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Bintumani Hotel Conference Centre . Freetown Sierra Leone

# Freetown prepares to host 26th IPRA General Conference!

Arrangements are in top gear in Freetown as the capital city of Sierra Leone prepares to play host to the 26th IPRA General Conference in November this year. The IPRA Secretary General and conference Chair Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw visited Sierra Leone for three weeks in the Summer to assess ongoing preparations to host the conference and he expressed satisfaction with the progress that has been made by the local chapter of the conference organizing committee.

In his overview of all that had been done on the international scene towards the hosting of the IPRA conference, Dr Shaw told the Sierra Leone chapter of the conference organizing committee meeting held on 8th August that the IPRA Secretariat received 750 papers when the call was released in the three rounds of submissions. He added that after the third round of the Call, more papers were received but after a rigorous peer review process, only 553 were accepted for presentation at the conference. He reported that out of the 553 papers, 127 are from Africa –with the majority from Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa. 85 papers from Europe, including 16 from Germany and 27 from the UK. Overall, he said, 120 papers were accepted from North America, with 94 coming from the USA; 169 from Asia-Pacific, including Australia, India, Nepal, Lebanon, and other

Arab countries. He said overall about 85 countries are represented in the total number of papers accepted. He added that there were still some 50 pending papers, which did not come through the online submission system that could be added after the review process. From South America, he said 25 papers were accepted – 14 from Colombia, and the remaining from Mexico and Brazil. The deadline for submission of papers, he said was extended from July 15 to August 15, 2016. He further disclosed that from the returns of the “Early Bird” registration process, the majority of those who have so far registered are from the Global North and few from the South. He, however, added that after the expiration of the “Early Bird” registration, many others may still register, after the allocation of the IPRA Foundation travel grants due to be announced in September.

Mrs Memunatu Pratt, coordinator of the Sierra Leone chapter of the conference organizing committee for her part reported that following recent meetings she held with stake holders such as the UNDP and the World Bank she expressed satisfaction that there has been a lot of interest to get involved and take part in the conference. She also reported that state institutions such as

--> (Cont ... on page 2)



## ... Freetown prepares to host 26th IPRA General Conference.

NASSIT and Road Transportation, as well departments such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Immigration department are doing their best to get involved and support the conference. She said most of those she met recently have at least promised to provide in kind support and discounts for services provided by them towards the success of the conference. On the issue of the sponsorship packages she said the economic challenges of the post Ebola period have made it difficult to get sponsorship from business organizations. She, however, noted that they have been getting positive responses from some not-for profit organisations. She said, for example, that the Civil Peace Service, a German peacebuilding organization in Sierra Leone that is in partnership with the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies at Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, had also agreed to print/ provide all the conference bags, pens, T-Shirts, stationery, brochure etc.



Dr Shaw, Mrs Cole, Mrs Pratt, Dr Bayoh just after the IPRA 2016 chapter Organising Committee meeting.

There were also some positive reports from the Transport sub committee with the deputy General Manager of the Road Transport Corporation, Mr Jalloh confirming plans to make their prestigious buses available for use during the conference at discounted prices.

Mrs Pratt reported that most of the things that were on the “to do” list, had been done. These included:

1. Writing and sending letters to various sponsors had been done and meetings had been held with most of them.
2. A meeting with the Tourism and Cultural Affairs Ministry had been held. Mrs Cole added that she has had a meeting with the ‘Dance Troupe’ and the dates for their performance blocked.
3. On the IPRA publicity issue, Mrs Pratt intimated members of the two public discussion forum agreed upon with the British Council. Gingles are also in the process of being prepared by the Intern, Mr. Mohamed Tunis, a Mass Communication student at FBC, USL, to be aired on the popular radio stations. These gingles are designed to disseminate pertinent information about the conference to attract local participation.
4. It was emphasized that reminders needed to be sent to various local organizations for their response to our request for their participation in the conference. ■

## Bid Process to Host 2018 IPRA General Conference

The International Peace Research Association (IPRA) is now accepting bids to host the 2018 IPRA General Conference.

Bids must be submitted via email to the IPRA Secretaries General: [secretaries-general@iprapeace.org](mailto:secretaries-general@iprapeace.org)

Also all questions should be directed to the IPRA Secretaries General: [secretaries-general@iprapeace.org](mailto:secretaries-general@iprapeace.org)

For more details on the bidding process please visit: <http://www.iprapeace.org/>

## Conference Attendance Confirmation Requested

IPRA 2016 conference applicants whose papers or proposals were accepted following the peer review process and have not yet registered but still intend to attend the conference are requested to confirm their attendance as soon as possible by visiting the conference website.

By completing and sending the form available in the below link, you can confirm your attendance. Those who have not yet registered or fail to submit this form before 15/10/2016 will not be included in the conference programme as paper presenters.

For more info regarding the Conference Attendance Confirmation please visit: <http://www.ipra2016.org>

## Travel Info: Airport - Hotel Transfer

IPRA has secured the services of 6 EXECUTIVE COACHES t

hat will be at the disposal of participants during the duration of the conference free of charge to the participants..

All the cost of this service will be covered by IPRA. The coaches will be at the Airport two or three days to the conference to take participants to their hotels in Freetown. The coaches take about 1 hour 30 minutes from the Airport to Freetown.

There will also be boat service by Sea Coach Ferries with but the cost of this which is \$40 one way lasting about 25 minutes will be covered by the participants. We are negotiating discounts on this for participants and will bring information on this very soon.



# IPRA Secretary General Visits the UN and potential partners in New York



Dr seaga with Dr Stephen del Rossi & Mr Aaron Stanley of the International peace & security programme at Carnegie corporation



Dr seaga shaw & Dr Zainab Bangura, UN Under Secretary General for violence against women

IPRA Secretary General Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw paid an official visit to New York in July this year where he held important discussions with potential partners, including the UN Under Secretary General for Violence Against Women in Conflict, Dr Zainab Hawa Bangura, Dr Steven Del Rosso, Director of the International Peace and Security programme of Carnegie, and Dr Saleem Badat, Director of the International Higher Education and Strategic Projects of the Andrew Mellon Foundation.

Dr Bangura, who formally accepted the invitation to deliver the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the IPRA conference in Freetown, said the conference itself is a big opportunity for development partners such as the UNDP and UNICEF to be involved in as the conference theme 'Agenda for Development' is very relevant to their operations in the Global South. She advised the IPRA Secretary General on how to reach out to representatives of the UN in Sierra Leone to get involved in the conference. Dr Shaw told Dr Bangura about the recent interesting work of the five permanent IPRA Representatives at the UN in the areas of gender and development and disarmament as part of IPRA's consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, and promised to forge some links between them and her office in the near future.

For his part, Dr Del Rosso of the International Peace and Security Programme of Carnegie after about IPRA and its work, said that they would be more open to working with IPRA in the future on other collaborative projects that are not necessarily conferences since they do not normally support conferences. He said he was, however, pleased to know about IPRA and its interesting work, and the fact that some organisations they are supporting are working with IPRA and will be taking part in the conference in Freetown. Dr Saleem Badat of the Andrew Mellon Foundation said he was pleased to meet the IPRA Secretary General and learn more about the organisation although he said that his organisation works more closely with academic institutions specialising in the Humanities, especially the arts. He said

they are currently working with some academic institutions in South Africa and will be keen to know if there is a strong interest from these institutions, especially from the humanities, for the IPRA conference in Freetown.

While in New York, Dr Shaw also took the opportunity to collect his UN Ground Pass and use it to attend the "International Day of Cooperatives: Innovative approaches to implementing the 2030 Agenda" on 11th July at the UN. The High Level event showcased how cooperatives, with case studies from different countries, especially from the global south, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ways to support them. More than sixty people, including high level representatives of government, the UN, cooperatives, civil society, and the COPAC membership, participated in the event, which was followed by a lunch to visit the COPAC photo exhibition, "Cooperatives: The power to act for a sustainable future". See the exhibition catalogue.

The IPRA UN team hosted a special dinner for the Secretary General at the iconic Turkish restaurant Ali Baba located very close to the UN Headquarters on Tuesday July 12. The dinner was also attended by Professor Matt Mogweku of Ithaka College New York, who is also IPRA Executive Committee Member. ■



Dr seaga shaw with some members of the Ipra permanent representatives at the UN

# 26th IPRA General Conference

## Sponsorship, Exhibition & Conference Brochure

The 2016 IPRA conference in Freetown, Sierra will bring together about 600 participants including scholars, experts, civil society activists, human rights activists and peace practitioners from different parts of the world and serve as a great platform and an inspiring occasion for discussion, engagement and networking.

### Why Sponsor this 2016 IPRA Conference?

Research conferences have enormous potential of creating positive socio-economic and political development, and therefore Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes increasingly take advantage of sponsoring research conferences as a vehicle to deliver their objectives. This creates a symbiotic relationship, where offering such sponsorships can provide a degree of competitive advantage to the companies while at the same contributing to the furtherance of the overall knowledge exchange objective of the conference. Both national and international companies are starting to recognize the importance of including peace building oriented projects including conference sponsorships in their CSR policies to consolidate peace and contribute to address the causes of conflicts and wars.

The IPRA 2016 conference offers an exceptional opportunity for sponsors to be partners in a noble cause to inspire global peace, and at the same time to be a big fish in a small pond of around 1000 renowned peace scholars, experts and practitioners from different parts of the world. This is a perfect opportunity to promote your organisation in both glamorous and moral ways

### Here are some very good reasons why you should sponsor IPRA and express yourself:

- Promote your research, goods, or services among an international audience of influential peace researchers & decision makers.
- Create positive CSR impact and develop positive brand image of your company or organisation
- Enhance your business profile on an international stage
- Perfect time to introduce your new products & services and introduce new ideas
- Connecting you with the participants of interest to you and your business and build new relationships, partnerships and network
- Play a key part in shaping global peace and security

**This conference will receive widespread media coverage including television, print and online media services nationally and internationally. We therefore call upon sponsors to come on board to partner with IPRA 2016 and support through one of the following sponsorship packages in a mutually beneficial manner.**

- Diamond Sponsor \$10,000
- Gold Sponsor \$5,000
- Bronze Sponsor \$2,500

#### Diamond Sponsor

Under this sponsorship sponsors will be given a unique opportunity to sponsor a day between 27th November and 1st December 2016 with exclusive branding during the day. This sponsorship will offer an excellent opportunity for maximum brand exposure.

- A speaking opportunity at the opening ceremony event to welcome the participants and say something about their CSR policies
- Sponsor will be given a desk at the reception throughout the conference to disseminate any promotional marketing material
- Sponsor's banner will be hung in the main conference hall
- Sponsor's wall banner will be hung in the registration/ common area
- Opportunity to include sponsor's gift in delegate bags
- Opportunity to include sponsor's flyer in delegate bags
- Corporate logo and profile including one full page advert in the conference brochure and programme

#### Gold Sponsor

This sponsorship allows five sponsors in an individual manner to sponsor the IPRA 2016 Gala dinner to be held on a day between 27th November and 1st December 2016 with exclusive branding during the dinner. This sponsorship will offer an opportunity for significant brand exposure in the following ways

- A speaking opportunity at the dinner to welcome the participants and say something about their CSR policies
- Sponsor will be given a desk at the reception throughout the conference to disseminate any promotional material
- Sponsor's banner will be hung in the main conference hall
- Sponsor's wall banner will be hung in the registration/ common area
- Opportunity to include sponsor's gift in delegate bags
- Opportunity to include sponsor's flyer in delegate bags
- Corporate logo and profile including one half page advert in the conference brochure and programme

#### Bronze Sponsor

- Sponsor will be given a desk at the reception throughout the conference to disseminate any promotional material
- Sponsor's banner will be hung in the main conference hall
- Sponsor's wall banner will be hung in the registration/common area
- Opportunity to include sponsor's gift in delegate bags
- Opportunity to include sponsor's flyer in delegate bags
- Corporate logo and profile including one quarter page advert in the delegate brochure

#### Additional Sponsorships

Conference Bag- \$2500 - Sponsor the conference bag with your logo

Conference Pad and Pen -\$2000 - Sponsor the conference Pad and Pen with your logo

Pull-up banner or Wall banner at Registration Area — \$1000 - You design your banner for us to hang in the registration area

Wall Banner in the main conference hall — \$2000 - You design your banner for us to hang in the main conference hall

- Conference Exhibition Spaces
- Large Space with Three Tables and Three Chairs: \$1000
- Medium Space with Two Tables and Two Chairs: \$500
- Small Space with One Table and One Chair: \$250

#### BROCHURE/CONFERENCE PROGRAMME ADVERT SPACES

- Full page : \$1000 / Half page: \$500 / Quarter page:250 / Classified: \$100

For more information on sponsorship and exhibition and the form to complete IPRA conference web site: [www.ipra2016.org](http://www.ipra2016.org)



# IPRA mentioned in UN Secretary General's report on Disarmament & Non-proliferation

By Dr Mathew Bolton, IPRA UN Rep

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his seventh Biennial Report of the Sec.-General on Disarmament and Non-proliferation has acknowledged and recognized the contribution of IPRA on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

This report was submitted to the 71st session of the General Assembly in August 2016 to review the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

The report states (paragraph 59 on page 20) that IPRA “engaged in a wide variety of relevant disarmament and non-proliferation education activities”, including making “expert statements and testimony in multilateral forums; developing peace and conflict studies programmes at the undergraduate and graduate levels, often with curricula featuring disarmament issues; publishing peer-reviewed research on disarmament; organizing academic and civil society conferences and training workshops; engaging in public advocacy, outreach, activism, inter-



faith dialogue and grass-roots organizing; facilitating on-the-job training opportunities with disarmament NGOs; and disseminating educational materials.”

IPRA’s UN team was asked by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) to submit a report on its activities in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation education. Following consultations with members around the world, IPRA’s UN team had submitted a report to UNODA that outlined the many ways IPRA members – as individuals, institutions or associations – engaged in a relevant disarmament and non-proliferation education activities in the reporting period.

UNODA’s final report will be released in the fall, following the opening of the new General Assembly session ■



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# Collective Musical Programmes and Rebuilding of Social Fabric in Columbia



This project was done in my native place Colombia, with the aim of delving into the strategies for the reconstruction of the social fabric of a country that has been at war for six decades.

The research aims to identify help in the sense of bringing to light collective musical programs carried out with the participation of people who have been victims of armed conflict.

The programme “Música para la reconciliación” (music for reconciliation) of the Fundación Nacional Batuta (National Batuta Foundation) which was developed through private and public funds in 284 orchestral centers in different cities around the country, benefiting about 36,000 children and young people of which 28,780 are victims of armed conflict.

I have finished the first phase of my fieldwork with the help of IPRA small grant. I visited six musical centers located in four different cities in Colombia during a six months period. The participants of this fieldwork in these centres involved children who were victims of the armed conflict.

The research method articulated in this study was ‘life story methodology’. I collected 20 life stories of participants in the musical centers. I interviewed each person three times at three different points of times: before the violent events, during the violent events and at the current time. I am in the process of analysing the data I have collected. I am thankful for the IPRA for the grant they have awarded to me.

*Andrea is a social worker and musician. Her work focuses on peace building through popular education projects in Colombia. Currently she is a PhD candidate at the UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace / Institute for Social Development (Universitat Jaume I, Castellon, Spain).*



## IPRA 2016 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration for the IPRA 2016 General conference, Freetown, Sierra Leone, from 27th November to 1st December 2016, is open to all, including Student & retired scholars.

You don't need to be a member of IPRA to attend the conference, but members enjoy significant discounts on registration fees, registration for the SPECIAL GALA DINNER, as well as other advantages of being part of the association, including the right to vote and be voted for at this IPRA conference and future conferences

If you're not a member, join now and you'll be eligible for the discount. If you join as a regular member, the discount is more than the cost of membership, so joining is free. To join or renew your membership please visit IPRA Peace web site: <http://www.iprapeace.org> ■

## CONFERENCE ACCOMODATION

The IPRA 2016 Conference Secretariat has successfully negotiated special discount rates with 10 of Freetown's prestigious hotels for participants of this conference. Most of these discounted hotels are between 5 - 10 minutes walk from the main conference venue while shuttle buses will be provided to facilitate easy movement. Some of these hotels have limited number of rooms and so early bookings are highly recommended to benefit from these discounts. Participants can book rooms from these discounted hotels before or after registering for the conference.

You can book your accommodation from these discounted hotels on the conference web site: <http://ipra2016.org/>

## TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION GRANTS

All those who completed the expressions of interest Travel grants applications online may be shortlisted for travel grants provided by IPRA Foundation or other grant funding bodies the IPRA secretariat is approaching.

The shortlisting for the IPRA Foundation grants is done by Commission conveners and so you are advised to contact the commission conveners of the commission to which you submitted for consideration to know whether you have been shortlisted or not.

More information about other funding for travel grants and about accommodation grants will be provided by the IPRA conference secretariat in due course ■



# Promoting Peace Education within University Students Living in a Conflict-Affected State of Somalia

By Yusuf Sheikh Omar (PhD, La Trobe University, Australia) & Khadijo Mohamed Osman (PhD, University College of London)

Somalia has suffered devastating civil war that continued over the last 25 years. The war completely destroyed national institutions, and undermined the social foundations of Somali society. The younger generation has grown up in a miserable, disillusioning environment, lacking a sense of safety and trust in the community.

A war mentality and violent culture has become part of youngsters' everyday life. Because of their tendencies to violence together with their sense of hopelessness, young people can easily be recruited by warlords and the extremist Islamists. As members of the Somali diaspora with training in peace building our desire was to give back to our homeland through higher education students.

We hoped that teaching our participants universal peace values, human rights, non-violent conflict resolution, effective communication and conflict transformation skills will help them transform themselves positively and develop culture of peace, harmony, and coexistence.

The peace education training will also help university students restore of sense of hope, confidence, community spirit and social solidarity in the midst of civil war.

We aimed to help university students



understand and identify the root causes of Somalia's social problems believing that this will reflect in the long term on Somali society in positive ways. The training was first run as a pilot for Mogadishu University students in 2015, opening the door to a more ambitious program for other higher education students. Therefore, the 2016 program was run in four locations: Mogadishu, Somali National, Hargeisa, and East Africa Universities. Safety was a particular concern, especially in Mogadishu.

In delivery strategies, a culturally appropriate approach was blended together with

modern approaches to conflict transformation and peace capacity building. Since Somalia is a Muslim country and defined as a nation of poets, the delivery emphasized the role of Islamic teachings in opposing the use of violence, and included sessions in using the creative arts for peace building such as Gabay (poetry), Buraanbur (women's poems) composed by participants themselves, songs, Sheeko xariir (storytelling). Somali proverbs endorsing peace building, watching peace documentaries relevant to the local context, and sessions of reflection and inner-dialogue.



According to feedback from participants, the training was very successful and left positive impacts on the participants. At each University campus the participants formed their own peace network and now maintain regular contact with us. As well as having a local significance the training impacted on the worldwide Somali community through community media including TV, radio, and social media. The Somali community developed sense of ownership of the initiative, and therefore, the community contributed to the cost of the training and some community members donated a land in Mogadishu to build a peace centre.

# Social Media: New Tools for Freedom, Peace and Security in Algeria

By Laeed Zaghalmi (Algiers University)



Today, social movements have roles to play in the mediated process of building social cohesion and peace and also in promoting peace language in the communicative sphere. Reflecting on many cases in the world, it can be observed the intimate connection between new media (that illustrated mainly by the advent of social media) and social movements. However, the remarkable thing about social media is that it is built on human social networks, which seems to be bridging the mass society and network communication as suggested by Van Dijk's.

Thus, in Algeria, social media tools are perceived as opportunities to express opinions and ideas for disseminating peace and security after many years of violence and social protests. Also, social media are seen as means for more democratic changes and practices in the political system. As such, numerous political parties and associations have already started to build up their websites and blogs to serve as a window to promote their activities. Besides, political leaders and prominent personalities have created their own account on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn etc..., they are serving as a personal space to develop and promote their ideas and opinions.

It is a free space for tackling issues that are not necessarily and imperatively dealt with by traditional media for political, social and moral reasons. It has imposed its new style and way of promoting pluralism,

press freedom and democracy. Thus, during April 2014 presidential elections in Algeria, social media content was prolific and active, numerous contributions were made to the point that local press had described it as a potential political area that managed to mobilise and coordinate actions calling to boycott elections boycott and ask for political openness and participation.

This example illustrates how social media is perceived as way and means to impose democracy for those partisans of unique party system. Some many examples will be developed in the course of this paper. These are the main thoughts and ideas in my paper which will be consolidated with practical cases regarding political leaders, civil society activists and militants' use the social media in attempts to democratize the social and virtual public media and political space.

Initially, social media focus on what people do through platforms rather than airing critical issues of ownership, rights, and power: Dahlgren (2009). But, some social media scholars tend to approach the topic the same way, asking how people use the sites and with what costs or consequences: In fact some scholars focus on the platforms' force as actors in socio-technical economy: Wilhelm (2000).

Arguments stated that they support human needs for social interaction, using

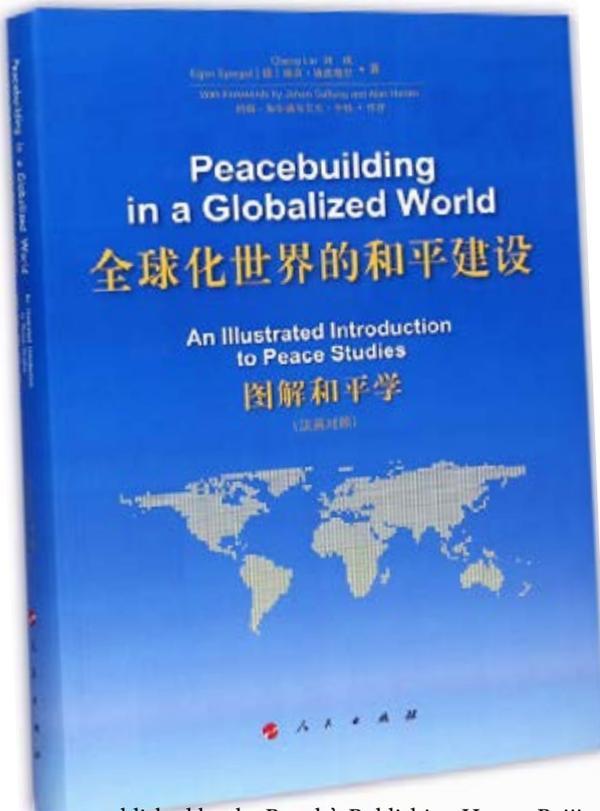
web-based technologies to transform broadcast media monologues (one to many) into social media dialogues (many to many). Also, social media tools can take various and fulfil various needs, which may have existed previously or may not. Thus, the use of social media is nowadays associated to web technology. Further, social media have the capability to reach small or large audiences; they can be user-friendly and are able virtually instantaneous responses: Dahlgren (2013). Also, part of a larger economic disempowerment that thrives on young creative workers' willingness to engage in their exploitation: Shane (2004). So, at their best, social media would help us build better worlds, but they cannot foster more just societies when their primary goals are growth and profit.

In Algeria, social media have become an integral part of contemporary society and discourse and made a considerable impact on contemporary life. Although, social media have not reached its maturation and even saturation in developed countries, Algerian citizens in some parts of the country are still striving to have access to it and search for spaces to express their views and opinions. Social media as a social phenomenon is perceived in Algeria as a reaction to monopolistic attitudes and policies that exclude ordinary citizens' views and opinions from their agenda settings. It is also seen as an opportunity to 'breathe fresh air; to get and share new ideas with others.' ■



# Realignment of Peace Studies — some aspects —

by Cheng Liu and Egon Spiegel



was published by the People's Publishing House, Beijing, in 2015, with forewords by Johan Galtung and Alan Hunter.

In this, we discuss about 200 issues that are central to nonviolent peacebuilding, for example: globalization and peace, cultural networking, cross-religious convergence, transnational peace building, changing perspectives, human potential, conflict transformation, relevant terms, military scene, remarkable sensitivity, making war taboo, worldwide peace, economic conflicts, nonviolent conflict resolution, the spirituality of nonviolence, nonviolent civil defense, nonviolent political structures, peace in Asian cultures, the Third Power, religions' task, peace education, reconciliation work, Peace Studies, nonviolence in schools, peace within partnerships and family. ■

Peace studies usually focus on the dark side of life and criticize what is wrong in the world. However, in order to make something better we can also focus on what is going right, with the intention of reinforcing it. Consequently, our peace research and peace education are essentially based on the human resourcefulness, on figuring out and highlighting our successful peace-orientated behavior in the framework of our daily nonviolent activities, and on extraordinary nonviolent actions such as those of Gandhi and King. From this perspective, we can see that young people, in particular, are connected through networks all over the world by a common 'lifeworld' – which includes common interests of consumption and lifestyle – and especially by the 'human web' (McNiell/McNiell) based on internet communication and the extensive use of smartphones. Therefore, as an essential basis for global peacebuilding, we favor an understanding of culture based on horizontal, cross-border lifeworlds and defined by transnational communalities instead of territorial specialties – that is, on unity rather than diversity.

Although we are aware of the problems of globalization, first and foremost we see the opportunities it offers. Indeed, from our perspective, the global economic network has become so dense that we are unable to risk a more extensive war. Moreover, our dependency on our computerized infrastructure means we cannot afford to destroy it through warfare. Meanwhile, more and more young people are unable to deal with violence without becoming traumatized. Additionally and contrary to the suggestions of the media, we are aware of a worldwide increase in the ethics of nonviolence. In this worldview, we foresee – even predict – that war will become taboo in principle and, consequently, be abolished in the near future.

Following the success of our many (often shared) lectures and seminaries both in our own universities and in other institutions all over the world, we decided to publish the central slides (graphs, pictures, tables, etc.) that we used to illustrate our talks, alongside corresponding comments in English and Chinese. Consequently, our book, *Peacebuilding in a Globalized World: An Introduction to Peace Studies*,

## SIERRA LEONE VISA INFORMATION

All visitors travelling to the Republic of Sierra Leone for the IPRA 2016 General conference, must OBTAIN APPROPRIATE VISA or entry permit. Visa applications must be made through any Sierra Leone Embassy, High Commission or Consulate.

1. Visa Waiver - Visa waivers apply to all participants whose countries have bilateral ties with Sierra Leone. This means countries which offer visa waivers to Sierra Leone will benefit from waiver from SL as well. Participants are advised to find out from their foreign office whether their country has a bilateral tie and visa waiver partnership with Sierra Leone in which case they would benefit from this visa waiver.
2. All confirmed participants must check with their Ministries of Foreign Affairs or consulate sections to know whether there is a Sierra Leone embassy in their countries or the nearest Sierra Leone Embassy or Consulate as they would have to use these channels for visa acquisition. If they do not have any, they would need to process their request for them in Sierra Leone and provide them with visa on arrival.
3. Visa costs - Visa costs is reciprocal, this means that participants to check how much Sierra Leoneans pay for acquiring visas from their respective countries, the same costs applies to them..

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VISA WAIVER COUNTRIES AND COST OF VISAS PLEASE VISIT THE IPRA CONFERENCE WEB SITE: <http://www.ipra2016.org>



# IPRA participates in the International Peace Summit 2016

The international peace summit 2016: achieving world peace and harmony through religious education and engagement was held at UNESCO's Paris headquarters from 14 to 16 September 2016.

The conference brought together religious leaders, human rights activists, UNESCO officials from across the world. Di Luo, a member of the organising committee of the 2016 International Peace Research (IPRA) Conference and co convener of the Sports and Peace Commission of IPRA also attended the summit.

Keynote Speakers spoke at the summit include: Mr Ny Toky Andriamanjato, Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Madagascar to UNESCO, Venerable Master Chin Kung AM, President and Founder, Pure Land Learning College Association, Nada Al-Nashif, UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, and UNESCO Ambassadors from various countries (Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Germany, UK, Italy, Australia and France). More than 300 people attended the conference.

Di Luo, on behalf of the Secretary General of IPRA, Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw, extended an invitation to Venerable Master Chin Kung AM to attend IPRA 2016 conference as a Guest of Honour.

Di Luo also attended a round table meeting of the summit together with UNESCO ambassadors and other dignitaries, where Venerable



Master Chin Kung delivered a speech on 'Understanding Buddha's Teachings'.

IPRA's representation at summit was significant in terms of building relationship and networking with other international peace organisations, peace practitioners and renowned religious leaders like master Chin Kung. ■

## The 100 Year Peace Project

The concept of the 100 year Peace Project (100YPP) was inspired by the approach and principles of the 100 Year Starship Project and from Leo Tolstoy's prediction that war would cease to exist within 100 years of a certain point in time.

The 100YPP would be established as a collaborative open source project (which would utilise the power of modern communications in all their formats).

The 100YPP would be structured provisionally around three main approaches:

1. To identify what the composition of a peaceful world would look like.
2. To ascertain the types of structures and conditions that would support such a world.
3. To chart the pathways and principles towards those conditions and goals.

The project would try to outline some of the core concepts from each of these three approaches. But the main purpose of the project is to create awareness that alternatives to all systems of violent conflict can be established without the loss of security or the threat to freedom however defined.

The Initial Set Up and Organisation would involve some form of online forum to look for ideas and interested contacts. The idea is to proceed along the following lines:

- Set up the forum by end of 2016
- Confirm level of interest by April 2017
- Produce an outline of possible developments by July 2017

Seán English PhD, Former coordinator of the Peace Theories Commission: Contact: sean\_english@eircom.net

# IPRA Membership & Membership Renewal

BY Di Luo (PhD Candidate Northumbria University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK)

The 2016 IPRA Conference has now updated its membership registration in the MEMBERS AREA available on the IPRA web site: [www.iprapeace.org](http://www.iprapeace.org) .

All students, scholars, and scientific institutions and associations, including those who are planning to attend the next IPRA conference in Free-town, who are interested in becoming members, or renewing their membership, of IPRA are now encouraged to complete this process by visiting the MEMBERS AREA on the IPRA web site : [www.iprapeace.org](http://www.iprapeace.org).

Article 6 of The IPRA STATUTES states that: 'IPRA shall be composed of three classes of members: individual scholars, scientific institutions and scientific associations, able to accept membership of the Association. IPRA may also have contribution members. Applications will be considered by the Executive Committee'.

Based on this article, individual scholars, scientific institutions and scientific association can become members of IPRA with paid membership fees. The fees are charged differently in accordance with the applicant's status and nationality (e.g. regular members, students/retired, or institutional members, high income, or upper middle, or lower middle, or low income country).

For both individual scholars and institutional

organisations and association, the membership is valid for two years, which is 2014 and 2016. For students and scholars who attended the 2014 IPRA Conference in Istanbul but not paid their membership fees, they need to bring their membership up to date and pay for the IPRA 2012 to 2016 membership (4 years).

For students and scholars who attended and paid their membership fees at the 2014 Istanbul IPRA Conference, they only need to renew their membership and pay for the years of the 2014 and 2016 (2 years).

Only fully paid up members will benefit from IPRA 2016 conference registration discounts, GALA DINNER discounts, access online resources reserved for members, enjoy priority for IPRA travel and accommodation grants, and enjoy the privilege of taking part in IPRA elections etc. (For more information about the BENEFITS OF IPRA MEMBERSHIP visit the MEMBERS AREA on the IPRA web site [www.iprapeace.org](http://www.iprapeace.org) .

The membership fees are needed to support the administrative work of IPRA and to support its projects and biennial conferences, as well as help support more students and scholars from low income countries to benefit from its projects and attend its biennial conferences.

For more information of the IPRA Memberships, including how to join, how to pay the fees & the specific benefits, please visit the official website at:

<http://iprapeace.org/index.php/members-area/membership>. ■

## “IPRA 2016” Conference Brochure/programme: Call for Articles

The “IPRA 2016” conference secretariat is happy to invite you to write articles for “IPRA 2016” conference brochure/programme, which will be circulated among the conference participants and published Online this year in November. Academics, PhD students and peace practitioners are cordially invited to prepare articles in given format and submit on or before June 30, 2016.

Contributions by way of opinion articles or features on peace research activities and projects are welcome, and should not be more than 500 words. Where relevant articles should be referenced and contain links where appropriate.

Contributions will be selected on the basis of their quality, since only few good and relevant ones would be selected for inclusion.

Priority will be given to contributions by IPRA members and associate members in the areas of peace research and education, especially those based on cutting edge research and/or contemporary issues and challenges of peace work.

Contributions should be sent to [secretarygeneral@iprapeace.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@iprapeace.org) & [Senthan.selverajah@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:Senthan.selverajah@northumbria.ac.uk)



# 26th IPRA General Conference

27th November – 1st December 2016, Freetown, Sierra Leone

## Plenary Sessions

26th IPRA General Conference on AGENDA FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT; Conflict Prevention, Post-Conflict Transformation, and the Conflict, Disaster Risk & Sustainable Development Debate

*Hosted by the University of Sierra Leone in Collaboration with the 10th Dealing with Disasters Conference Series, Northumbria University, UK and Sakarya University, Turkey*

**Plenary Session 1: Conflict Resolution, Human Security and Development**

The plenary examines how conflict resolution at various levels (global, regional, national, local and individual) can produce wellbeing, greater human security and sustainable development. This includes the role of different methodologies for achieving these objectives, both through science and the arts.

**Plenary Session 2: Peace Building and conflict resolution in Africa**

This plenary explores peace building and conflict resolution in Africa based on case studies from around the continent.

**Plenary Session 3: Disasters, Development and Conflict Risk Reduction**

The plenary reflects on why environmental threats to humankind, sustainable development initiatives and reducing conflict coalesce as common interconnected objectives.

**Plenary Session 4: Culture, marginality, rights and responsibilities**

This plenary illuminates the role of culture and human rights in addressing uneven development, in particular highlighting issues of gender, age, ability, minority groups, religious and spiritual rights and in context of displacement through conflict.

**Plenary Session 5: Media, Peace and Development**

The plenary examines the means by which the media serves as a changing communication driver for peace and development. This includes the role of education (formal or informal) and learning for peace and development.

**Plenary Session 6: Post Conflict and Transitional Justice**

Based on the concept and reality of post conflict the plenary addresses processes of change and transformations that underpin transitional justice, peace and reconciliation. This includes in relation to environmental sustainability, local economies and social cohesion.

**Plenary Session 7: Future Outlooks for Peace and Development**

This plenary reflects on the awareness, intersections of new learning and pathways to peace and development that have been revitalised or newly discovered through IPRA and its partner DwD 2016.

### TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

13.00 -15.00: Sunday November 27th November, 2016—Conference Registration and picking of conference bags and badges  
15.00 -16.30: PM Parallel Pre-conference workshops by IPRA Working Groups and others

Official Opening Ceremony: Sunday 27th November 2016 17.00-18.30 –Venue Bintumani Conference Centre

1. Welcome MESSAGE FROM The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of Sierra Leone, Professor Ekundayo Thompson

2. Message from IPRA Secretaries General Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw and Dr Nesrin Kenar

4. Message from the World Bank Country Director – Launching of Governance, Peace & Security Report

5. Message from The UNDP Representative in Sierra Leone

6. Keynote speech by Professor Thomas Pogge, Leitner Professor of Yale University, USA

7. Address and Official Opening of Conference -HE Dr Ernest Bai Koroma, President of Sierra Leone and Chancellor of the University of Sierra Leone(USL)

8. Cocktail reception hosted by the USL in collaboration with the World Bank, Sierra Leone –7:30 -9:30 pm with cultural performances by the National Dance Troupe.-- Venue The World Bank Office Spur Loop, Freetown

9. Full Programme of parallel commission sessions, including IPRA Administrative Meetings 11. IPRA Statues 12. IPRA Council Member's name 13. IPRA Commission Conveners Name

10. IPRA Executive Committee

Cocktail Reception– Speeches and Toasts



### IPRA Executive Committee 2014-2016

Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw - Co-secretary General - (UK/Sierra Leone )  
 Dr Nesrin Kenar- Co-secretary General - Turkey  
 Prof. Luc Reychler—Member - Belgium  
 Prof. Ursula Oswald Spring – Member - Mexico  
 Prof. Matt Mogweku—Member - USA/Nigeria  
 Kelli Te Maiharoa –Member - New Zealand  
 Dr Patrick Hiller– Member - USA

### IPRA representatives to the UN (2014-2016)

Dr Emily Welty, Dr Cyril Obi ,  
 Dr Matthew Bolton, Fran Petersen,  
 Matt Meyer .

### IPRA GOVERNING COUNCIL 2014-2016

Dr Ibrahim Seaga Shaw - IPRA co-Secretary General - UK/Sierra Leone  
 Dr Nesrin Kenar - IPRA co-Secretary General - Turkey

#### AFRICA

MALE Prof. Matt Mogekwu--USA  
 Dr Olufemi Oluniyi-- Nigeria  
 FEMALE Dr Jacinta Mwendu Maweu--Kenya  
 Bernedette Muthien-- South Africa

#### ASIA-PACIFIC

MALE Prof. Tetsu Sadotomo --Japan  
 FEMALE Dr Manish Sharma -India  
 Kelli Te Maiharoa--New Zealand  
 Ms. Sri Nuryanti - Indonesia

#### EUROPE

MALE Prof. Luc Reychler-- Belgium  
 Dr Hendrik Bullens--Netherlands  
 FEMALE Dr Riikka Kuusisto--Finland  
 Stephanie Thiel--Germany

#### LATIN AMERICA

MALE Hernan Dario Vazquez Reyna--Peru  
 Andres Macias Tolosa--Colombia  
 FEMALE Prof. Ursula Oswald Spring-- Mexico  
 Prof. Alvany Maria dos Santos Santiago/Brazil

#### NORTH AMERICA

MALE Dr Patrick Hiller--USA  
 Dr Matt Meyer--USA  
 FEMALE Dr Carolyn Stephenson-- USA  
 Dr Ellen Vaillancourt--Canada

#### RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

MALE Prof. Attila Fabian-- Hungary  
 FEMALE Dr Olga Vorkunova--Russia

### Ex-officio members

- EuPRA : Dr Itir Toksöz [itirtoksoz@gmail.com](mailto:itirtoksoz@gmail.com)
- ASIA-PASIFIC: Janjira Sombatpoonsiri [jsombutpoonsiri@gmail.com](mailto:jsombutpoonsiri@gmail.com)
- LATIN AMERICA : Diana de la Rúa [diana\\_delarua@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:diana_delarua@yahoo.com.ar)
- IPRAF : Dr Linda Johnston, [ljohnst9@kennesaw.edu](mailto:ljohnst9@kennesaw.edu)
- Newsletter editor—Senthana Selvarajah—UK/Sri Lanka
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- Newsletter editorial board member: Dr Zhaglami Laeed --Algeria

Please contact us if you require further information relating to this newsletter.  
 Your comments and feedback are also greatly appreciated.

Secretaries General – IPRA: Email - [secretary-general@iprapeace.org](mailto:secretary-general@iprapeace.org)

Dr. Ibrahim Seaga Shaw,  
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Dr. Nesrin Kenar  
 Sakarya University, Turkey