

## **The International Peace Research Association (IPRA)**

The Report by the International Peace Research Association is published as an insert in the *International Journal of Peace Studies*. This is a shorter version of the electronic IPRA Newsletter. The full text of the e-newsletters can be found on the IPRA website: <<http://www.human.mie-u.ac.jp/~peace/top.htm>> or by contacting the secretariat.

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### **Secretary General's Message**

IPRA celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Since its foundation in 1964, IPRA has been actively involved in developing peace research and its networks. IPRA has held nineteen biennial general conferences, the venues being chosen to reflect the association's global scope. Our 10<sup>th</sup> general conference was held in Györ, Hungary, in 1983. This year, IPRA shall host its 20<sup>th</sup> general conference, again in Hungary, with the general theme of 'Peace and Conflict in a Time of Globalization'. IPRA's efforts in developing peace research and peace education have been highly valued, including our award of the UNESCO Peace Education Prize in 1989.

Despite our efforts, however, our world at present is still challenged by widespread conflicts and violence. What should and can we as peace researchers do during this time of globalization? We would like to gather in Sopron to discuss strategies to effect a more peaceful and humanely globalized world. Especially during the past few years we have witnessed quite a number of atrocities. We are still suffering from the aftermath of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars respectively. The situation in Palestine, as well as that of the Korean peninsula, are unstable and require special attention.

Peace research is now, more than ever, required to prove its *practical value*. Many people are still killed and are suffering in Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine. Peace research challenges to make real changes to society by stressing 'the values of peace and

nonviolence'; rather than confining itself to the ivory tower 'academic style' emphasizing the importance of 'academic neutrality'.

Some of the questions peace researchers seek to answer are the following.

- What does peace research propose to alleviate these international tensions?
- How does peace research design the new international order?
- What can peace research do to ease the suffering of the vulnerable and weak?

A crucial question is how to evaluate the trend of 'Globalization'. The hunger of children and the sufferings of the vulnerable and weak under the current tide of globalization should be given special consideration. Globalization of the law of the jungle should be transformed into the globalization of mutual prosperity and peace.

At the memorial conference to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IPRA, we will discuss the direction and strategies of peace research. The conference site, Sopron is an excellent place for the conference, with beautiful scenery and a medieval atmosphere. I look forward to meeting you and engaging in these critical discussions with you in Sopron this year. Do diarise the dates: 5 – 9 July 2004, Sopron, Hungary.

Katsuya Kodama  
Secretary General of IPRA (2000 - 2004)

### Commission and Regional Reports

#### APPRA Focuses on Human Security in a Demilitarized World

By Mary-Soledad Perpiñan  
APPRA Secretary General

The Asia-Pacific Peace Research Association (APPRA) is engaged in mobilizing the region in re-conceptualizing security and in working towards the eradication of violence, torture and militarization.

At the World Social Forum (WSF) in Mumbai, India, 16-21 January 2004, APPRA contributed to the WSF theme, "Another World is Possible," by holding a meeting to realize APPRA's vision, "A World without Violence, Torture and Militarization." The focus was on human security. Among APPRA colleagues who shared concepts and experiences were Asha Hans of FEDEM and Eliana Chin of Falun Dafa.

Asha Hans led the discussion on the need for a gender and holistic approach to issues of

security. This complements the growing anti-war initiatives with "alternatives for peace" inputs consistent with the concept of alternative security systems for a culture of peace. Demilitarization in tandem with political and institutional steps toward a viable system of human security is the goal. There is a need not only for a comprehensive strategy for reducing and closing long term foreign military bases throughout the world but also a collateral strategy for the building of a demilitarized security.

Eliana Chinn spoke of the torture and persecution suffered by Falun Gong practitioners in China and appealed for worldwide solidarity to rescue the victims.

APPRA is also one of the convenors of the International Conference against US Bases, a major event at WSF. Planning is done through regular teleconferences.

Immediately before the World Social Forum, the South East Asian Conflict Studies Network (SEACSN) hosted a conference in Penang, Malaysia, 11-15 January 2004. Most of those invited were APPRA members. The APPRA Secretary General, Mary-Soledad Perpinan, spoke on "Conscientizing Inquiry on Peace and Security," a research project done in conflict-ridden areas such as the Cordilleras, Burma, and Cambodia.

A "Waging Peace in the Philippines and Asia - Facilitating Processes, Consolidating Participation," conference took place 4-6 December 2003. An engaging dialogue occurred among various government and non-government stakeholders, highlighted by the contributions of Third Party facilitators and peace negotiators from Nepal, Norway, Aceh, Indonesia, and Israel. Responding to Professor Ariela of the University of Tel Aviv who spoke about the "Geneva Initiative," drafted by Palestinian and Israeli NGOs, the Swiss Ambassador to the Philippines commented that this proposal first landed on her desk when she was posted in Switzerland. The action plans of the conference tackled the long drawn armed conflicts in the Philippines and brought a hope for peace in facing the Communist and Muslim challenges squarely and successfully.

Lastly on 10 December 2003, our young APPRA peace journalist, Samira Ali Gutoc, had a British Council-sponsored launching of her research study, "Causes of Terrorism: The Philippines Amid Southeast Asia," done under the auspices of the Oxford University Center for Islamic Studies in May 2003.

For the IPRA General Assembly in July 2004, APPRA proposes a plenary ran by the different regional bodies to consolidate our forces and work towards greater inter-regional collaboration.

## **Europe and a New Global Order, Bridging the Global Divides: Some Comments from Latin America**

By Úrsula Oswald Spring

Secretary General of Latin American Council for Peace Research (CLAIP)

The Global Progressive Forum, held in Brussels 28-29 November 2003 brought rich suggestions and proposals. On the one hand it dealt with the link between Europe and other globalised countries, and it specifically proposed some economic reflections in terms of competitiveness of production, pricing, and quality vis-a-vis North America. However, the end of the Cold War coarsely exposed North-South differences, and in the South it revealed the disparity between social classes, ethnic and religious groups, urban and rural zones, and especially gender-based discrimination. Assessing this contemporary horizon, we see new phenomena being articulated in Latin America that the text fails to address. Noteworthy is the consolidation of social movements that represent three core socio-political currents: ecclesiastic base-communities tied to the Theology of Liberation; indigenous movements championing a holistic cosmovision integrating human communities with nature; and revolutionary processes following the influence of Che Guevara, where socialist ideals were advocated through revolutionary militancy. Particularly rich is the blend that resulted from all three processes, rooting present social movements throughout the nineties. These mass mobilizations have forced the resignation of Presidents in Ecuador, Argentina, Paraguay, Peru, Brazil and Bolivia; they contain corruption and limit privatization in the sub-continent.

The European vision, and to a lesser extent the North American, have sought an alternative path to channel social discontent. It is closely tied to institutions that link social movements to political parties (e.g. the Green Movement, Socialist Parties). In Latin America, however, the lack of solid social institutions, two lost decades for development imposed by the World Bank and IMF, privatization frauds, banc rescue-policies, lack of transparency in the exercise of budgets, and improvised governments, have obliged popular movements to articulate beyond political parties, syndicates and state-led organizations. Far from being state-centered movements, their creative capacity to struggle has enabled deep changes in terms of land access, with strong claims for food sovereignty and first-hand control of natural resources.

Facing productive deterritorialisation inherent in the neoliberal model proposed by the Washington Consensus and transnational enterprises, popular sectors have established road alliances for common action. The agricultural crisis has obliged peasants to relocate in city suburbs and shantytowns, where the fight for public services and property rights has been exacerbated. The identity of peoples and social sectors exceeds inter-ethnic cleavages, and it has enabled women to constructively lead processes with a

methodological training following the popular education model proposed by Paulo Freire. Diverse movements have formed and organized; by gestating their distinct educational spaces, they have jettisoned privatization pressures exerted by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and international financial organisms. For instance, the Movimento Sem Terra (MST, Landless Peasant Movement, Brazil), has more than a million affiliates, one thousand five hundred schools, teacher schools and a popular university. Following two decades in crisis, the Latin-American middle class have become impoverished and many intellectuals have joined the effort to articulate social alternatives; services are frequently exchanged for goods, and 'alternative money' experiments are underway to facilitate such exchanges (e.g. barter of foodstuffs for tuition or furniture).

The material and symbolic autonomy achieved between the popular sectors has reinforced their organization capacities, influencing the development of new identities that underlie the association between distinct social sectors and different peoples. Despite reactionary repression, dirty war, military retaliation, and recurrent socio-economic crises that destroyed popular and indigenous knowledge, access to education has propelled the rebirth of autochthonous cultures. It fostered the consolidation of original identities, and women have especially re-valued indigenous idiosyncrasies and fought for the right of gender equality. This self-gestating process has reinforced internal links and led to the formation of autonomous communities (based on traditional practices and customs) in direct opposition to European trends that champion the concept of citizenship and political-party based representation. This cultural difference portrays the discrepant understandings of democracy. Far from reproducing the western model of universal voting, these communities are exploring new avenues of political participation, responsive to the most immediate popular demands; such a direct control system seeks to eradicate widespread and pernicious corrupt practices found in formal government and party system.

To improve human behaviour and approach the dehumanisation process caused by wars, violence, and destruction of nature, the European progressive forces allied with all conscious communities in the world are capable to revert the destruction and reduce inherent risks. This will offer humankind a future of life with equity, sustainability, freedom, and care of vulnerables in synthesis with Human, Gender and Environmental Security – a HUGE utopia.

In Brussels, March 2004, the Latin American Council of Peace Research (CLAIP) promoted these kinds of new paradigms; a systematic reflection regarding nonviolent conflict resolution in indigenous communities and their conflictive preventive behavior in order to maintain solidarity, equality and sustainability in their villages and regions was undertaken.

## IPRA Foundation - Small Research Grants

By Ian Harris

Founded in 1990, the IPRA Foundation, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, furthers the purposes and activities of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) which, since 1965, has sought to enhance the processes of peace.

The IPRA Foundation administers small research grants up to \$3000 to support systematic observation or study of conflict phenomena and peace strategies. A short description of the five Foundation projects follows.

- **Dorothy Marcus Senesh Fellowship Endowment**

The Senesh Endowment provides a biennial fellowship for two years of graduate study to a Woman from the Third World.

- **Kenneth Boulding Memorial Conference Funding Fund**

The Boulding Fund supports research activities of IPRA Commissions and a limited number of travel grants.

- **Paul Smoker Memorial Peace Fund**

The Smoker Fund provides small grants for research on holistic views of peace.

- **Small Peace Research Grants**

Small research grants up to \$3000 to support systematic observation or study of conflict phenomena and peace strategies.

- **IPRA Foundation Endowment Fund**

The Endowment Fund supports the work of IPRA, its affiliates, and peace research. All members of IPRA are urged to help us build this endowment through current contributions, and in their long term financial plans.

An application form may be obtained from the President of the IPRA Foundation, Ian Harris, Department of Educational Policy and Community Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201, USA Tel: 1-414-229-2326; [imh@uwm.edu](mailto:imh@uwm.edu) or on the web at: <http://www.uwm.edu/~imh/APPLICATION.htm>.

If you have any questions or concerns about the **International Peace Research Association Foundation**, please contact Ian Harris.

Donations to support these projects are welcome. Please send cheques made out to "IPRA Foundation" to Rachel Trueblood, Treasurer IPRAF, 9226 Galway Road, Boulder, CO 80303.

## **The Forthcoming IPRA Conference**

### **IPRA 2004 - 20<sup>th</sup> Conference**

**Peace and Conflict in a Time of Globalisation**

**5 - 9 July 2004, in Sopron, Hungary.**

IPRA's 20<sup>th</sup> conference will be held 5 - 9 July 2004, in Sopron, Hungary.

The general theme: Peace and Conflict in a Time of Globalisation.

Plenary themes include: Disarmament and the UN, Education, Environment, Gender, Globalisation, the Middle East, and Nonviolence.

Commissions will organise their own parallel sessions and send their respective calls for papers. For further information, or to send an abstract, please contact commission convenors (listed at the end of this newsletter) directly.

The venue: Liszt Ferenc Conference Hall, 9400 Sopron. Szechenyi Square.

3-4 July is scheduled for international participants' arrival, while 10-11 July is for additional sightseeing/tours and/or departures.

For more details, contact conference organisers, Imre Levai: levai@mtapti.hu and consult the IPRA website: <http://www.human.mie-u.ac.jp/~peace/IPRAC-2004.htm>

Paper proposals can be submitted to various IPRA Commissions:

### **Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding**

Contact Luc Reyhler & Abdelwahab Biad:

[luc.reyhler@soc.kuleuven.ac.be](mailto:luc.reyhler@soc.kuleuven.ac.be)

[Abdelwahab.Biad@univ-rouen.fr](mailto:Abdelwahab.Biad@univ-rouen.fr)

### **Global Political Economy Commission**

Contact Howard Richards

### **Peace History Commission**

Contact Anne Kjelling & Guenter Wernicke: [guenter.wernicke@rz.hu-berlin.de](mailto:guenter.wernicke@rz.hu-berlin.de)

### **Peace Education Commission**

Contact B. Jeannie Lum: [jlum@hawaii.edu](mailto:jlum@hawaii.edu)

**Commission on International Human Rights**

Contact George Kent: [kent@hawaii.edu](mailto:kent@hawaii.edu)

**Ecology and Peace Commission**

Contact Frans C. Verhagen: [gaia1@rcn.com](mailto:gaia1@rcn.com)

**Religion and Peace Commission**

Contact Ravi P. Bhatia: [ravipb00@yahoo.com](mailto:ravipb00@yahoo.com)