAP has just received the notice that we have become an NGO (Non-Governmental-Organization) with ECOSOC at the United Nations. ECOSOC stands for Economic and Social Council. As you know, we had applied to be an NGO with two parts of the UN – the DPI (Department of Public Information) and ECOSOC. We were first accepted with DPI, but it took much longer to be accepted as NGO with ECOSOC.

ECOSOC initiates studies and reports on international economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related matters. It serves as a central forum for discussing international economic and social issues within the UN and for formulating policy recommendations to member states and to the United Nations. ECOSOC has functional commissions, such as Commission for Social Development, Commission on Crime Prevention, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and Commission on Sustainable Development, Regional Commissions, and Standing Committees. As an NGO with consultative status, as we are now, we can send observers to meetings of the council and its subsidiary bodies and may submit written statements relevant to the council's work. In comparison to DPI (Department of Public Information), for which we have been a NGO for over a year now, there are much fewer NGOs with ECOSOC and it is much more difficult to become an NGO with them. I have been called by some embassies before ECOSOC made a decision on our consultative status. Thus, it is time to celebrate that we have achieved this additional step.

IAAP has now appointed the following representatives of IAAP at the United Nations in New York City:

**Dr. Judy Kuriansky** is our main spokesperson at DPI. Judy Kuriansky has been an enormously active person within the United Nations; she has shaped and influenced the response of the United Nations to dealing with the press in the United States and she has become a very active member in the governance of NGOs within the United Nations. She has also actively contributed to the last NGO conference. We are very proud of her achievements.

Her deputy for DPI is **Dr. Laura Barbanel**. Laura Barbanel looks back on an enormous experience in academic and professional life as a clinical psychologist with an orientation of making clinical psychology useful for societal concerns.

The main representative for IAAP at ECOSOC is **Prof. Dr. Walter Reichman** and his deputy is **Dr. Mary O'Neill Berry**. Walter Reichman has been active on various fronts, one of them is to help with reorganizing the United Nations system from an organizational psychology point of view. Walter Reichman has made inroads into the United Nations system within an incredibly short period of time. I would like to congratulate him. As I said above, his deputy is Mary O'Neill Berry. She looks back on an enormously rich work life – academically and as a practitioner. She is a very experienced applied psychologist. Her clients have included the World Bank, The New York Times, Dow Jones, etc. She has done some work with the United Nations already and we very much welcome her to the team.

We are also able to appoint representatives in Geneva and in Vienna at the United Nations and we are currently in discussions with potential IAAP representatives in these cities. If anyone is interested to work with the regional ECOSOC committees, please write to me; these are the Economic Commission for Africa (Office in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia), Economic Commission for Europe (Office in Geneva, Switzerland), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Office in Santiago, Chile), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (Office in Beirut, Lebanon), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Office in Bangkok, Thailand).

This past year has been a terrible year in terms of disasters. Just before 2005 started, the Tsunami struck the countries of the Indian Ocean, recently hurricanes devastated parts of the United States, Mexico, and Cuba, and most recently the earthquake in Pakistan has cost more than 70,000 lives. Human-made disasters in terms of war and attempted genocide ripped apart Darfur and large parts of Congo. As usual, the fundamental attributional error is at work. Humans have a tendency to help those whose plight is due to an obvious external cause more readily and therefore, there is a quicker reaction of the international community to natural disasters. In those situations, people show an amazingly high degree of compassion and cooperation. We are much less quick when it comes to human-made disasters, attempted genocide; the reaction of the international community to what is happening in Darfur has been abysmal.

IAAP has attempted with its small means to help with efforts to deal with the Tsunami. As academicians, it is no wonder that we have had a more academic approach to the Tsunami as an association (of course, we have asked individuals to give money to the Tsunami relief efforts and we would now appreciate if members do likewise to support efforts of earthquake relief in Pakistan). IAAP has supported a symposium financed by IUPyS and a number of other organizations (organized by Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Nair) on a good psychological response to the Tsunami disaster. There is now going to

be another Tsunami symposium as part of the Asian Applied Psychology International-Regional Conference in Bangkok in November 2005 (IAAP financed this symposium and we were supported by IUPsyS) – Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Nair and Prof. Dr. Ubolwanna Pavakanun organized the effort at this event. (At the time of writing this contribution to the Newsletter, we have not been in Bangkok, but I am sure that the organizer of the Bangkok conference, Professor Ubolwanna Pavakanun, will have put together a fantastic conference and that the Tsunami effort will be one of the big and important events at this conference).

IAAP also contributed US\$5,000 as seed money to do research on responses to disaster relief in the Tsunami area. As of the time of writing this, we know that there will be a research group in Thailand that will use this seed money to start some research in this area.

This newsletter contribution would not be complete without telling you one more time about the upcoming 26th International Congress of Applied Psychology in Athens, Greece, July 16–21, 2006. Its theme is “Contribution of psychology to problems of the individual and society” and I am absolutely certain that you will have missed a unique conference if you would not attend this conference. It will be one of the proudest moments of IAAP’s efforts to bring together the best and the brightest in psychology, to ask the question of how psychology can contribute to the welfare of individuals, organizations, and societies. Mark your calendar and come to Athens (check the website at: <http://www.erasmus.gr>). I am looking forward to seeing you in Athens; it will be wonderful to think and talk with you about the last 2400 years of applied psychology in this wonderful cradle of Western thinking – Athens.

Yours,

Michael Frese,

President of the International Association of Applied Psychology

# REPORT ON UN MIDDAY WORKSHOP PRESENTED AT THE 58TH UNITED NATIONS DPI/NGO CONFERENCE

*Judy Kuriansky, IAAP United Nations representative,  
DPI/NGO*

**T**his workshop featured IAAP at the UN NGO conference through the

- 1) *co-sponsorship of IAAP*
- 2) *participation of IAAP representatives Judy Kuriansky as co-moderator and Walter Reichman as discussant*

*Report by: Dr. Judy Kuriansky*

*Date of workshop: September 9, 2005 time: 1:15–2:30 p.m.*

## **Summary of the conference**

**THE 58TH UNITED NATIONS DPI/NGO CONFERENCE: Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal** was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York, September 7–9, 2005. The purpose was to give public voice to several thousand NGO representatives and civil society partner activists on key issues of the United Nations and their priorities; implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (eradicating poverty, promoting human rights, enhancing collective security) through partnerships, as well as strengthening the United Nations, and to share those views with colleagues, constituents, representatives of member states of the UN, opinion makers and the broader public, through the media. The meeting took place immediately before the 2005 World Summit and general assembly of world leaders, which was the largest gathering of world leaders in history.

The conference was organized in partnership between the UN Department of Public Information and its associated NGOs. During three days, plenary sessions and midday workshops organized by the NGOs explored the implementation of the MDGs, human rights, peace and society, and the future of the UN, as set out in the Secretary-General's report, "In larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All," that outlines the agenda for the 2005 World Summit.

Attached to the conference program was a white plastic wrist band in a case announcing, "We can end poverty by 2016." From Voices Against Poverty, at [www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org).

**WORKSHOP TITLE: ACHIEVING COLLECTIVE SECURITY: PARTNERSHIPS TO PREVENT FEAR, VIOLENCE, GENOCIDE AND TERRORISM THROUGH TARGETING THE MDG GOALS**

Summary description of workshop topic: **Presentation of efforts related to the Secretary General's report "In Larger Freedom," focused on preventing fear and promoting security through human rights education, "hope not hate" campaigns, and efforts to achieve various MDGs by NGOs, media, and other stakeholders. Partnerships were described and useful recommendations given, with handouts for the attendees.**

## **Moderators**

**Dr. Anie Kalayjian, Fordham University, American Psychological Association, United Nations NGO representative.**

**Dr. Judy Kuriansky, Columbia University Teachers College, UN representative for the International Association of Applied Psychology, and the World Council of Psychotherapy.**

## **Names of Presenters and organizational affiliation/title/function**

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- 1) H.E. Stanislas Kamanzi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations**
  - 2) Sister Ngozi Uti, Director of Human Rights Education, Center for Women's Studies and Intervention, Abuja, Nigeria**
  - 3) Dr. Andrea Zielke-Nadkarni, Applied University of Muenster, Germany, in partnership with the International Association of Women in Radio and Television and with the Indira Gandhi National Open University, and co-sponsored by Fielding University Worldwide Network for Gender Empowerment**
  - 4) Seth Green and Jyothi Ramakrishnan, the Harvard International Development Organization, Activate South Asia, Americans for Informed Democracy, the Philadelphia Project Against AIDS, and the Buckminster Fuller Institute**
- 

## **Special Discussants**

- 1. Walter Reichman, International Association of Applied Psychology, Sirota Institute: research instruments to assess progress**

2. Darlyne Nemeth, World Council of Psychotherapy: efforts for Hurricane Katrina and research on psychological characters for healing

**Overall:** This midday workshop for the UN NGO conference was a big success. It was held in Conference Room D, one of the largest conference rooms, and one in which the closing ceremony was also held. It was exceptionally well attended and well reviewed from the feedback given by the attendees.

## **Opening remarks from Dr. Anie Kalayjian, co-moderator**

It is an honor and a privilege to welcome you this afternoon to the 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference & to our workshop: Achieving collective security: Partnerships to prevent fear, violence, genocide, and terrorism through targeting the MDGs. In particular, I welcome you, this august group of men and women from around the world, to meet with us and share your experiences.

As the sardonic Chinese saying states: May you live in interesting times. Indeed, today, ladies and gentlemen, we are living in interesting times. On one hand we are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the UN, the 54th anniversary of the UN Genocide Convention. But on the other hand, we are celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Ottoman Turkish genocide, saying never again, while at the same time going through another genocide in Darfur, Sudan. We have put down the walls in Berlin, but yet, building another wall in Israel.

We can no longer sit idly when people, our neighbors, our brothers and sisters, are homeless, hungry, being raped, looted and oppressed. We need to have zero tolerance for violence, zero tolerance for denial, and zero tolerance for discrimination. We need to adopt a horizontal decision-making style to address each and every one of these topics of freedom from fear, to ensure greater inclusion, integration, accountability, and responsibility.

Einstein called “nationalism an infantile disease, the measles of humanity.” We can no longer think of US and THEM. We are ALL in this together. The sooner we recognize this the sooner we begin our healing journey.

The sooner we repent and forgive, the sooner we create the consciousness for change from dominance to cooperation, from aggression to collaboration, from exclusion to inclusion, from selfishness to sharing, from anger to love, from revenge to forgiveness.

In this panel we focus on development through education, equity, communication, and mentoring. As the Secretary General stated so profoundly: “We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights”.

Wars, genocides, and terrorism have never resolved any problems, just the opposite: they have created problems. As Martin Luther King said so eloquently “The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you murder the hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: ONLY LOVE CAN DO THAT.

## **Opening remarks from Dr Judy Kuriansky, co-moderator**

This workshop is about achieving collective security through creating partnerships to prevent fear, violence, genocide and terrorism. We hope for all of you to use this opportunity, for all of you in this room to form those partnerships.

According to NGO resources and in a report from the UN DPI, by this year, there were a total of ten “major wars” and 24 “lesser” conflicts. Besides thousands of deaths of combatants, seventy-five percent of people killed or wounded were non-combatants.

War, violence and genocide are all very real, but how many of you in this room have suffered from what can be called “silent” war, violence, genocide or terrorism? We know the terrors of the recent Asian tsunami, and even the so-called “tsunami” in the South of America, but there are also “silent tsunamis” in people’s lives. The silent genocide and silent tsunamis refer to human suffering that may not result in bloodshed but is equally as devastating. On this panel, we address those outward as well as silent genocides and tsunamis, which can only be overcome when the rights and standard of living of men, women and children are honored, and lifted out of pain, fear, poverty, neglect and abuse.

That is, if the Millennium Development Goals are achieved, we will be taking steps to prevent war, violence, and genocide.

Which horrific examples of incidences of war, violence and genocide stand out in your mind or experience? For me, it was in Phnom Penh in Cambodia at the Killing Fields, where I witnessed a tower of skulls, with clothing scraps piled underneath – from people killed in the genocide of the Khmer Rouge under tyrant Pol Pot. Nicks in the trees marked where babies had been thrown up in the air and shot like clay discs, and then tacked with nails to trees.

The holocaust is another horrific genocide of our time. As are the torture victims of Saddam Hussein, the Butcher of Baghdad, who also had his henchmen throw babies against walls, besides forcing women to watch their husbands being battered to death, and hanging men from their private parts, or inserting electrified poles in their private body part openings.

Perhaps you think of the genocide and violence in Rwanda, made so public by the movie "Hotel Rwanda," or the civil war atrocities in Sierra Leone (where I am going soon). Recent newspaper reports are pointing to violence in the Philippines.

Sadly there is horror of a type of genocide and violence – that can only be called barbaric – happening in the American deep south, where poor people who took refuge in a New Orleans astrodome have reported women being raped. A man reported seeing a child in a bathroom, who had been sodomized, and then her throat slit.

What leads people to commit such horrors? We can only say psychologically it is extreme psychotic megalomaniac drive for power as in the Butcher of Baghdad, extreme narcissism in those who feel they are king, or psychopathic characters who think the law does not apply to them.

But societal problems are also at cause – problems that underlie the MDGs which are at the root of such societal ills, like poverty, disease, and human suffering. As Jan Egeland, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, said in his opening speech at this conference on Wednesday, "there are 'silent tsunamis' – in which hundreds of thousands of children die from diseases and hundreds of thousands of people go hungry."

How do we prevent such silent tsunamis, and such silent genocide and violence?

By achieving progress through the Millennium Development Goals – by giving people education, and by eradicating poverty, inequality and injustice that makes people angry, or depressed, or out of control, leading to violence or submission to violence. By giving people hope not hate.

By eradicating human suffering – which was proposed as the 9th MDG in the position paper of the World Council of Psychotherapy, drawn up at the recent conference in Buenos Aires.

Our panelists will address how genocide, war and violence can be stopped not with weapons but with achieving the MDGs, and how we can create partnerships – with civil society, NGOs, government, the private sector, and even media, to collectively work together across cultural divides, in order to achieve these goals.

# **1) Presentation by His Excellency Stanislas Kamanzi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations:**

## **ENFORCING UN GENOCIDE CONVENTION LESSONS LEARNED & CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME**

Allow to extend my commendation to the organizers of the present event on such a worthwhile topic, and for their personal contribution to keep the world alert on the ever pending threat of genocide. They deserve all our appreciation and our support. I thank them for affording me the opportunity and indeed the honor to be on the panel. Let me also express my warm and sincere consideration to the other panelists for their equally important dedication to being on board in the fight against genocide.

I will try to keep my remarks brief because I believe that there is nothing new I would be saying beside our repetitive rhetoric on the question of genocide and our ever broken promises to never again.

We indeed all know that genocide is evil and must be combated. We also all know that it can be combated. We are all aware that there are clear international instruments including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide that can be used to prevent that scourge from happening, should they be sustained by strong political will.

We all know that we are all guilty of complacency and passivity whenever we are facing situations compelling us to act. We all know that failure to act adequately and swiftly has always yielded to far-reaching and non repairable consequences with social, economic, political, and security related bearings.

At this juncture, mine will just be to once again to restate some of the factors that render the existing instruments unhelpful and to, of course, send out a reminder that these factors can be overcome if we are recommitted to act collectively as the sole manner to prevent any further catastrophe from taking place.

In the past, the enforcement of relevant preventive regulations regarding genocide has failed owing to many intertwined factors including the following:

### **Carelessness of the International Community in dealing with escalating genocidal crises**

The International Community consistently tends to minimize the extent of escalating situations. Either way, the International Community simply closes its eyes and leaves those crises up to the affected countries, or to some hegemony controlling those countries, to be dealt with. This tendency coupled with the lack of any strategic interests in the areas at risk on the side

of other key players within the International Community decision making spheres, proved to be very disastrous.

Simply put, past experiences testify to carelessness on the side of the International Community at large. The scenario turns to be a tacit conspiracy involving the genocidal State and the International Community. In the case of Rwanda the genocidal Government took full advantage of its seating on the Security Council as a non-permanent member, comforted by unconditional political support from one Permanent Member of the Council, as well as by the complacent attitude of some other influential members. Outside the Security Council the rest of the UN membership would just express worry with no further initiative to push that body to act appropriately.

### **The question of national sovereignty**

It is commonly agreed and enshrined in the UN Charter that all states are entitled with the right of equal sovereignty by virtue of which there should be no intervention in matters which are essentially within their domestic jurisdiction. In the case of Rwanda the principle was used as an excuse for the International Community not to intervene when that was needed the most, but also and mainly, by the genocidal government as a protective shield to carry out their plans with no hindrance at all.

National sovereignty is certainly not questionable as long as it is not used to bolster the political position of ruling cliques carrying out genocide or acts of genocide. Unconditional subscription to this principal when massive violations of human rights involving genocide are occurring amounts to the unfortunate state of affairs that for those vested with the privilege of ruling, power matters and people don't. My personal assessment would be that people are paramount and power can only be legitimate when it is used for the absolute preservation of their rights.

### **Lack of an appropriate framework for international cooperation to deal with genocide**

Genocide is a crime against humanity and should be dealt with the involvement of the International Community. Past experiences show, at least in the case of Rwanda, that despite human extermination taking place in the broad day light, the International Community unanimously opted for non-action. As a matter of fact, most of the countries that were contributing to the UN Peace Keeping Mission in Rwanda, UNAMIR intensively lobbied the Security Council to rule on the withdrawal of their troops from Rwanda. The most concerned and sympathetic were totally impotent to influence the course of action otherwise.

The above testifies to the evidence that the UN Security Council has never been the appropriate framework to handle genocide crises, be it in preventing them or in stopping them when they have started.

Handling genocide crises should be in consistency with the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide as adopted that well stipulates the necessity for international co-operation to liberate the mankind from the odious scourge of genocide.

The inefficiency of the Security Council in this respect requires that whenever there are obvious risks of genocide or any other massive human killings, the International Community as a whole should stand ready so to ensure that loss of human lives is avoided or mitigated.

My suggestion would be in the sense that, notwithstanding the prime responsibility vested to the UNSC to regulate on the maintenance of international peace and security, the General Assembly should be also actively involved in the decision-making process whenever the world is faced with occurrences of genocide. The General Assembly would for instance convene in special sessions so as to consider, as a matter of urgency, any deteriorating situations and propose appropriate courses of action. The Security Council should take over those decisions and implement them as decisions binding the whole United Nations membership. The concept of **Responsibility to Protect**<sup>1</sup> currently under consideration stipulates that necessity for collective action involving the whole UN membership to prevent or to stop genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. The concept merits strong support from all of us who wholeheartedly believe in liberating our world from genocide.

Acting collectively would help curtail financial and logistical constraints deriving from the lack of engagement of the international community as a whole, as regards making available the means required to implement decisions taken by the Security Council in the prevailing pattern.

## **Conceptual and legal considerations**

Taking action has been always prevented by conceptual and legal considerations stipulating that, at least with reference to the case of Rwanda, the International Community should refrain from intervening until it is legally established that killings taking place can be defined as genocide. Caution was highly recommended in various decision making quarters.

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<sup>1</sup> The Concept was endorsed as part of the September 2005 High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly Outcome document. It is referred to as "Responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity".

Once again, in such circumstances, human lives at risk should be paramount to any other consideration. The International Community should ascertain that large killings are prevented no matter the legal provisions, so to say, under which they fall. Legal considerations must instead be instrumental at the stage when the International Community turns to the establishment of accountability and the indictment process through appropriate international or national judiciary institutions, well after having taken decisive measures to stop the killings, in the first place. At this stage legal typology is indeed indispensable for commensurate sentences to be pronounced against those found guilty of committing genocide.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to express my satisfaction that there is some momentum emerging about freeing our world from genocide once and for all, as testify the many reflection frameworks taking place on this question, such as the one we are involved in today. We need to keep it up. We need to make sure that our personnel dedication has a real impact in our respective social or professional environments. We need to recommit to contributing as much as we can to the strengthening of existing instruments tailored for the prevention and the fight against genocide so they can be useful to correct our past failures.

I thank you

## **2) Introduction of Sister Ngozi Uti by Dr. Judy Kuriansky**

Sister Ngozi Uti is a Catholic nun who has had the guts to found a center for women to speak out against injustices, giving women a voice even when the women themselves are afraid to speak out for fear of what will be done to them, or that speaking out will upset their place in their family and community. Recognizing how culture and religion have disempowered women and made them insecure so they cannot live a life in freedom from fear, and that metaphorically women's "throats have been slit," she has become the "voice of the voiceless." While she is religious, she works with people of all religions. She is the executive director of the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention (CWSI), an NGO, nonprofit and non-religious organization started in 1999 with headquarters in Abuja, the federal capital territory of Nigeria. CWSIO is a project of the congregation of the handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus, an indigenous congregation of women founded in Nigeria in 1931 by an Irish Sister of Charity who came to Nigeria to help train women and children. Now about 800 Sisters dressed in white work in many states of Nigeria, Togo, and Sierra Leone (wracked by years of civil war ... to the point where the sisters had to leave), Kenya, Cameroon, Europe and the U.S. Their mission is to empower women and the girl-child, and to educate them on dignity and human rights.

CWSI since its inception has been involved in Human Rights Education for women in Nigeria in an attempt to free them from the heavy burden placed on them by tradition and culture, which have made them insecure as human beings. They focus on MDG of gender equality, economic empowerment, and eradication of HIV/Aids and other diseases.

### **3) Presentation by Sister Ngozi Uti**

*“We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights” (Kofi Anan: 2005)*

Security is a deep need in human beings. However, it means different things to men and women. From the need for social security (which is the provision of basic needs like food, shelter, job) to personal security such as poverty, discrimination and social justice. Violation of the rights of any person is a threat to human security. According to UNDP report:

*The world can never be at peace unless people have security in their daily lives*  
(Human Development Report: 1994)

Human Security aims at protecting human rights, which can be achieved by addressing the root causes of insecurity and vulnerability. Every man or woman whose rights are respected, has a sense of security. Therefore, human rights education is a strategy towards human security as it empowers people to seek solutions to their problems.

However, violence against women has become a problem that seems not to have a solution especially in Africa. Discrimination has become the bane of women. Efforts should be made to eliminate all forms of discrimination. Human Security in this regard is about ensuring equal access to education, social services and employment. It is sad to note that women are very often denied full access to these areas. To achieve human security for all, it is important that the rights of women be fully respected. In spite of the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, they continue to suffer various kinds of violence both in the private domain of the home and the public domain of the wider society.

I am going to look at human security from the Nigerian perspective. In Nigeria, women and girls suffer violence from birth to old age. Culture, tradition and religion have placed heavy burdens on women which over the years have led them to internalize their oppression, that they no longer see it as such. At birth some cultures practice Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or Female Circumcision. Male-child preference has led many women to having more children than they should have had, with some sacrificing themselves on the birth bed. The girl-child is made to know and feel a second-class citizen right from birth. When family income is meager the education

of the girl-child is sacrificed in order that the boy gets the desired education. In some cultures, at an early age of about 10–14 years, the young girl-child is married off to provide income for the family. She runs the risk of being denied education and health hazards such as Vessico Vaginal Fistula (VVF) which makes her a social outcast. Such young girls are not ready for marriage but because their fathers have given them out in marriage for whatever reasons, they have to fulfill their marital duties, one of which is to satisfy the sexual desires of their husbands, some of whom are old enough to be not only their fathers but grand-fathers. Acid – bathing has become a common act of violence from boy-friends who out of jealousy, decide to disfigure the young woman so that no other man admires her.

Most Nigerian cultures administer obnoxious practices on the widow on the death of her husband. Practices like the shaving of her hair and keeping her in an unhygienic state. To prove her innocence in the death of her husband, a woman is made to drink the dirty portion from water used to wash the dead husbands' corpse. In some cases, the widow is denied the right to inheritance of her husband's estate. In some cultures, a woman who has no male child is thrown out of the family because not having a male child means she has had no child for the family. Many women have lived miserable, married lives because they have no male child. These are all issues that affect the security of women. Genocide is not only the killing of a person at war times. The above examples are all acts of silent genocide. The throats of these women have not been cut off but their voices have been cut off. Their lives have not been snuffed but they have been silenced perhaps for life.

Number three of the Millennium Development Goal is: ***Promote gender equality and empower women***. This can only be achieved when more women know their rights and can claim it. The understanding of human rights principles and procedures enables people to participate in the decisions that determine their lives, and works towards conflict resolution and peace keeping. It is important therefore that all stake-holders – men, women, children, policy-makers, leaders – both temporal and spiritual, understand human rights issues for every human person.

The mission of the Centre for Women Studies and Intervention is to uphold the dignity of women through conscientisation and empowerment. To achieve this, the Centre has been carrying out human rights education for women and men especially at the grassroots. The main objectives of the human rights programmes are:

- To educate and conscientise women on their fundamental human rights.
- To provide participants with the necessary tools to educate the under-privileged, especially women and children.
- To enlighten the communities on gender bias, human rights violations, and strategies to defend individual and community rights.

- To educate the communities on the need for their full and equal participation in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life at all levels.

To be able to achieve our objectives of empowering women it is important to carry the men along. This is because most Nigerian men understand the empowerment of women as a tool for insubordination and so are prepared to fight it with all their might. The Centre therefore, carries out ***Gender Training Workshop for Men***. The objectives of the workshop are:

- To educate the male population of the community about gender issues and their importance in a democratic environment,
- To enlighten this same target group on gender bias, women’s human rights violations and strategies to defend individual and community rights.

To be able to consolidate our programme with a view to achieving number three of the Millennium Development Goal of empowering woman, the Centre embarked on training on advocacy strategies for the beneficiaries of the human rights education programme. The objectives of the advocacy training are:

- To equip women with relevant advocacy strategies to win the traditional rulers, religious and opinion leaders for the realization of gender equality
- To contribute to the elimination of traditional harmful practices
- To enlighten rural communities on gender bias, human rights violations and strategies to defend individual and community rights
- To educate the male population of the community about gender issues and their importance in a democratic environment.

### **Obstacles to achieving the MDGs**

The chief obstacles to achieving the MDG are culture, tradition and religion. This is due to the fact that men are the main custodians of culture and tradition and they are not ready or willing to change some of those practices since they favor them. The advocacy visits to the traditional rulers and other custodians of the culture is already yielding results. Nigerian women are already responding even though slowly to the conscientisation programmes. The men are beginning to understand the need for gender equity and empowerment. Most of them blamed the oppression of women on culture and tradition which has been entrenched in the society. They are quite willing to support their women in their empowerment programme. There is therefore a need for a wider campaign on human rights education.

The major religions oppress women yet preach the equality of men and women. For example, at the African Synod held in Rome in 1994, the Catholic bishops of Africa acknowledge the plight of women in the continent with a commitment to work towards eradicating such practices. Ecclesia in Africa 121 states:

*The Church deplores and condemns to the extent that they are still found in some African Societies all “the customs and practices which deprive women of their rights and the respect due to them”. It is recommended that Episcopal conferences establish special commissions to study further women’s problems in cooperation with interested Government agencies wherever this is possible.*

In Nigeria, eleven years after the African Synod this has remained at the level of words on paper. Priests and Catholic men use the scripture to justify most of their actions. It is the duty of leaders of these religions to preach against the oppression and exploitation of women. Their contribution in helping women to rise above their present situation would help to bring about change. The General Assembly Resolution 49/184 of 23 December 1994, announcing the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (HRE) states:

*Human rights education should involve more than the provision of information and should constitute a comprehensive life-long process by which people at all levels in development and in all strata of society learn respect for the dignity of others and the means and methods of ensuring that respect in all societies.*

It is hoped that the advocacy training and visits will help to overcome these obstacles. Nigeria has a population of about one hundred and thirty million (130,000,000) citizens, half of who are women. One can only imagine the silent deaths of the majority of these women.

## **PARTNERSHIP**

The decade for Human Rights Education has come and gone. At the international level, a lot might have been achieved. Yet in Africa, a lot needs to be done. One major problem facing the African continent is the level of poverty, and women are the most affected. To be able to achieve our objective of promoting gender equality and empower women, and give life to our women, there is need for sustained partnership. There is the need for moral and financial support by donor agencies to continue the education of men and women to their rights. As long as people do not know their rights and are not able to claim them, there can never be that freedom to live in dignity. Violation of the rights of men, women and children is a major source of insecurity in our continent, a silent genocide that takes the lives of many on a daily basis.

## **CONCLUSION**

I have in this short presentation looked at Achieving Collective Security from the point of view of achieving one of the Millennium Development Goals which is to *promote gender equality and empower women*. As long as the rights of women continue to be violated they can never be free to live in dignity, neither can they enjoy human security. There is an urgent need for more

women to be sensitized and conscientised on their rights as women and as human beings so as to be able to take their rightful places in the society. This requires the active support – both financially and materially of organizations in the developed world.

Thank you for listening and God bless.

#### **4) Presentation by: Dr. Andrea Zielke-Nadkarni**

Professor of Nursing Education & Science

The Worldwide Network for Gender Empowerment (“WNGE”),

Applied University of Muenster, Germany

Our organization WNGE, based at Fielding graduate University, is particularly obliged to MDG no. 3 “promote gender equality and promote women” and MDG no. 8 “Develop a global partnership for development”. The project we would like to present aims at establishing international cooperation and exchange between Germany and India in the field of nursing with view to these goals. Most nurses worldwide are female. Providing care within the family is a female task the world over. Therefore an exchange of information on topical areas of concern to both countries also tackles the goal of this year’s conference “prevent fear ... through targeting the MDG goals”. As a professor of nursing science at the Applied University of Muenster, Germany, my personal research area is the care of sociocultural minorities of which for example children in poverty or people with AIDS are a part. On the occasion of last year’s conference we were able to make contact with Jai Chandiram, chairwoman of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television. This provided us with the chance to connect women/nurses from Germany and India through radio programs. The women we are contacting through the medium radio are also nurses, i.e. BA students at the Indira Gandhi National Open University for whom we produced radio programs on the following topics:

- Child poverty in Germany
- HIV/AIDS in Germany – prevention and health promotion
- Living in an old people’s home: is there an alternative?
- Intent of our organization:
  - ~ To create a world-wide network, connecting otherwise isolated individuals with other scholars and activists.
  - ~ To serve as ethical change agents for socio-cultural minorities, particularly women, in their pursuit of truth-in-learning, both in their work and in their lives.
  - ~ To promote freedom of fear and provide security.

- Project and Partners:

“International Radio Project on Health Issues”

- ~ WNGE: Worldwide Network for Gender Empowerment
- ~ Fielding Graduate University
- ~ Applied University of Muenster, Germany
- ~ International Association of Women in Radio and Television
- ~ Indira Gandhi National Open University

- Our purpose:

- ~ to connect women/nurses from Germany and India
- ~ to exchange health information on topical issues of concern to both countries
- ~ to prevent structural violence to vulnerable target groups by handling their health problems
- ~ to develop their access to individual care
- ~ to actively include diversity into the development of opportunities for women
- ~ to create a learning network for nursing students in Germany and India concerning health problems as well as intercultural communication to reduce mutual fear and provide security

- Our method:

Conceptualize and create a radio program

- Radio programs on:

- ~ “Child poverty in Germany”
- ~ “HIV/AIDS in Germany – prevention and health promotion”
- ~ “Living in an old peoples’ home – is there an alternative?”

- Our Values:

Working together in creating partnerships across the globe between women

Promoting gender equality and women (MDG no. 3)

Making use of each others potential for problems solving

Develop a global partnership for development (MDG no. 8)

Supporting vulnerable groups

Sharing knowledge and support

I would like to give you an example of one of the radio programs and I will choose the topic of “Child poverty in Germany”:

In Germany we talk about an “infantilisation of poverty”. But: is it really at all possible to speak of poverty in a Western industrialized country. Can

children in Germany really be poor? – Figures show facts: in the year 2003 13.5% of the German population was living in poverty. Altogether a total of 1.5 mio. People below the age of 18 are stricken with poverty, i.e. every 10th child.

As one impoverished mother put it: “At the end of the money there is always a bit of the month left. Around the 25th of nearly every month there is hardly any food in the fridge.”

Now, what actually means poverty in Germany? Living in poverty mostly does not mean an emergency situation with a total lack of means for survival. Poverty mainly means social deprivation and social exclusion. We term it “relative poverty” if a household has less than 50% of the national average income, in relation, of course, to the number of household members and their ages.

In Germany if a person’s livelihood is seriously threatened they can apply for financial support from the government (“social security”). They do not receive much money, but it pays for the very basic expenses.

The highest ratio of poverty is found amongst families. The most frequent cause is unemployment. 55% of the families who receive social security are run by single mothers, followed by households with single men. Other poor families are immigrants, households with 2 unemployed parents and families with 4 or more children.

Children cause high costs and are therefore a poverty risk for a family.

Different from “relative poverty”, “absolute poverty” means that the existential minimum which secures survival, is not available. The people concerned live in hunger, are homeless, without means and medical care and without a chance for education and work. Absolute poverty is very rare in Germany and concerns the homeless, about 900,000 people, and about 7,000 street children.

In Germany poverty as such does not produce street children. It is mostly violence, sexual abuse, and drug or alcohol addiction in the family that drive youngsters out. Or – in the case of boys – parents often push them out expecting them to be able to survive alone. There are however institutions like street workers and homes for these children who are usually 14 years of age and older. But the children often prefer not to use these institutions and stay with friends or sleep outside, especially in the summer, or go home just to sleep there.

Most poor children in Germany live in relative poverty. Financial poverty and a low level of education often go together and are a health risk. It shows in unhealthy eating habits, bad teeth, a higher than average ration of obesity, a low use of preventive health examinations and a low vaccination status. Some of these effects are caused by parents’ disinterest, neglect, lack of knowledge and competence.

Poverty also has an effect on education: the lack of space for learning at home and lower means of intellectual support on the side of the parents result in lower learning possibilities.

One of the answers politicians have come up with is all-day schools. But we are very much at the beginning of organizing this effectively.

The principal idea of the radio project is that through connecting, partnerships will develop and by mutual exchange on how each country tackles topical problems (in this case health issues), improvements will be initiated for the health situation in both countries. We believe that geographical isolation contributes to increasing mistrust between nations and that through education fear can be prevented and autonomy strengthened. Projects such as the one presented here are helpful in developing the intellectual, social and political capital necessary to counteract these forces and to contribute to common understanding across cultures.

### **Getting In Touch with WNGE**

Worldwide Network for Gender Empowerment  
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Voice: 805-898-2927  
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### **Introduction of youth representatives by Dr. Judy Kuriansky**

The youth is our hope for a peaceful world. The youth on our panel are doing something about accomplishing the MDGs and achieving global security through understanding amongst diverse religions and cultures.

### **Introduction to Seth Green**

Last month I went to Yale University in New Haven to participate in a day-long workshop organized by the next speaker, a Yale Law School student, Seth Green. Seth is founder of Americans for Informed Democracy, who has a Masters in Development. Hundreds of students were there from all over the country and from extremely diverse backgrounds, from Iran to Italy to Indiana. Seth's workshops were focused around teaching the students how to organize events, like town halls, to educate not only students but citizens of all ages. One of the topics that captured me most was the title: Hope not Hate. Hope not Hate means, for example, creating better relations between

the West and the Islamic world, and between the West and Africa! How do you create hope not hate? Seth has a list of activities, lessons, interactions ... Actually he has a TOOL KIT of exactly what you DO, to create an event, from how to reserve a room, secure top notch speakers, do a mail merge, and write thank you letters. You can find it on his website ... [www.aidemocracy.org](http://www.aidemocracy.org), which offers an excellent model for NGOs of all kinds, for all events.

## **5) Speech by Seth Green, Yale Law student and current chair of Americans for Informed Democracy**

It is a pleasure to be here and I'm deeply honored by the invitation from Dr. Judy Kuriansky to address the United Nations conference particularly in this session on achieving collective security through targeting the MDG goals.

My name is Seth Green, I'm the current chair of Americans for Informed Democracy ...

I'll give you an overview of who we are and then will be telling you about how our group is contributing on a generational level to promoting collective security.

Very basically, we are an organization that trains and harnesses the energy and experience of globally conscious young leaders to help other less globally aware students understand world issues and the role individual countries play. We are focused on our country of America, but believe we have organized a model that can be used in every country in the world to educate young people, inform them about their country's role in the world, and therefore make a difference in reducing war and violence and building more peaceful relations.

And so we work with student leaders on more than 250 university campuses to organize town halls, videoconferences, documentary screenings and other events. This is what students in every developing country can do, because young people hold the key to preventing violence and hatred in the world.

One of our important themes, relevant to this workshop – is HOPE NOT HATE – the program Dr. Judy referred to. From September 12 through October 11, 2005, Americans for Informed Democracy will coordinate Hope not Hate, a town hall and videoconference series on the future of relations between the West and the Islamic world. The series will include more than one hundred town hall meetings on the questions "What is the long-term strategy for improving relations between the West and the Islamic world? Are the West and the Islamic world currently on the right path?" These town halls will feature a bipartisan coalition of congresspersons, ambassadors, 9/11

family members, scholars, journalists, and religious leaders. In addition to the town halls, the series will include more than twenty-five videoconferences between universities in the U.S., the U.K., and Spain, and universities in the Muslim world.

Hope not Hate is an annual series spearheaded by the Americans for Informed Democracy. The series began on the two-year anniversary of the September 11th attacks when citizens groups, 9/11 family members, and policymakers combined to commemorate September 11th with a positive call to collaborative action out of the ashes of tragedy. Last year, the series focused on the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that America must share its "vision of opportunity and hope" with the Muslim world. This year, Hope not Hate is broadening its focus beyond US-Islamic understanding to Western-Islamic understanding as a way of commemorating and constructively responding to the recent bombings in London, the March 11, 2004, bombings in Madrid, and the November 20, 2003, bombings in Istanbul.

– First, the Organizer's Toolkit is a kit of online materials that will help you to put together a town hall on your campus as part of our global town hall series. Our toolkit for two of next fall's series called Hope not Hate and Fighting for What's Right are now available at <http://www.aidemocracy.org/hopenothate.doc> and <http://www.aidemocracy.org/one.doc>

– Second, the U.S. in the World Guide is a guide that will prepare you to discuss global issues with your peers and other Americans in the U.S. We'll be going over this guide over the weekend. For a preview, see <http://www.usintheworld.org/>

[https://www.usintheworld.org/download/thanks.php?src\\_file=usintheworld.pdf](https://www.usintheworld.org/download/thanks.php?src_file=usintheworld.pdf)

– Third, we will be having discussions throughout the conference about America's role in the world. Joint project by the Open Society Institute and the Peace and Security Initiative:

Promoting Freedom and Preventing Genocide:

[http://www.soros.org/initiatives/washington/articles\\_publications/publications/leadership\\_20050401/c\\_promoting.pdf](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/washington/articles_publications/publications/leadership_20050401/c_promoting.pdf) Advancing Global Development:

[http://www.soros.org/initiatives/washington/articles\\_publications/publications/leadership\\_20050401/e\\_advancing.pdf](http://www.soros.org/initiatives/washington/articles_publications/publications/leadership_20050401/e_advancing.pdf)

Recently, as Dr. Judy described, since she attended, we brought together students from every ethnic background together at Yale University for training in how to develop hope not hate.

This started because a year after 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center there was divisiveness in the U.S. and abroad.

We encourage hope not hate in 2 ways:

1. broadening the discussion of global issues, especially by bringing in development, e.g. Fighting for What's Right.
2. deepening the discussion – news media presents images of Islam and terror threat; Pew study finds increase in people who think Islam encourages violence; questions being asked: “Who are the extremists, why do they hate us?”; we try to ask “Who are the moderates, how do we engage them?”; long-term solutions, understanding of Islam.

We believe that when people understand a culture, they are more willing to work collectively in harmony.

For example, if Americans understand the world more broadly and more deeply, they will be more supportive of the U.S. working with other countries to achieve common objectives through global institutions.

### ***What is our Strategy?***

1. **Grassroots education.** Facilitating in-depth discussions in communities about the rest of the world and facilitating American/non-American discussion in communities abroad
2. **Grass-tops network development.** Expanding the network for globally conscious young leaders and increasing opportunities for these leaders to shape government policy
3. **International NGO and institutional support.** Connecting grassroots and grass-tops efforts with existing efforts by internationalist organizations and raising grassroots and grass-tops awareness about the work of international NGOs and global governance institutions.

### ***Tactics: What specific methods do we use to execute our strategy?***

1. **Global town hall series.** These series seek to facilitate broad, inclusive discussion about an aspect of America's role in the world. The series fulfill all three levels of our strategy – they educate students and the general public (grassroots education); build leadership skills and create bonds between globally conscious students and elites (grass-tops network development); and they generate media coverage about internationalist efforts that can be used by international NGOs (institutional support).
2. **Individual chapter events.** These events are planned by individual campuses to promote discussion in their community. They often come out of coincidental opportunities (e.g. faculty advisor has prominent friend coming to campus). These events fulfill two levels of our strategy – they educate students and the general public (grassroots education) and build leadership skills and create bonds between globally conscious students and current leaders (grass-tops network development).

## The global town hall series and chapter events take many different forms:

- Town hall meetings with experts (professors, policymakers, and journalists)
- Videoconference discussions between students in the US and students overseas
- Town hall meetings with student speakers (mix between international and American)
- Documentary screening with public discussion afterward
- Discussion group with a set of reading materials
- Panel discussion with experts
- Presentations to local middle school and high school programs
- 5-k run to raise global awareness

**3. Leadership retreats.** These retreats seek to expand and improve the network among globally conscious young leaders, fulfilling strategy #2.

**4. Publication of op-eds and reports.** These publications occur in campus, local, national and international media. These fulfill all three levels of our strategy.

Two trends in young people around the world:

1. tremendous increase in global interaction – study abroad, internet, travel, trade – especially among young people
2. political apathy among youth

Clearly there's global interest and passion, so we believe that this reflects a feeling that many young people have that they cannot impact the U.S. role in the world.

Media is partly to blame. So much of our media focuses on our differences and our threats and we believe by building a broader and deeper worldview, Americans will better appreciate the opportunities for collaboration in an interconnected world.

Where do people get their stories about the world? For most interested, non-expert, voting Americans, even well-educated people, their principal source of information is local TV news – the news at 6 or 10 or 11 – not NPR, not PBS, not even the national network or cable news anchored by someone like Peter Jennings or Dan Rather or Wolf Blitzer. A study from the Annenberg School of Journalism at University of Southern California published in February 2005 confirms (again) that about 60% of the public gets most of their public affairs news from LOCAL TV. Research with this audience shows that the familiar path – the stories they know about the world – are mostly about a place that we might call for shorthand “global mayhem.” This leads Americans to be very skeptical of the rest of the world.

But there is an alternative pathway that can be strengthened. People of all countries, including the U.S. need to know that our fates are intertwined. In a careful study in 2000, repeated in 2003, people who heard a passage emphasizing the interdependence of our world were significantly more likely to believe that the US should increase its foreign assistance, do more to combat child labor, work more closely with other countries, etc.

Clearly there is importance to collective security of Americans understanding the world as an interconnected place.

**Introduction to Jyothi Ramakrishnan by Dr. Judy Kuriansky.** Jyothi Ramakrishnan is a student at Harvard and co-founder of several organizations, including Harvard International Development Organization, Activate South Asia and the Philadelphia Project.

## **Speech by Jyothi Ramakrishnan**

It is a pleasure to be with you today. I am the Director of the Young Global Leaders Summit: Ending Poverty, which is taking place tomorrow. The conference will teach students and young professionals how to raise awareness about and support for the Millennium Development Goals in their communities, as well as how to campaign their governments to commit to the Goals.

A major goal of the conference is to create a group of student ambassadors who will bring the message of the MDGs to their communities and begin a ripple effect. In my opening speech, I extol conference participants to regard the pursuit of international development not as rich-world charity, but as the obligation of all world citizens. This conceptualization of development will hopefully serve to combat prejudices about the poor that may afflict the students, prejudices such as the poor are lazy or the poor are undeserving. Conferences which focus specifically on youth involvement are a useful tool. From my organizing experience, young people long to feel as though they are part of a larger cause, which may be a result of the proverbial youth idealism. To exploit this need, in our advertisement campaign I constantly referred to the pursuit of the MDGs as the "special mission of your generation." Additionally, young people enjoy attending events where they will get to meet other young people. I was pleased to discover that as of this morning, we have received over 750 applications, which continue to come in.

The conference will begin with an inspirational speech by Gillian Sorensen, former Assistant Secretary General to Kofi Annan. A discussion will follow wherein U.S. politicians and members of the UN will discuss the UN's current efforts to achieve the MDGs. This panel will hopefully spark debate, because young people love a little controversy, but will more importantly foster understanding about the United Nations and show it to be a viable institution. This panel will be followed by Advocacy workshops, at which

participants will pick up tools regarding how to promote the MDGs. A panel discussion follows which addresses the relationship between the pursuit of the MDGs and social justice. The next event is the NGO Fair; representatives from 39 NGOs and government groups, including Oxfam, the WHO, UNDP and World Bank, will talk to students about their campaigns as well as about internships and postgraduate opportunities. The NGO Fair is an attempt to launch these young people into the world of development work. The conference closes with a speech by UN Millennium Campaign Director Salil Shetty. The last section, entitled "Commencing a National Movement," entails breaking participants into groups based on their university, with a special group for young professionals. At this time, participants will lay out concrete steps regarding how they plan to raise awareness about the MDGs on their campuses and in their communities. From the feedback I have been receiving, conference participants are extremely excited about this section.

Participants will leave the conference with the skills to begin promoting the Goals both in the United States and abroad. For example, participants will have the skills to set up videoconferences between American and foreign students, which serve to mitigate misunderstanding between disparate cultures. Participants will also learn effective ways by which they can dialogue with other Americans about global development. Training a group of young people to be highly informed about the MDGs can have implications for collective security. If America is viewed as ignorant and uncaring about the situation of the developing world, the country's security is compromised, but if American youth understand the ideology of the MDGs well and are sharing their passion for the Goals with the world, America will be perceived as a country which favors foreign aid and thus benevolent. It is important that Americans dialogue both with foreigners as well as with other Americans. A shocking aspect of the recent London bombings was that they were carried out by nationals. It is helpful that foreign-born citizens living in this country, who for whatever reason may feel alienated from this culture, understand that America does care about development. We reached our venue capacity recently and began rejecting applicants, but I still made sure that all foreign-born applicants received acceptance letters. It is important to me that the rest of the world understands that Americans care about development.

I also serve as the International Coordinator of the Philadelphia Project, an NGO which attempts to battle stereotypes about AIDS and also fund-raises for NGOs based in the developing world which fight the disease. The Philadelphia Project opens chapters at universities around the United States and around the world, and during World AIDS day, December 1, as well as the ensuing week, students at each chapter are commissioned to set up educational campaigns about AIDS. As everyone in this room knows, the difficulty in fighting AIDS arises from the stereotypes which surround this

much-stigmatized disease, and our chapter heads, in schools as far away as the Warsaw School of Economics, are asked to engage in educational campaigns on their campuses with their peers which target AIDS myths. Furthermore, each group asks for small, \$1–\$2 donations from students. The Philadelphia Project, in sum, is a group of people asking students on campuses around the world to educate their peers about the reality of AIDS.

In sum, I hope the mobilization of youth in pursuit of the MDGs has played some small role in combating prejudice, fear and violence. It has been a pleasure to speak here today, thank you.

## **Also present and supporting the youth representation**

Two other youth representatives are here with us. Leah Lowthrop is a Cultural Studies Graduate Student at the University of Pennsylvania, who has worked with the Buckminster Fuller Institute. Lowthrop is a Folklore and Cultural Studies PhD student at the University of Pennsylvania, interested in cultural heritage politics and working with UNESCO in their *Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural World Heritage* Project. She participated this summer in the Buckminster Fuller Institute's Design Science Summer Lab: Developing Strategies for Achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, an international youth conference organized in collaboration with the UN. In its first year, the conference united international youth in strategizing on how to reach MDG #1 on schedule.

Eric Tam is a law student at Yale Law School and a doctoral candidate at Yale University's Department of Political Science. He has worked on international security research for the Center for American Progress and for defense counsel at the Special Court of Sierra Leone. His doctoral research focuses on democracy and information control, with emphases on executive and military secrecy, the mass media, and intellectual property. Eric also helped lead the Americans for Informed Democracy chapter at Yale.

## **Featured commentators/discussants**

### **Introduction of Walter Reichman by Dr. Judy Kuriansky**

How will we measure if these goals of achieving global security are being achieved? That question will be addressed by Walter Reichman, UN representative for IAAP. Reichman is Professor Emeritus at Baruch College, CUNY, having been at CUNY for 40 years, and Chair of the Department of Psychology for 17 years. He joined Sirota Survey Intelligence as Vice President after Baruch. Sirota is an international firm specializing in survey research on employee and customer satisfaction. After examining 35 years of research, they have concluded that the way to have enthusiastic employees

is to treat them equitably, give them chances for achievement and for camaraderie. This is true in every country, culture, race, ethnic group, organizational level, and gender. Sirota helps organizations, in the private and public sector to achieve enthusiastic employees.

## **Comments by Walter Reichman**

### **Measurement of Progress and the Millennium Development Goals**

We are in the age of accountability; witness the recent criticism against the UN for not maintaining accountability for its programs. The basis of accountability is the measurement of success. All programs designed to achieve the Millennium Development goals should have measurement as part of its process. An example from one of yesterday's presentations will illustrate the benefits of measurement. Antonio Maria Costa described a television advertisement designed to provide prostitutes with a phone number that would bring them in contact with an agency that would provide them with aid. A simple measurement device, counting the number and source of telephone calls to the agency before and after the advertisements would have yielded data on the success of the program. It would provide real time feedback allowing for changes and corrections in the ad. It would have provided information on success to the donors of funds for the program and provided information as to whether the ads should be continued or the money diverted to another source.

The process of measurement involves:

1. specifying the goals or objectives of the project
2. establishing a base line measurement of that objective. For example, agency averages 30 calls a month
3. Institute the program. For example, begin the TV advertisements
4. Monitor the number of calls that come in each month once the ads are running
5. Determine whether there is a sufficient increase in calls to continue the advertisements.
6. Alter the program so as to maximize goal achievement. For example, most calls come in before 5PM, therefore run more advertisements in the morning.
7. Determine whether the success of the program is great enough to expand and enlarge the area in which the ads are presented
8. Announce that this program has made a positive contribution Toward MDG #3, "Promote gender equality and empower women."

### **Measurement and the Millennium Development Goals**

*Sirota Survey Intelligence™*

- *The importance of measurement in the achievement of the MDGs*

- At the outset of MDG projects
- Determine relevant objectives and Drivers
  - Establish a baseline measurement
  - Provide a diagnosis of what needs to be done
  - Help in setting priorities
  - Must be tailored to the specific situation; each is unique and will require unique solutions
- *During the life of MDG projects*
  - Assess progress against the baseline
  - Ensure that activities taking place are having the desired effects
  - Enable timely course correction, if needed
  - Prevent small issues from becoming large problems
- *Measurement/Monitoring*
  - Helps to ensure accountability
  - Provides real-time feedback to donors that their contributions are being wisely spent
  - Assists in understanding where and why shortcomings occurred
  - Captures success stories/Best Practices which can be applied elsewhere
    - Excellent publicity for future efforts

## **Introduction of Darlyne Nemeth by Dr. Judy Kuriansky**

Darlyne Nemeth, psychotherapist and UN rep for World Council of Psychotherapy, who has done research that is attached. Dr. Nemeth also explained her work with the Katrina survivors, since she lives in Baton Rouge and is a clinical and neuropsychologist there (and one of the driving forces in the committee obtaining prescription rights for psychologists in the state of Louisiana). Darlyne has done psychological first aid with people she has met in the streets and even in the bathroom. For example, she offered emotional support to police and firefighters who were in distress, one of whom she spoke to in the ladies room, who had obviously been in great distress. Darlyne is the head of the UN NGO delegation for the World Council for Psychotherapy and recently was part of the team of us who drafted the position paper for WCP in Buenos Aires at the WCP conference, that proposed a 9th MDG, the elimination of human suffering. Copies of this were distributed at the meeting.

Dr. Nemeth has done research on five emotional characters that must be understood so we can approach healing. In light of the recent London bombings, psychosocial awareness and unification will be needed to promote healing. This healing process must include 1) Revisiting developmental

issues, 2) gaining a new perspective, 3) choosing to belong, and 4) allowing forgiveness. As Dr. Nemeth says, “forgiveness is the opposite of apocalypticism, it is the most important of all millennial achievements.” See attached document for Darlyne’s research on “Millennialism, Terrorism, and the Healing Journey”

## **Concluding Remarks by Dr. Anie Kalayjian**

Wrap up of the speeches and a dedication:

*We challenge you; each and every one of you*

*To choose to make changes, not excuses,*

*Choose to be motivated, not manipulated,*

*Choose to excel not compete,*

*Choose to be proactive and not reactive,*

*Choose to act from your strengths and not from fears and weaknesses,  
and most importantly*

*Choose to love not hate.*

## **ADDENDUM**

One of the featured projects of the conference was a video documentary production entitled “**Who Are You?**” that recorded people of different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds from around the world. The interviews were played on a monitor during the conference, and then a 4 minute CD was produced of various sound bites from a diverse selection of the interviewees. Designed and produced **by Suzanne Engo, founder of Girl Behind the Camera Productions LLC and UN NGO rep for African Action on AIDS**, a booth was installed in the UN entrance hall wherein participants were interviewed about their views of the MDGs and how their country was doing, and how people are faring health wise, financially, environmentally, developmentally, and otherwise simply by asking them, “How are you?” A CD was made, and will be presented to Ambassadors at the UN. Eight Video Booths (one for each Millennium Development Goal) are intended to travel to different cities around the world and remain for one week in each location to record the video statements of NGOs, officials, members as well as private citizens.

Dr Judy Kuriansky and Gloria Mulcahy were interviewed together. Dr. Judy’s comment, which was included in the final CD, suggested the 9th Millennium Development Goal be that proposed by the position statement of the World Council of Psychotherapy: the eradication of human suffering.

# SUMMARY REPORT ON THE 58TH ANNUAL DPI/NGO CONFERENCE: UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 7–9 SEPTEMBER, 2005

*Walter Reichman, IAAP United Nations representative, ECOSOC*

**T**he title of the Conference was “Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnership and Renewal”.

More than 3,500 representatives of 1,160 organizations from 124 countries with Non-Governmental Organizational accreditation attended the three-day meeting. There were plenary sessions, roundtable discussions, interactive workshops and multi-stakeholder dialogues. The representatives from IAAP were Judy Kuriansky and Walter Reichman. A summary of the sessions from notes taken by Walter Reichman is presented for your information.

## *September 7, 2005 Morning Session*

The conference was opened by Shashi Tharoor, Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. Mr. Tharoor welcomed the representatives and said that this was the largest gathering of NGOs and that next week there would be the largest single gathering of world leaders at the UN. He praised the work of NGOs and said we were the guardians of reform in the world. We had the duty to be sure that our countries implement the work of the UN and to bring to the UN the needs and concerns of civil society.

Jean Ping, President of the 59th Session of the General Assembly spoke to the group. He spoke of the important role of the NGOs and the need of the UN to give them a stronger voice at the UN. He alluded to the June 24–25th meeting in which he and members of the General Assembly listened to the concerns of NGOs. He insisted that that meeting carried weight in determining what will take place in the next General Assembly meetings. He promised future dialogues between the UN and NGOs. He called for a partnership with NGOs to further peace and protect human rights.

The first Keynote Speaker was Jan Egeland, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. Mr. Egeland directed the UN Tsunami relief project. Mr. Egeland said that the UN must seize the opportunity during the coming week to reform and revitalize. He said we must not let the opportunity pass to find the root cause and relieve despair, conflict and injustice. We must develop a system to work together. He

said that the UN has to develop mechanism to respond to civilians in distress. To accomplish this it must upgrade funding and secure the safety of its aid workers. The greatest needs are in Africa. He said that Africa is the continent of the future because of the youth of its population. However, 20 million lives are at risk in parts of Africa. One in three African children is malnourished. Children die of hunger, malnourishment and preventable diseases.

The energy of private, voluntary society must be harnessed to respond to civilians in distress. He paid tribute to the NGOs who dealt with the Tsunami disaster and said that there were 400 NGOs on the grounds giving assistance within days of the disaster. The cooperation during that period should be the rule rather than the exception. He said we must work together to prevent what happened in the Congo where 3.8 million people died.

The UN must wake up public opinion and leaders to respond to the issues of the day. We had a technical revolution. It is now time for a Moral Revolution.

The second Keynote Speaker was Wahu Kaara, Ecumenical Programme Coordinator for the Millenium Development Goals, All Africa Council of Churches. Ms. Kaara has been nominated for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize. Her speech was devoted to marshalling forces to end poverty. She called for a Marshall Plan for Africa, a global call to action against poverty. She said that we have to give a clear message to governments, "No More Excuses, No More Poverty. We will not tolerate inefficiency and corruption anymore." African governments must be held accountable. The Developed World has a responsibility to take action against poverty. Saying that there is no money is not an excuse. We found money for Iraq. She called for the cancellation of debts of all African countries.

She called for an end to injustice both within and between countries. She called for a review of the free market strategy and called for a break with the view that only free markets will bring development.

She called for the following actions:

1. Nations should give specific commitments and follow with action
2. Monitor and publicize how money is used in developing countries
3. Rich countries should commit 0.7% of their GNP to end poverty
4. 100% debt cancellation for Africa
5. Trade justice – an end to barriers for goods to reach markets.

Ms. Kaara gave a ringing speech that was met with a long sustained ovation from the NGOs.

#### *September 7 Afternoon Session*

The session was titled "In Larger Freedom: The Challenge of Partnership".

The first speaker was Ziad Abdel Samad, Executive Director, Arab NGO Network for Development. Mr. Samad talked about the difficulties of developing partnerships in the Middle East. He maintained that terrorism is defined by the super powers. He did not believe it is terrorism when people use violence to achieve self-determination. He also said that there is such a thing as national terrorism. He maintained that terrorism stems mostly from foreign occupation and pointed to Israel's possession of "weapons of mass destruction" when no other nation in the region possessed such weapons.

He said that the public sector was weak in the Arab countries and civil society is not recognized as a legitimate avenue for change. It is difficult for civil societies to exist let alone to change the government. Civil societies exist primarily for charitable purposes and do not have much influence on policy. He believes that pressure on Arab countries to favor western ideas further weakens civil society.

He said that development in the region was being hindered by the Israeli/ Arab conflict and the conflict in Iraq. Sanctions against Arab countries would also serve to weaken civil society.

He believed that an increase in human rights cannot occur without an increase in economic and social rights. He said that Arab countries were struggling for the right to exist and to reduce their control by the great powers.

He saw the developmental changes in the region as the need for gender equality, more knowledge and an extension of the freedom of association.

The second speaker, Kemal Dervis, Administrator, UN Development Programme, spoke about the lack of funds for development since the 1990s. During the cold war the two sides funded programs for development in an effort to gain allies in the underdeveloped countries. With the end of the cold war this was no longer a priority and funds for development dried up.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), initiated in 2000, were designed in part to increase the flow of money for development. They have not been as successful as they hoped. It is necessary for the NGOs to influence their countries to make poverty reduction a priority and to make countries MDG friendly. He referred to the work of Jeffrey Sachs as being hindered by lack of funds.

The third speaker was Melba Pria Olavarrieta, Chief of the Special Unit for Attention to NGOs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. Ms. Olavarrieta said that civil society is playing an ever-increasing role in UN affairs. The UN is becoming less of a club of nations as the influence of civil society grows. She maintained that we have to rethink the concept of partnership between the UN and civil society. The concept of partnership was based on the Euro – American concept of social organizations. This is not the same way Latin

America defines partnership. In addition, how can you have a partnership among non – equals? Economic and social equality is necessary before you can have a real partnership.

Basic to developing a partnership is the understanding of the culture of the other. She called for:

1. National and international strategies of partnership with an understanding of the culture of underdeveloped countries
2. Coordination among developing countries
3. Acceptance of responsibilities for development by business organizations. Don't help just for gain and to avoid taxes
4. Governments need to be accountable and transparent
5. Allow involvement of more young people
6. Develop strategies for sustainability, i.e., procedures for meeting the needs of the present while preserving the future.

The fourth speaker was Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Executive Director, Tebtebba Foundation, Philippines; Chairperson, Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Ms. Tauli-Corpuz reiterated the difficulty of developing a partnership in an unequal world. What passes for partnership now leads to economic growth for the few and marginalization of the many. Almost all indigenous people are marginalized. The unequal power between governments and the indigenous people in their countries is the biggest challenge to partnership. To resolve the problem, the UN should study which partnerships have been successful in reducing inequality and use those as a model.

There is a move to reduce the numbers of indigenous people in the name of national identity. They roll over the indigenous culture and deny them the right to a voice in their governments. They do, however, have a voice at the UN. She called for nations to stop discriminating against indigenous people and forcing them to integrate into the main culture. When they resist this integration, they are labeled as terrorists. She called for governments to stop violating their human rights and then maybe they can form a partnership.

### *September 8 Morning Session*

The title of the session was “A Focus on Human Development: Implementing the MDGs”.

The second day of the conference dealt with the Millennium Development Goals. These goals are 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, 2. Achieve universal primary education, 3. Promote gender equality and empower women, 4. Reduce child mortality, 5. Improve maternal health, 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, 7. Ensure environmental sustainability and 8. Develop a global partnership for development.

The first speaker was Diana Medman, Founder of the Russian Women's Microfinance Network. Ms. Medman described a system she developed for making small loans to women to set them up in small businesses. She said that Perestroika in Russia was carried out at the expense of women as many of them lost their jobs. Ms. Medman, a scientist and President of a very successful biotechnology company, set out to improve the financial and economic standards of women in her country. As an alternative to charity she raised money to loan to women to open businesses and to find a place for themselves in their new market economy. In the eight years since founding the organization they have disbursed 44 million dollars in 10,000 loans. In 2004 the businesses they financed created 1,500 jobs. They have the support of the central bank of Russia and have now received one million dollars in credit from an international financial organization to continue their work.

The second speaker was Liu Mingzu, Chairman, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China. Mr. Mingzu described the growth of economic development in China, their commitment to the achievement of MDGs and sustaining the environment. They are ahead of schedule in contributing 0.7% of their GNP for the development fund. China is committed to sharing the fruits of their development with less developed countries. He said that China was behind in public health and dealing with HIV/AIDS. He believed an open market system was essential for development and wanted the UN to develop a new multi-national trade agreement. He favored writing off the debts of African nations. He believed that economic growth was central to human development.

The third speaker was Mamphela Ramphele, Co-Chair, Global Commission on International Migration.

Ms. Ramphele developed a very strong argument that policy coherence is the missing link between human development and success of the MDGs. As an example of the lack of coherence, she described the situation in which a developed country contributes finances to an underdeveloped country and that money is used to increase education. Then, educated people from that country migrate to the developed country for greater economic and career success. This deprives the underdeveloped country of the intellectual capital it needs to improve its conditions. The developed country gives with one hand and takes with the other. She pointed out that every action we take has consequences and we must be aware of these consequences and plan our processes so as not to defeat our own goals. She pointed out that migration is not an MDG goal, yet migration impacts the MDGs. Money, culture and skills move with people. Fifty percent of migrants are women, thus impacting the MDGs directed at improving the status of women. Policy in one country impacts the policy of another country.

The fourth speaker of the morning was Salil Shetty, Director of the UN Millennium Development Goals Campaign.

His major point was how little the developed nations of the world were contributing to the reduction of poverty. He said that if there were a correlation between the words about reducing poverty and action against poverty, there would be no more poverty. He urged the representatives to lobby their countries to contribute the 0.7% of GNP that they promised at the Millennium.

The afternoon session was titled "Collective Security: The Priorities of Civil Society."

The first speaker was Gareth Evans, President and Chief Executive, International Crisis Group. Mr. Evans was the first spokesperson who made the group aware of the conflict among the UN delegates in arriving at a consensus on the draft document to be brought to the Summit meeting on September 14. Once Ambassador Bolton of the U.S. had insisted on a review of the draft document that had been generally accepted before his appointment, the document was severely criticized by delegates from many nations. Even after Mr. Bolton gave in on many points the delegates from other nations refused to give in on their issues. Mr. Evans feared that they would not reach a compromise or that the document would be so watered down as to be meaningless in terms of bringing about change in the UN. There is no purpose in repeating the positions of the delegates that Mr. Evans described. (The end result was the watered down document that Mr. Evans and others feared, and which The New York Times referred to as a lost opportunity).

The second speaker was Daniel Opande, Former Lieutenant General of Kenya. General Opande described his efforts as the military leader of UN forces to end the fighting in Kenya and Sudan. He attributed his lack of success to an absence of will of the international community to intervene effectively. His goal was to get the conflicting parties to disarm and cooperate in reaching a peace agreement. Outsiders would only give "humanitarian aid," but that did not contribute to reducing the violence.

The third speaker was Antonio Maria Costa, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Mr. Costa basically said that drugs and crime were a great threat to the security of the world, but the UN was relatively ineffective in stopping it. He then described their efforts to reach prostitutes and give them information about safe havens they could go to. Their efforts seem to be television advertising and soap operas in South America that feature a character who is a former prostitute reaching out to working prostitutes and helping them change their way of living.

The final speaker of the day was Hazuki Yasuhara, the International Coordinator of Peaceboat. This is a project that takes young people on board

boats and brings them to other countries where they meet people of their age from other culture and ethnic groups. The goal is to break down stereotypes and long term cultural rivalries. She described a project in which she brought Japanese youngsters to Korea. While on the boat the children are educated on the dangers of nuclear weapons and urged to promote disarmament.

### *September 9 Morning Session*

The morning session was titled “A Dialogue: The Future of the United Nations”.

The moderator of this session was Jean Ping, President of the 59<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. He spoke about the importance of the NGOs and civil society to the UN and his efforts to incorporate them into the workings of the General Assembly. He referred to the NGOs as a reservoir of expertise that is needed for collective action with the UN.

The first speaker, Johan Lovald, Ambassador of Norway to the UN, continued the theme of the importance of NGOs to the UN. He saw a need for partnering with NGOs to spur development, especially in the South and as watchdogs on governments’ handling of human rights.

The second speaker was Mark Malloch Brown, Chef de Cabinet, Executive Office of the Secretary-General. Mr. Malloch Brown told us in detail and with obvious anger how the delegates, at this moment, were draining the essence and meaning from the Outcome Document. He exhorted the representatives in the room to challenge the delegates from their own countries to rise to the challenge and accept the “clarion call” for action to save this “teetering” document. He said that at that point the developing nations were holding back on their approval of the document to punish the U.S. for their refusal to support the MDGs. He also said that other nations saw this as an opportunity to withdraw support for the Human Rights Council and the definition of terrorism proposed by the Secretary General.

The third speaker was Bernice Romero, Advocacy Director, Oxfam International. Ms. Romero was also critical of the meetings that were going on among the delegates. She maintained that “they have no vision,” and are losing the opportunity to end poverty, establish arms control, insure justice and gain the MDG goals. She expressed fear that the UN Summit meeting would be a failure.

She called for the following changes:

1. Governments must protect civilians;
2. Governments must meet their obligations to the fulfillment of the Millennium goals;
3. The UN and governments must insure that weapons do not reach oppressive regimes, human rights abusers and criminals;

4. The UN must improve their ability to respond to disasters by establishing a permanent fund for that purpose.

The plenary session was followed by three concurrent Roundtables. They were: Envisioning a Secure World; Eradicating Poverty: Timelines and Lifelines; and United Nations and Civil Society.

Each roundtable had a moderator and three speakers. The audience then commented and asked questions. Each roundtable lasted approximately 75 minutes. In most cases there was only a few minutes for questions and comments.

The Friday afternoon session did not consist of all the speakers that were listed on the program. Some of them such as Jan Eliasson, President-Elect of the Sixtieth Session of the General Assembly, were in negotiations; others were called to unanticipated meetings in Geneva (Renate Bloem) and could not arrive in New York on time.

The title of the session was "Spare No Effort: 2015 is Now." The moderator of the session was Juan Somavia, Director-General, International Labour Organization. He was one of the most creative and innovative speakers at the conference, from my point of view. He said, for example, that he saw the future of the UN as moving from a global community of governments to a global community of institutions. Among these institutions will be parliaments, NGOs and large multilateral business organizations. It will be from the cooperation among these institutions that change and peace will derive.

He said that he designed the International Labour Organization around that concept. The ILO governing body is composed of 50% representatives of governments, 25% representatives of workers and 25% representatives of employers. He said it is hard work to arrive at agreements among these three groups, but when agreement is reached, "you know it will stick."

Mr. Somavia said it is important to link development to the global economy. He said that what is often overlooked is that jobs are the critical element in ending poverty and promoting development. He believed that having a job should have been a part of the MDGs. He pointed out that an indicator of how far we are from ending poverty is that the worldwide jobless rate has increased by 25% over the last decade. Jobs are the way to solve problems. "People will sacrifice for jobs." Jobs are key to political movements. People will vote for governments that promise jobs. They will vote against governments that do not provide jobs. Therefore, jobs are critical to national stability. Most of the problems of exploitation of youth and women can be traced to the lack of opportunities to work at meaningful jobs that will keep them alive.

He concluded by saying that globalization will be good only if it provides jobs, not if it costs jobs.

Cyril Ritchie represented the Secretariat in this session. He called for a strong UN organization to work independently of the nations. He called for workers in the Secretariat that would be free of control by the ambassadors of their countries. He said that the political will is lacking among nations to make the UN work. This is why governments do not keep their promises on protocols and treaties that they sign.

### *Closing Session*

The closing session was titled, "We the People: Every Voice Counts."

During this session, Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, paid tribute to the NGOs, promised greater involvement with them, and voiced his great fear that the ongoing negotiations would either break down or lead to a meaningless document.

## **POSTSCRIPT**

As the NGOs were meeting in one wing of the UN building, the delegates from 190 countries were meeting in another wing of the building to draft a resolution to be presented to the World Summit of Leaders five days later. On Friday afternoon, word was brought to the NGO meeting that the delegates were experiencing major disagreements and there may not be a resolution to present. The Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General appeared before the NGOs and asked us to pass a resolution urging the delegates to reach an accommodation and draft a document. We did pass a resolution and the delegates did draft a document that was, however, diluted of substance and a disappointment to most of the representatives.

This disappointing document and the legitimate criticism of the UN during the past year cries out for change in the UN. It is the opinion of many UN officials that the impetus and direction for change should come from civil society and the NGOs. I agree with this opinion and believe that IAAP has the potential to be a force for positive change. Every aspect of UN activities is reflected in one or another Division of IAAP. As an example, the General Assembly declared 2006 as the "Year of Sports". IAAP has a Division of Sports Psychology. They can influence the direction of sports activities throughout the world. The Organizational Division can marshal a wealth of experience to suggest change to the Secretariat and to all the Councils and Commissions of the UN.

In the coming years, NGOs will become more influential in the activities of the UN. IAAP, as an international psychological organization, should become a leader in this influencing process.

Whatever its problems, the UN still remains our greatest hope for peace in the world. It is incumbent upon us to use our expertise to further its ultimate goals.

Walter Reichman, Ed.D.

Representative from the International Association of Applied Psychology

## NEWS FROM DIVISIONS

### Division 4: Environmental Psychology

*Terry Hartig, Secretary and Newsletter Editor, IAAP Division 4*

#### **REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY AND ETHICS AND THE EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS AT THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RUSSIAN SOCIETY OF ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS**

*Dr. Irene Shmeleva, St. Petersburg State University, Russia*

The 7th International Conference of the Russian Society of Ecological Economics (RSEE 7) was held from 23–25 June, 2005. This was the first time that the RSEE was held in St. Petersburg. It was organized as a multidisciplinary conference, and it attracted 180 participants from 22 countries all over the world. The participants represented 103 different institutions, 59 in different parts of Russia and 44 in other countries. The conference languages were English and Russian, and translation was provided. Information supporters of the conference included the British Council, European Science Foundation, and International Society of Ecological Economics.

For the first time in the RSEE's history, a session on Environmental Psychology and Ethics was held. The session was co-chaired by Prof. Robert Gifford (University of Victoria, Canada) and myself, both of us members of the International Program Committee for the conference. The session received additional informational support from the Saint Petersburg Psychological Society and the Environmental Psychology Division of IAAP.

The session benefited from the participation of Dr. Monique Wach (University of Paris V, France), Dr. Beatrice Hammer (Electricity France, Paris), Prof. Julia Panukova (University of Krasnoyarsk), Dr. Elena Michailova (High School of Economics, Moscow), Dr. Olga Deryabina (Moscow Pedagogical University), Dr. Helena Shteinbakh (University of Railway Transport, St. Petersburg), Prof. Peter Söderbaum (University

of Mälardalen, Sweden), Prof. Arild Vatn (Norwegian University of Life Sciences), researchers Terence Cook and Horace Herring (Open University, UK), Dr. Janna Tolordava (Tbilisi State University, Georgia), L. Ivanenko (Ukraine) and many other participants from different regions of Russia.

Nearly 30 papers were originally submitted to the session. As vice-chair of the organizing committee, I decided to organize a sub-session called Education for Sustainable Development and to invite Prof. Dmitry Kavtaradze (Moscow State University) and Prof. Neva Goodwin (Global Development and Environmental Institute, New York) to co-chair this new session. Dmitry Kavtaradze also presented a master class on simulation games that could be used for environmental education and education for sustainable development in multidisciplinary fields as well as a paper with A. Zaikova entitled "Psychological support for educational simulation games on ecology and sustainable development." Neva Goodwin presented "What economics courses don't teach – but should" in which she pointed out the socio-psychological aspects of economic problems.

The role of social aspects in solving economic problems was also emphasized in a plenary keynote address by Peter Söderbaum, entitled "Actor roles and strategies in institutional change processes towards sustainable development." He stressed that sustainable development is a challenge for social sciences. Arild Vatn then spoke on "Institutions, behavior and the formulation of environmental policy." Robert Gifford, in his plenary speech "Resource dilemmas: A perspective from environmental psychology," introduced his comprehensive model of decision-making in the management of natural resources.

Different problems were presented in the papers submitted to the Environmental Psychology and Ethics session. These included spatial cognition and the mental representation of space, personality and environment, ecological psychology, place identity, and ecological consciousness. At the end of the session, Robert Gifford (Editor) introduced the *Journal of Environmental Psychology* to the international audience, and I introduced the IAAP organization and its Environmental Psychology Division to participants from Russia.

The session on Environmental Psychology and Ethics created much interest among the conference participants, not only the psychologists, but also, especially, the ecological economists. From the point of view of an ecological economist, modern economics needs critical revision, with acknowledgement and support of alternative perspectives and methods for solving ecological-economic problems. Ecological economists have argued for the use of modern developments in the field of environmental psychology to bring economic theory up-to-date, especially with regard to modern environmental and economic problems of climate change, poverty, reduction of biodiversity,

destruction of ecosystems, deforestation, and the increasing economic impact on the environment.

In the closing words of the President of the International Society for Ecological Economics, Prof. Charles Perrings (University of York, UK), the environmental psychology session and the session on governance and institutional aspects of sustainability reforms were the real “know-how” of the ecological economics conference, and from now on environmental psychology sessions will be organized as regular sessions at the biannual international conferences of ISEE.

## **REFLECTIONS ON THE RUSSIAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS CONFERENCE, ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, JUNE 23–25, 2005**

***Prof. Robert Gifford, President-elect of the IAAP Environmental Psychology  
Division, University of Victoria, Canada***

The Russian Society for Ecological Economics held its 7th conference from June 23–25 in the historic city of St. Petersburg. The theme was “Globalization, New Economy and the Environment: Business and Society Challenges for Sustainable Development.” An economics conference might sound like an unlikely venue for environmental psychology, but the organizers, in particular Dr. Irena Shmeleva and Dr. Stanislav Shmelev, were keen to include environmental psychology in the conference. This meant that several non-Russians and quite a number of Russians with strong interest and experience in environmental psychology were invited or attended.

In addition to the more traditional economics-oriented sessions, there were ones on Environmental Psychology and Ethics, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health, Global Environmental Problems, Natural Resources Management, and Transport, Energy, Industry, and the Environment, all of which are topics interesting to environmental psychologists.

My own experience included the opportunity to meet, as co-chair of the Environmental Psychology and Ethics session, some of the eager new generation of Russian environmental psychologists, some of whom came from as far as Siberia to Russia’s far west. I was also honored to be asked to deliver a keynote presentation on “Resource dilemmas: A perspective from environmental psychology,” in which I tried to explain environmental psychology’s perspective to an audience including many economists.

Of course, no trip to St. Petersburg would have been complete without a trip to the Hermitage, with its immense collections of many kinds of Russian and western European art, including rooms full of classic impressionist paintings. A city tour also included visits to many of the beautiful buildings constructed by Peter the Great and his successors as he developed Russia’s “window on

western Europe.” A boat trip along the Neva River revealed many broad vistas. For me, one highlight was the Church of the Spilled Blood, a less-ancient but very colorful and dramatic church built in the Russian style by a czarina whose husband was assassinated on that spot. Finally, my daughter and I were thrilled to see the classic Swan Lake ballet performed exactly where it should be, in the gilded Mariinsky Theatre with its vertical boxes and amazing 18<sup>th</sup>-century stage curtain, by the company that should perform it, the Mariinsky (formerly Kirov) Ballet Company.

All in all, our hosts in St. Petersburg were most accommodating, the city itself is of course a world treasure, and the conference itself was an education in multiculturalism and bridge-building. RSEE 7 was a conference I will remember forever.

## **NEW DISSERTATION**

Paola Passafaro (2005). Applying the theory of planned behaviour to different ecological behaviours. Dissertation submitted at the Department of Social and Developmental Psychology, University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Italy.

The aim of this thesis was to investigate the ability of the theory of planned behavior (and of some adjunctive variables such as moral norms, social identity, self identity and past behaviour) to predict intentions to perform three different kinds of ecological behaviours: recycling, public transportation use and the general ecological behaviour. Three studies were carried out (by means of a structured questionnaire) on three different samples of participants (study 1: N = 154; study 2: N = 180; study 3: N = 179). Results showed the good capacity of the overall model to predict the three different behaviours. However, substantial differences were recorded both in the relative weight of the model predictors (attitude, subjective norms and perceived behavioural control) and in the explained variance in intentions and behaviours for the three studies. For example, attitude showed its greatest effect in the prediction of the general ecological behaviour, but it showed a weak or no effect in the prediction of intentions to recycle and to use public transportation. Subjective norms were the weakest predictors of intentions to recycle and to act ecologically in general, but they revealed effective in the prediction of intention to use public transportation. Finally, perceived behavioural control appeared as the best predictor of intentions to perform all the considered behaviours. Among the considered adjunctive predictors, self identity was a good adjunctive predictor of intentions to perform all considered behaviours. As for moral norms, although this variable was strongly correlated to intentions to perform all behaviours, it cannot be considered as an adjunctive predictor. Indeed, when added to the model, it rendered some of the constituting variables as non-significant predictors. A similar result was obtained for past behaviour as well. Finally,

with regard to social identity, results obtained here contrast with those obtained in previous studies. As a matter of fact, none of the three studies here reported showed an effect of social identity on intentions to perform the considered ecological behaviours.

## NEW BOOK

*Urban Place: Reconnecting with the Natural World.* **Peggy F. Barlett (Editor)**  
**(2005): MIT Press. ISBN: 0-262-02586-8**

(From the publisher) "This volume brings together research from anthropology, sociology, public health, psychology, and landscape architecture to highlight how awareness of locale and a meaningful renewal of attachment with the earth are connected to delight in learning about nature as well as to civic action and new forms of community. Community garden coalitions, organic market advocates, and green space preservationists resist the power of global forces, enacting visions of a different future. Their creative efforts tell a story of a constructive and dynamic middle ground between private plots and public action, between human health and ecosystem health, between individual attachment and urban sustainability." The book includes a chapter on "Preference, restoration, and meaningful action in the context of nearby nature" by long-time Environmental Psychology division members Rachel and Stephen Kaplan.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- People in Place in People, the 1st International Symposium on Environment, Behaviour and Society, February 9–11, 2006, University of Sydney, Australia. For more information, see <http://www.arch.usyd.edu.au/web/research/ebs/ebssymposium.html>.
- Persuasive 06: 1st International Conference on Persuasive Technology for Human Well-being, 18–19 May, 2006, Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands. For more information please visit <http://www.persuasivetechology.org>, or mail to Yvonne de Kort ([y.a.w.d.kort@tue.nl](mailto:y.a.w.d.kort@tue.nl)) or Wijnand Ijsselsteijn ([w.a.ijsselsteijn@tue.nl](mailto:w.a.ijsselsteijn@tue.nl)).
- HB 2006: Healthy Buildings, 4–8 June, 2006, Lisboa, Portugal. HB 2006 is the 8th in a series of Healthy Buildings Conferences. The issues addressed relate to indoor air quality and its impact on health. For more information, see [www.hb2006.org](http://www.hb2006.org).
- Housing in an Expanding Europe: Theory, Policy, Implementation and Participation. A conference of the European Network for Housing Research, organized in cooperation with the Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia. Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2–5 July 2006. For more information, see <http://enhr2006-ljubljana.uirs.si/>.

## NOTES

If you have not been receiving periodic e-mail messages regarding developments within the Division, please send your e-mail address to Terry.Hartig@ibf.uu.se. We welcome newsletter items and website addresses of interest to those working in environmental psychology.

### **Division 8: Health Psychology**

*Aleksandra Luszczynska, Secretary, IAAP Division 8*

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

In November 2004, a new health psychology handbook was published. The SAGE "Handbook of Health Psychology", edited by Stephen Sutton from University of Cambridge, Andrew Baum from University of Pittsburgh, and Marie Johnston from University of St Andrews, covers the latest research in health psychology from a wide perspective. This includes the latest work in epidemiology of health and illness, health-related cognitions, chronic illness, interventions in changing health behavior, research methods in health psychology and biological mechanisms of health and disease. The list of contributors includes, among others, Edward Sarafino, James W. Pennebaker, Andrew Steptoe, John Weinman, Stan Maes, and Lucy Yardley.

For more details visit <http://www.sagepub.co.uk/>

In 2005, Open University Press has issued the second edition of "Predicting Health Behaviour", edited by Mark Conner and Paul Norman. The book is an updated and expanded review of research with social cognition models and health behaviors, taking into account a number of important developments in the field. These include an increasing focus on behavior change and interest in process models and volitional influences on behavior.

The content includes chapters on the health belief model, protection motivation theory, social cognitive theory, theory of planned behavior, stage theories of health behavior, and implementation intentions. All chapters provide state of the art guidelines about key concepts, measurement, current research and applications as well as future directions. Among others, the contributors are Paschal Sheeran, Charles Abraham, Stephen Sutton, Aleksandra Luszczynska, and Ralf Schwarzer.

For more details see <http://mcgraw-hill.co.uk/openupusa/html/0335211763.html>

## CONFERENCES IN SUMMER 2005

The members of the Division of Health Psychology have actively participated in the 19th *European Health Psychology Conference* (EHPS) in Galway, Ireland

and the 26th Conference of the *Stress and Anxiety Research Society* (STAR) in Halle, Germany.

The scientific program of the STAR conference included the keynote lectures on recent developments in research on positive emotions, stress and challenge by Prof. Esther Greenglass (York University), on terrorism seen as a challenge to the self, the collective, and democracy by Prof. Stevan E. Hobfoll (Kent State University), as well as on repression and denial of anxiety and anger by Prof. Charles Spielberger (University of South Florida).

The EHPS meeting in Galway gathered more than 600 health psychologists discussing issues related to Enhancing Individual, Family & Community Health. Keynote addresses were delivered by Prof. Shelley Taylor, UCLA, Prof. James Pennebaker, University of Texas, Prof. Marie Johnston, University of Aberdeen, and Prof. Jack James, NUI, Galway.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

1) At the **26th International Congress of Applied Psychology which will be held in Athens, 16th–21st July 2006**, seven invited symposia will be organized by the Division of Health Psychology. The topics and the chairpersons are:

- Esther R. Greenglass, Canada: SARS and psychosocial factors
- Aleksandra Luszczynska and Charles Abraham, UK: Health behavior change: The role of self-regulatory cognitions and social context
- Stevan E. Hobfoll, USA: Conservation of resources: Applications of stress theory to research
- Sonia Lippke, Germany & Claudio Nigg, USA: Changing health behavior theory-based: What are the advantages of different models and how can they contribute to each other?
- Teresa McIntyre, Portugal & Irina Todorova, Bulgaria: Women's Reproductive Health (jointly sponsored by IAAP and EHPS)
- Petra Buchwald, Germany & Tobias Ringeisen, Germany: From adolescence to adulthood: Stress and health-related outcomes from a cross-cultural perspective
- Erica Frydenberg, Australia, Health Coping: Health and psychosocial adjustment in women and children.

There will also be a state of the art lecture by Susan Michie (UK) on genetic testing: psychological consequences and interventions and a keynote lecture by Adrian A. Kaptein (The Netherlands) on illness cognitions in chronic somatic diseases. The presidential address by Ralf Schwarzer (Germany) will be on social cognition models in health behavior change.

2) The **20th Conference of the European Health Psychology Society (EHPS) will take place in Warsaw, Poland, August 30th – September 2nd, 2006.**

Further information available at <http://www.ehps.net>

The deadline for abstract submissions: February 14th, 2006.

For the first time, the EHPS conference will be hosted by an Eastern European country. The main focus of the conference is Social change and new challenges for health psychology.

**3) The 27th Conference of the *Stress and Anxiety Research Society (STAR)* will take place in Reythymnon, Crete, from 13th to 15th July 2006.**

Further information available at <http://www.star2006.org>

The deadline for poster abstract submissions: April 30th, 2006.

The main themes of the conference are: (1) Psychophysiological aspects of stress, (2) Stress and educational processes, (3) Positive emotions and stress, (4) Cross cultural issues in stress and coping, (5) Assessment of stress and coping.

Keynote lectures will be presented by Michael Eysenck (UK), Susan Folkman (USA), Stevan E. Hobfoll (USA), Suzanne Miller (USA), Charles Spielberger (USA) and Alexandros Vgontzas (USA).

Further information is available at <http://www.star2006.org/>

Secretary of Division 8 of IAAP

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE FOUNDATION MATTEI DOGAN AND THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCIENCE COUNCIL PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH**

This prize is awarded to a social scientist who has advanced the scientific knowledge in the social sciences, by crossing the disciplinary boundaries or by recombining different specialties, in his/her research and writings. It can also be offered to a team of scholars enjoying a high reputation in academic circles.

By interdisciplinary research is meant one of the following interpretations: The first is hybridization of specialties across disciplines; the second type consists in magisterial synthesis, which by opposition to narrow topics offers large perspectives or deals with impressive theoretical frameworks.

The prize will be awarded for the first time at the General Assembly of the International Social Science Council, in November 2006, and afterwards, every four years. The amount of the prize is US\$5000. The laureate will be invited to give a lecture at the ISSC General Assembly.

Nominations for the prize can be made by ISSC members, or other professional associations in various disciplines, as well as by universities and academic institutions.

The selection will be made by an international Jury.

The nominations are to be received at the ISSC Secretariat, by e-mail [issc@unesco.org], on April 21, 2006 at the latest.

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Paul E. Spector, University of South Florida, USA

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## **IAAP web address**

<http://www.iaapsy.org>

# International Association of Applied Psychology

The International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) is the oldest international psychological association. Established in 1920, it now has individual members in more than 80 countries, and holds an international Congress every four years in different cities of the world.

The major fields of activity within IAAP are reflected in its 16 Divisions.

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- Sport Psychology
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All members receive the quarterly journal *Applied Psychology: An International Review* free of charge (\$150/£99 to non-members in 2006). Members also receive the *IAAP Newsletter* free of charge. Additional Journals are offered to IAAP members at substantially reduced subscription rates (*European Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology, International Journal of Human Resource Management, Human Relations, Journal of Organizational Behaviour*). There are also substantially reduced membership fees for student members and for members from low income countries.

Dues for 2006: there is a graded scale of dues based on self-evaluated yearly income. Student Members will pay \$20/£13 (\$10/£7 for 1st year). For further information visit <http://www.iaapsy.org>

## *Application for IAAP Membership*

Please write to the Secretary General, José Maria Prieto, Complutense University of Madrid, Faculty of Psychology, Somosaguas, Madrid 28223, Spain, Fax: 34 1 3510091; Tel: 3943236, email: [jmprieto@psi.ucm.es](mailto:jmprieto@psi.ucm.es)