



AWAKENING THE HEALING HEART PROGRAM

A PROGRAM OF THE GLOBAL PEACE INITIATIVE OF WOMEN

In partnership with The Gallmann Memorial Foundation with support from Shinnyo-en, the Fetzer Institute and Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association

United Nations Headquarters

Nairobi, Kenya

March 2, 2012

This gathering marks the Global Peace Initiative of Women's 10th year anniversary since our founding at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in 2002 with the support of former UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan. We come to Africa in celebration of the growing network of women and men around the world who are quietly working to tap the human potential for inner transformation so that we may collectively create a more peaceful, just and sustainable world community.

"In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now."

*-The Late Wangari Maathai,
Nobel Peace Laureate*



Setting the Context:

The degradation of the natural world and the pain humans inflict upon each other come from the same cause; they are manifestations of the same mindset, one dominated by the need for control, driven by competition, greed and self interest. This mindset has brought the Earth community to a grave crisis, which will not be resolved by addressing the issues superficially or piecemeal. It is the mindset that must change, the consciousness that drives our collective behavior. Awakening the Healing Heart was designed as a reflection on how to awaken the greater potential of the human community, how to shift from a paradigm of competition to one of cooperation, from domination to sharing, from a thirst for excessive profit to a balance between the development of outer and inner resources – the qualities that uplift and enhance life. Awakening the Healing Heart is designed to help us reflect on how to heal our broken relationship with the natural world so that we realize again the preciousness of Earth and her resources. It is meant to help us know more deeply the interdependence of all life forms and especially of the human community. If one nation or community suffers, we all suffer. We are more interconnected than we know, and we can no longer afford to see deprivation and conflict as a problem of the “other.” We have been living in a construct of conflict – with nature and each other. If we are to survive, we must transform this into one of deep cooperation and appreciation, of mutual respect and caring. It is a monumental task but one that is already underway. The Earth and the human community are calling out for this transformation. How will we respond?

Program:

7:00am UN security registration opens / Conference registration opens

8:30am Welcome Tea and Coffee

9:00am [Opening Ceremony](#)

Facilitation:

Rev. Doju Dinajara Freire, Zen Buddhist (Brazil/Italy)

Offerings by:

- Chief Tamale Bwoya, Traditional Healer and Elder (Uganda)
- Dr. David Silverstein, Hon. Life Chairman of Nairobi Jewish Congregation (Kenya)
- Jessica Okello, African Leadership and Reconciliation Ministry (Uganda)
- Priti Shah, Prayer/Jain Tradition (Kenya)
- Teny Pirri-Simonian, Representative of H.H. Aram I, Catholocosite of Ciclicia (Lebanon/Switzerland)
- Ven. Guo Chan & Ven. Chang Ji, Dharma Drum Mountain Buddhist Association (USA)
- Ayeda Naqvi, Spiritual Guide, Sufi Order International (Pakistan/Dubai)



9:30am

Welcome Remarks & Setting the Context

- Dena Merriam, Founder, Global Peace Initiative of Women (USA)
- Kuki Gallmann, Founder, Gallmann Memorial Foundation & Great Rift Valley Trust in Olari Nyiro, Laikipia Nature Conservancy (Kenya)

Opening Address

- Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (Brazil/Kenya)

Responses

- H.H. Shinso Ito, Head Priest of Shinnyo-en (Japan)
Invocation of Blessings: Buddhist Rite led by HH Shinso Ito
- Dr. Sekagya Yahaya, Traditional Leader and Healer (Uganda)

10:30am

Responding to the Cry of the Earth: Recognizing the Rights of Nature

Most spiritual traditions see the Earth as a living system and know that the degradation of the Earth is more than just an environmental, health and economic crisis. It is an expression of a deep moral and spiritual crisis. As a collective, we have lost sight of the preciousness of Earth's living systems and through our intervention have thrown the natural world greatly out of balance, causing extinctions, polluting the soil, waters and air, disrupting the climate and causing a host of other natural disasters. What is the extent of the crisis, and is it possible to heal this rupture with the natural world? Is it time to recognize the rights of the Earth to maintain herself and her ecosystems?

Introduction & Dialogue facilitation by:

Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, Director, Dept. of Religion, Chautauqua Institution & Chair, Global Peace Initiative of Women (USA)

Discussants

- Wang Yongchen, Founder, Green Earth Volunteers (China)
- Dr. Corneille E.N. Ewango, Ecologist and Goldman Environmental Prize Recipient - Africa 2005 (Congo)
- Ven. Bhante Buddharakita, Founder, Uganda Buddhist Center (Uganda)

11:25am

Performance by: Elizabeth Njoroge, Founder, Art of Music (Kenya)

11:30am

The Underlying Reality of Interdependence: From a Paradigm of Dominance to One of Cooperation

What are the deeper causes of the environmental crisis? What has brought us to this place of such disconnection from the natural world? If we come to understand the interdependence of ecosystems and between the human community and the natural world, will this help change human behavior? We are being called to shift from a paradigm of competition and self interest to one of cooperation and sharing. With the predicted scarcity of clean water and food, and other vital resources, the need for this shift will become even more urgent in the years ahead. We must awaken our innate compassion and realize that when we injure the Earth or the "other," it is our own self we are hurting. Deep shifts in thought patterns are needed. What does it mean to heal our rift with the natural world, to come again into an intimate relationship with the forces of nature? It will not be enough to enact laws and agreements, although these are necessary. We must learn to see with new eyes our animal brethren, the rivers, forests and mountains.

Discussion facilitated by:

Dena Merriam, Founder, Global Peace Initiative of Women (USA)

Discussants:

- Sister Jayanti, European Director, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (UK)
- Žarko Andričević, Founder, Dharma Loka (Croatia)
- Dr. Agnes Abuom, Presidential Appointee, Judicial Service Commission of Kenya, (Kenya)
- Sraddhalu Ranade, Teacher, Sri Aurobindo Ashram (India)

12:30pm

Closing Words by: Benedictine Sr. Joan Chittister, Founder, Benetvision & Co-Chair, Global Peace Initiative of Women (USA)

12:40pm

GROUP PHOTOGRAPH



1:00pm	LUNCH Please join us for a banquet lunch on the UN grounds offered by the GPIW
2:30pm	Opening Prayer – Mary-Faeth Chenery, GPIW Director, Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joy Mboja, Sec. External Affairs, The Bahai Faith (Kenya) • Gayatri Mantra :Led by: Swami Atmarupananda, Ramakrishna Order (USA)
2:35pm	Awakening of Compassion Many conflicts today are over resources and this is likely to be even more true in the future as a growing human community struggles over limited resources. The same impulse that brings us into conflict with the natural world leads to conflict in the human community. As we seek to shift from a model of competition and self interest to one of cooperation and sharing, we will need to awaken the human capacity for compassion and forgiveness. What are the successful methods to help people overcome the anger and hatred caused by violence – to heal from the killing, rape and destruction still prevalent in many conflict areas today? In addition to overt conflict, there is the structural violence inherent in many societies, caused by economic injustice, gender imbalance, oppression, discrimination, etc. We must also heal these if we are to progress to a more peaceful and just world community. We can only change the outer conditions by addressing the inner state of humankind. Discussion facilitated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Tho Ha Vinh, Project Coordinator, Baeyul Dewaling Gross National Happiness Center in Bhutan and Founder & Chairman, Fondation Eurasia (Vietnam/Switzerland/Bhutan) Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. Dr. Celestin Musekura, Founder & President, African Leadership & Reconciliation Ministries (Rwanda/USA) • Rabha Banda, Reconciliation Leader, Women Development Program, (South Sudan) • Marie-Jeanne Munanga, Country Director, African Leadership & Reconciliation Ministries (Congo) • Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, Founder, Afghan Institute of Learning (Afghanistan) Closing Words by: Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, Chair, GPIW (USA)
3:45pm	MUSIC Performance by: Sarakasi
4:00pm	TEA BREAK
4:30pm	A Vision of Oneness: Overcoming Challenges to Social Transformation Dissatisfaction with the status quo is being expressed in many parts of the world, and it is difficult to separate the issues of economic and social inequity, abuse of the environment for the profit of the few, etc. The democratizing nature of the internet is creating a greater urge for freedom, expression, connectedness, and a new sense of human unity. Despite the challenges and seemingly slow pace of social and economic change, the concept of human unity is spreading. Like the concept of interdependence, there are many ways to understand unity. How can a vision of unity, or oneness, help us respond to the multiple crises facing the human community. Discussion facilitated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swami Atmarupananda, Ramakrishna Order (USA) Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Aliaa Rafea, Founder, The Human Foundation (Egypt) • Mae Chee Sansanee Sthirasuta, Founder, Sathira-dhammasathan (Thailand) • Fred Owino, Kenya Alternatives to Violence Program (Kenya) • Bob Maat, Peace Advocate (USA/Cambodia)
5:40pm	Closing Words and Acknowledgements: Marianne Marstrand, Executive Director, GPIW Brianne Chai-Onn, Program Director, GPIW Janelle Surpris, Program Director, GPIW
5:45pm	Closing Chant for the Wellbeing of the World Community Led by: Narad Eggenberger, Sri Aurobindo Ashram, Pondicherry and USA
6:00pm	Departures