

Amidst its differences, humanity very often finds itself working as one. Examples of cooperation, generosity and selflessness touch the heart, and the differences fade. In its pages One World One Humanity brings highlights of the association between Shri Ram Chandra Mission and UN Department of Public Information in communicating that ideal of oneness.

One World One Humanity



E-Mail: un.info@srcm.org

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UN Climate Change Conference, Copenhagen **SRCM's Denmark Ashram Hosts Spiritual Leaders**

On December 7, 2009 as part of the programme for non-governmental organizations for the United Nations Climate Conference in Copenhagen, Shri Ram Chandra Mission, Denmark centre hosted the first meeting of world spiritual leaders organized by Global peace Initiative of Woman. The meeting was held in the Mission's Copenhagen Ashram with the aim to support the climate conference with guidance coming from spiritual leaders from all over the world with different traditions of prayer and contemplative practice. Around 50 participants joined the meeting and it was held in a serene atmosphere and was a unique opportunity for leaders from many different spiritual and religious traditions to meet, discuss and pray together. The following call was the guidance for the meeting:

"The environmental crisis is a call for all nations and all sectors of society to come together and find ways to reduce the impact of human activity on earth's climate. There are moral, ethical and spiritual underpinnings to this call. For the human community to deal effectively with climate change, we must recognize that the environmental crisis is a moral and spiritual crisis. Religious and spiritual leaders have a central role to play in helping the human course and evolve more life-sustaining societies, where development is guided not only by immediate needs but by the wisdom of longer-term vision."

OWOH

Annual All India Essay Writing 2009 Held in Partnership with UNIC, New Delhi

5,000 Abhyasi Volunteers, 10,000 Schools and Colleges, 500,000 Essayists
Theme: RECONCILIATION

As the curtains come down on the All India Essay Writing Event 2009, and before the 500,000 enthusiastic participants scroll down with bated breath to discover the fruit of their efforts, it may be worthwhile to pause a moment and look back at what has collectively been achieved.

The 2009 edition of the Annual All India Essay Writing event, presented by Shri Ram Chandra Mission in partnership with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) for India and Bhutan has been received with spectacular and unprecedented enthusiasm by educational institutions across the country. Over 500,000 students have participated this year, in what is now an inter-institution event of unparalleled magnitude and scale. In commemoration of International Day of Youth, the essay topics ([please see below](#)) highlighted the UN's International theme for the year – Reconciliation.

Essays written in all 15 languages including Sanskrit, Oriya, Assamese and also some in Braille were received. After several levels of screenings, the top level, national prize winners have been selected for the best content, irrespective of language. While numbers are always exciting and go a long way in benchmarking the success of any endeavour, we would rather dwell upon some of the finer

nuances of the event which mere numbers cannot capture. The intention behind this event year after year has been to connect with the youth of our nation and help them to look within themselves for answers to problems that plague our world today.

An educational system designed to promote the pursuit of excellence is desirable, but what is also essential is the nurturing of the the heart , which despite all our differences is the same for all human beings.

Therefore It is only fitting that we thank the visionary teachers from over 10,000 institutions for encouraging their students to be a part of this, the 5,000 volunteers of SRCM who have tirelessly worked at taking this event to institutions all across the country, the students who despite the pressures of a demanding academic schedule have had the courage to participate in an event of this nature ,our partner UNIC, New Delhi for their unstinting support and all others who have worked behind the scenes to make this a success.

While we heartily congratulate all the winners , we sincerely hope that this will only mark the beginning of a wonderful adventure for each one into themselves, and ultimately, in the hands of an enlightened generation, the world will revel in the hope of a better tomorrow.

To view essay results, please visit: www.sahajmarg.org.

OWOH

Give Love Get Love

Love is an expression of all that is good and balanced within an individual, and irreconcilable differences vanish in its healing embrace. In the giving of love is therefore the gaining of it.

Do unto others as you would have others do unto you

This ancient and contemporaneously

relevant spiritual maxim, also known as the Golden Rule, resonates in every system of faith that the human imagination devised since the dawn of time so that individuals and nations can grow in love and compassion in the highest practice of peace.

Love has hope, Hatred is hopeless

In a world where individuals strive to

live a serene and balanced existence, love helps overcome the confines of intolerance and gently creates the environment for patience, respect and acceptance of differences. Love is a carrier of hope, lighting the pathway to reconciliation, often obviating its need altogether; while hatred, in its indifference to the appeal of reconciliation, is hopeless.

OWOH

Sahaj Marg Around the World

UN Millennium Development Goals

Stand Up and Take Action. End Poverty Now!

On Sunday October 18, 2009 thousands of members of Shri Ram Chandra Mission in approximately 100 countries joined in a call to meditate and offer prayer for action against poverty as part of the “Stand Up and Take Action” campaign of the United Nations. In India alone, an estimated 150,000 abhyasis participated in satsangh on that day. “Stand Up and Take Action” is a global campaign calling for the eradication of extreme poverty and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In September 2000, 189 world leaders adopted the MDGs as part of the Millennium Declaration, agreed to at the United Nations Millennium Summit. The MDGs set a global framework for development that is a crucial step towards ending poverty and inequality by 2015. The 2009 campaign broke a world record, with more than 173 million people around the world joining forces with the United Nations to stamp out poverty. OWON



173 million “wishes voices and actions to end poverty now!”

Mr. Gyaneshwar Sarin (left) represented Shri Ram Chandra Mission at a United Nations Millennium Campaign Asia press conference held in New Delhi on October 22, 2009. In the image, Mr. Sarin along with representatives from partner non-governmental organizations present a symbolic check to the world’s leaders and decision makers in the amount 173 million “wishes voices and actions to end poverty now”. Photo: Millennium Campaign

A Remedy for War

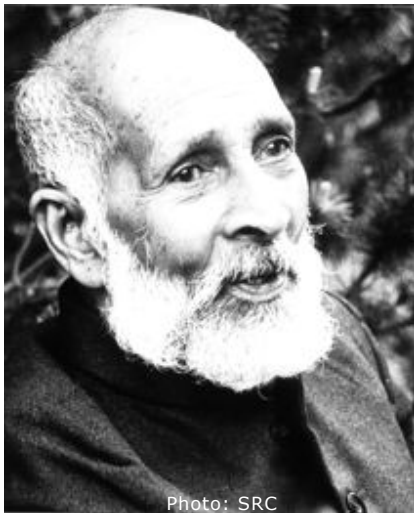


Photo: SRC

“It is only the spiritual force that can remove the causes of war from the minds of people...If my opinion were to be invited, I would lay down simplest possible method: Let all brothers and sisters sit daily at a fixed hour individually at our respective places and meditate for about an hour thinking that all people of the World are growing peace loving and pious.”

These words from Babuji Maharaj’s letter to the UN in 1957 are a source of great inspiration to us in guiding our evolving relationship with the UN. With this guidance, our Mission has been welcoming all interested people into our centres to pray and meditate for human integration in mutual love and universal brotherhood. We also have the opportunity to pray for all through our daily 9 pm Universal prayer.

For more click [here](#)

Universal Children's Day, 2009, USA, Europe, Oceania

Sahaj Marg Around the World

In gatherings across **North America, Europe, and Oceania**, abhyasis and guests joined to commemorate Universal Children's Day. Shri Ram Chandra Mission hosted the outreach events on the occasion of the UN-designated Day on November 20.

IN **NORTH AMERICA** centres in Cleveland, Bowling Green, Denver, Milpitas, Fremont, Palo Alto, Santa Clara, Cupertino, San Jose and elsewhere celebrated the Day with joy and fervour. For instance, the Mission's centre in Mystic, Connecticut arranged a meaningful and fun-filled celebration. Abhyasis explained the anniversary of the Declaration of Children's Rights using pictures and pages from the UNICEF book *A Life Like Mine* by Dorling Kindersley to illustrate the needs of children everywhere. The participants were then led through some simple yoga postures using the vehicle of a story. Afterwards, they read aloud the children's book *All the World* by Liz Garton Scanlon and Marla Frazee. Children gathered around on the floor to see illustrations. Following the activities, the time for prayer was introduced, and for about 10 minutes the room was quiet. A participant who is a baker brought some tiny vegan cakes for the children, who passed the cakes around to everyone. Parents and children alike enjoyed themselves; so much that they asked if they could do it again next year on November 20.

In **HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA** the local Shri Ram Chandra Mission group held the event on Saturday, November 14, in order for children to attend along with adults. The day began with some cooperative games for children and adults. One such game was "pin a wish on the planet," in which each person thought about what they wanted for the world and used their thoughts to pin their wish on the planet while blindfolded. The wishes included no more war, that everyone have healthy food to eat, that we use natural resources sustainably, that global warming disappear, equality and fairness for all, that everyone loves everyone, and kindness prevails.

After the games, the participants took time to think about what they would commit to doing to help their wishes for the world to come true. (Continued on pg 6)



(Above) Jeanny, an exchange student from Indonesia, does a beautiful dance from her island of Borneo. She is telling the story of a large bird native to her land on Universal Children's Day celebrations by the Humboldt county centre, California, USA of Shri Ram Chandra Mission. (Below) London Centre abhyasis celebrating Children's Day. Photos: Humboldt Country and London Centres



Universal Children's Day, 2009, USA, Europe, Oceania

Sahaj Marg Around the World



Left: Shri Ram Chandra Mission celebrates Universal Children's Day at Briarwood Elementary School in Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA. Below: Humboldt County Centre's "Pin A Wish On the Planet" PHOTOS: BOWLING GREEN AND HUMBOLDT COUNTY CENTRES

“IN Mystic, Connecticut, parents and children alike enjoyed themselves so much that they asked if they could do it again next year on November 20. In Humboldt County Centre the game, “Pin a Wish On the Planet”, included wishing no more war, that everyone have healthy food to eat, that we use natural resources sustainably, that global warming disappear, equality and fairness for all, that everyone loves everyone, and kindness prevails.



(Cnld. from pg 5) In **TORONTO, CANADA**, adults and children gathered for the Day. The event began by an interactive discussion about Children's Day in basic terms. This was followed by some singing of children's songs, like Farmer in the Dell and Wheels on the Bus, and playing some games, like musical chairs.

It turned out it was the 3rd birthday of one little girl present. Her abhyasi grandmother brought her and her two sisters - and a huge birthday cake. After the games, the birthday candles were lit and everyone ate cake. That was followed by some other food and a delightful 5-minute animated film. “The atmosphere was joyful and light. It was a children's celebration, and a celebration of children.” At 8:30 a couple of the younger children went home and the rest of the participants assembled for a program about the United Nations and Children's Day. This was followed by prayer-meditation from 9 to 9:15 p.m.

THE LONDON CENTRE organized a programme consisting of an overview of Shri Ram Chandra Mission's relationship with the UN DPI, a presentation on value-based education and prayer for universal brotherhood. It was organized at two venues in London and was open to general public. The programme started with a brief introduction of the Mission's relationship with UN DPI and its activities as an accredited non-governmental organization in support of the UN's activities. A short story, illustrating the importance of instilling a value system in children to serve as a foundation for fostering strong character and development was narrated. Following this a presentation was given on “Value Based Education & its Approaches” stressing on the most basic value, namely, love. The programme concluded after the presentation with prayer for universal brotherhood.



SYDNEY CENTRE CELEBRATES UNIVERSAL CHILDREN'S DAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2009.

Hundreds more responded to the Mission's invitation to commemorate the Day in its meditation centres in North America, Europe and Oceania, India. In Sydney Shri Ram Chandra Mission invited parents, educators, general public, family and friends to join in a universal prayer for peace. The programme was devoted to promote the ideals and welfare of the children of the world, sharing with the community our fraternity and understanding.

The observance contributed to human solidarity with a programme on the theme: "Investing in Values for the Future of Humanity". UN commemoration days are for all people. The Mission's intention in hosting them is to raise public awareness of spiritual ideals of universal love, tolerance and compassion as the foundation for a peaceful, balanced human existence; and create open forums for assemblies, independent of affiliation or background, with the common good as the purpose. OWOH

Photo: Sydney centre

62nd DPI/NGO Conference, Mexico City

Sahaj Marg Around the World



UN Secretary-General [centre] at the close of the opening ceremony of the 62nd DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico City

Location: Mexico City, Mexico Date: 09 September 2009

In September 2009, representatives of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission joined 1,300 participants from 340 non-governmental organizations from 55 countries at the 62nd Annual Conference for non-governmental organizations on the theme “For Peace and Development: Disarm Now” held in Mexico City where the historic “Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America” was signed in February 1967.

This is the second year that the DPI/NGO Conference has been held outside United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The Mission also attended, in 2008, the 61st Annual Conference, dedicated to “Reaffirming Human Rights for All,” held in Paris.

Brother William Waycott, one of the Mission’s representatives at the conference said, “At the opening session, we listened to talks given by several famous people, including U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki moon and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jody Williams. Both speakers gave impassioned talks containing horrifying information on the number of nuclear weapons in existence and on the insufficient oversight provided by the responsible governments.” The participants adopted the “NGO Declaration: Disarming for Peace and Development”, which was issued as an official document by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council. ■

The weblink to the conference.

International Day of Peace, 2009, Canada, South Africa, Europe Sahaj Marg Around the World



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE, 21 SEPTEMBER 2009: Abhyasis in Canada (left) South Africa (below) commemorate the Day. In Europe the following centres observed the Day: Paris, Perpigna, Toulon, Toulouse, Peiting, Berlin, Stanberg, Moenchengladbach, Munich, Dublin, Galway, Aosta, Ivrea, Milano, Padova, Torino, Trieste, Amsterdam, Lenzburg, Lausanne, Geneva, Cambridge, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Troon and Warrington. Photo: Canada and South Africa centres

“Sahaj Marg ... is a universal method. It is universally applicable. We must shed, throw away, cast-off everything that differentiates one person from another.” – Revered Master, Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari. (From “Character is Pure Love,” a talk given on November 23, 2008.)



UPDATE

LALAJI MEMORIAL OMEGA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL 12th United Nations Annual Student Conference on Human Rights

Following on its successful participation in 2008, on 4 December 2009, a team of sixty Omega school students took part in the twelfth Annual United Nations Student Conference on Human Rights. The theme for 2009 was Human Rights Education. Students began their work by looking at the thirty articles of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In the course of study, students found many present day examples in India and the world where people were unable to exercise their human rights. They also looked at policies and practices at Omega school to see where and how to make the school more and more human rights friendly.

In addition, they had the opportunity to interact with Dr. Henry Thiagaraj, the founder of Human Rights Education Movement in India and a life-long human rights activist. The work culminated in a plan of action. This included how to incorporate human rights values and education into the Omega school curriculum and daily life and how to raise awareness by spreading and sharing important information about human rights.

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