26th IPRA International General Conference on

‘AGENDA FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT: Conflict Prevention, Post-Conflict Transformation, and the Conflict, Disaster and Sustainable Development Debate’

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE
November 28-1December, 2016

About the Conference

The International Peace Research Association has been hosting insightful conferences in the pursuit of world peace and security since its inception in 1964 and has recorded massive success and support from global stakeholders of peace building. The 26th IPRA General Conference organised by IPRA in collaboration with the University of Sierra Leone as the host institution as and Northumbria University (UK) and Sakarya University of (Turkey is to be recorded as another benchmark of our visionary history.

The increasing ratio of violent conflicts arising within countries rather than between them in the post-cold war era possesses serious threat to global peace and security. This unabated growth of conflicts and wars has created an academic awakening and opened the eyes of scholars and decision makers to deliberate on the means of developing effective short, medium and long term strategies and viable methodologies for preventing and resolving the conflicts and wars and in overcoming the challenges and difficulties that lie ahead.

Following its successes and remarkable international recognition it gained in its contribution to inspire global peace and security, IPRA recognises its obligation and responsibility at this important point in time to frame its 26th General Conference to focus on generating research interest and discourse on how to take active, preventive and remedial action to address the challenges of development as part of the root causes of conflicts.

Most wars fought in the world are now civil wars although they attract less global attention compared to international wars. Because civil wars are increasingly common in developing countries and go on for years, a report by the World Bank in 2003 argued that civil war is now an important issue for development. War represents an obstacle to development, but conversely, development can prevent war. Civil wars have been on the increase, especially in the most deprived parts of the world, because the international community has done little to prevent them through pro-active development projects. It is recognised that lack of development which manifests in the form of poverty has been responsible for civil wars in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, the Gulf, the Caucuses, and Southeast Asia.
Poverty and conflict are two dependent variables that can cause each other leading to human disasters that become protracted. There is evidence that where conflict reduction and good governance prevails the effects of environmental disasters are reduced. This could be achieved through more comprehensive approaches to development, peace and human security. Far from being an idealist dream, there is already evidence that strengthened communities are offsetting the impact of potential disasters through enhancement of their education, health and wellbeing.

However, according to Collier et al (2003), two beliefs have served as blinkers to international interventions to end distant civil conflicts: first, that we can safely ‘let them fight it out among themselves’ because it has nothing to do with us, especially after the end of the Cold War, and second, that “nothing can be done” because civil war is driven by ancestral ethnic and religious hatreds. But research by Collier et al (2003), and many others has found out that ethnicity and religion are much less important factors in causing conflicts, and that economic characteristics such as low per capita income and inequality are often more greater conflict risk factors; because they lead to a breakdown in governance structures, thus creating a vacuum which too often leads to violence. Other researchers have blamed corruption and bad governance at both local and international levels as the main reasons for conflicts and wars in the developing world. Yet, despite the growing nexus between economic development and conflict dynamics, this area has so far attracted little interest from peace researchers. It is to address this gap in peace research that is the focus of the 26th IPRA General Conference scheduled to take place in Freetown between 27th November -1st December 2016 on the topic: ‘AGENDA FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT: Conflict prevention, post-conflict transformation, and the Disaster and Sustainable Development Debate’ to be hosted by the University of Sierra Leone in partnership with the Risk and Conflict Network, and Disaster and Development Network at Northumbria University in the UK, and Sakarya University in Turkey.

This conference will bring together more than 1000 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.

SPONSORSHIP

Why Sponsor this IPRA Conference?

Research conferences have enamours 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 and 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** $20,000
- **Gold Sponsor** $15,000
- **Bronze Sponsor** $10,000

**Diamond Sponsor**

Under this sponsorship five 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 & programme

**Gold Sponsor**

This sponsorship allows five sponsors in an individual manner to sponsor a day’s dinner 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 & profile including one half page advert in the conference brochure & 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 - $5000
Sponsor the conference bag with your logo

Conference Pad and Pen - $3000
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: $1500
- Medium Space with Two Tables and Two Chairs: $1000
- Small Space with One Table and One Chair: $500

BROCHURE/CONFERENCE PROGRAMME ADVERT SPACES

- Full page: $4000
- Half page: $2000
- Quarter page: $1000
- Classified: $500
THE HISTORY OF IPRA

Founded in 1964, IPRA developed from a conference organized by the "Quaker International Conferences and Seminars" in Clarens, Switzerland, 16-20 August 1963. The participants decided to hold international Conferences on Research on International Peace and Security (COROIPAS), which would be organized by a Continuing Committee similar to the Pugwash Conferences.

Under the leadership of John Burton, the Continuing Committee met in London, 1-3 December 1964. At that time, they took steps to broaden the original concept of holding research conferences. The decision was made to form a professional association with the principal aim of increasing the quantity of research focused on world peace and ensuring its scientific quality.

An Executive Committee including Bert V A. Roling, Secretary General (The Netherlands), John Burton (United Kingdom), Ljubivoje Acimovic (Yugoslavia), Jerzy Sawicki (Poland), and Johan Galtung (Norway) was appointed. This group was also designated as Nominating Committee for a 15-person Advisory Council to be elected at the first general conference of IPRA, to represent various regions, disciplines, and research interests in developing the work of the Association.

Since then, IPRA has held 25 biennial general conferences, the venues of which were chosen with a view to reflecting the association's global scope. IPRA, the global network of peace researchers, has just held its 25th General Conference on the occasion of its 50th anniversary in Istanbul, Turkey in August 2014 where peace researchers from all parts of the world had the opportunity to exchange actionable knowledge on the conference broad theme of ‘Uniting for sustainable peace and universal values’.

The 26th IPRA General Conference will take place between November 28 and 1st December 2016 in Freetown, Sierra Leone on the theme: AGENDA FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT: Conflict prevention, post-conflict transformation, and the Conflict, Disaster and Development Debate.

IPRA is a close ally of The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which assists the General Assembly in promoting international economic and social cooperation and development. IPRA was granted consultative status as a roster organization at ECOSOC.

Conference Venue

The 26th IPRA General Conference will have its opening ceremony at the Bintumani Hotel & Conference Centre situated in the Freetown touristic district of Aberdeen overlooking the famous Lumley Beach. The rest of the conference proceedings will take place at the University of Sierra Leone Institute of Public Administration and Management.
High Profile International Speakers and Keynote speakers include:

1. Professor Thomas Pogge, Leitner Professor of Philosophy and International Affairs, Yale University, USA. Keynote speaker
2. Professor Sirkku K. Hellsten, Philosophy Unit, Dept of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Plenary Speaker
3. Prof. dr. M.E. (Mirjam) de Bruijn, Institute of History of Africa, University of Leiden, Netherlands. Plenary Speaker
4. Dr Jake Lynch, Assistant Professor and Director of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, Australia. Plenary Speaker
5. Professor Katsuya Kodama, Vice Rector, Tsu University, Japan. Plenary Speaker
6. Professor Janet Wasko, Knight Chair in Communication Research, University of Oregon, USA, and President of International Association of Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). Keynote speaker
7. Professor Stuart Allan, Head of School of Media and Journalism, University of Cardiff, Wales, UK. Plenary Speaker
8. Professor Daya Kishan Thussu, Professor of International Communication and Co-Director of India Media Research Centre, University of Westminster, London, UK. Plenary Speaker
9. Professor Matt Baillie Smith, Director Centre For International Development, Northumbria University, UK. Plenary Speaker
10. Haja Dr. Hawa Zainab Bangura, UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy on Violence Against Women.
11. Professor Andrew Collins, Director, Disaster and Development Network, Northumbria University, UK. Plenary Speaker
12. Professor Meredith Turshen, Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, Rutgers University, USA. Plenary Speaker
14. Prof. Dr. Joseph Stiglitz, Columbia University, USA.
15. Dr Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Joint Nobel Peace Laureate and President of the Gbowee Peace Foundation, New York, USA
16. Professor David J. Francis, Head of Peace Studies and Director of the John & Elnora Ferguson Centre for African Studies (JEFCAS) at University of Bradford, UK
17. Professor Paul Richards, University College London, UK
18. Monique Barbut, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
19. Professor Guy Berger, Director, Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO, Paris

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Mrs Memunatu Pratt--(University of Sierra Leone, SL)
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Di Luo --(Northumbria University, UK)
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Conference Secretariat

Senthan Selvarajah -- (Northumbria University, UK)
Di Luo -- (Northumbria University, UK)
Brima Bah, University of Sierra Leone, SL

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2. Conflict Resolution and Peace Building Commission
3. Peace, Security and Development Commission
4. Ecology and Peace Commission (EPC)
5. Migration and Peace Commission
6. Gender and Peace Commission
7. Global Political Economy Commission
8. Indigenous Peoples' Rights Commission
9. Internal Conflicts Commission
11. Nonviolence and Peace Movements Commission
12. Peace Culture and Communications Commission
13. Peace Education Commission
14. Peace History Commission
15. Peace Journalism Commission
16. Peace Negotiations and Mediation Commission
17. Peace Theories Commission
18. Media, Conflicts, and Human Rights Commission
19. Reconciliation and Transitional Justice Commission
20. Spirituality, Religion, and Peace Commission
21. Security and Disarmament Commission
22. Sport and Peace Commission
23. Youth and Peace Commission
24. Peace Tourism Commission

WORKING GROUPS

Reflective Practitioner Working Group
Conflict-Sensitive Journalism Working Group
Risk and Conflict Working Group
Peace Research and Peace Activism Working Group
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- Dr Wayne Reynolds, Newcastle University, Australia
- Dr Wendy Lambourne, University of Sydney, Australia