

ICRP

(Indonesian Conference on Religion and Peace), Jakarta, Indonesia

YPR

(Yayasan Pondok Rakyat / People's Shelter Foundation), Yogyakarta, Indonesia

IGTN - Africa

(International Gender and Trade Network) - Africa, Tunis, Tunisia

CIJK

(Comité International Joseph Ki-Zerbo), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

GRIC

(Group of Research on Identity and Culture), University of Le Havre, France

55 BANDUNG 55
DIVERSITY IN GLOBALISED SOCIETY
The Challenge of Globalisation for Living Diversity
Contributions of Africa and Asia to a Sustainable World

A series of workshops / conferences / cultural events to be held in Asia and Africa in 2009 and 2010 in the framework of a commemoration of the 55th anniversary of Bandung Asian-African Conference 1955

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BACKGROUND

At the beginning of the 20th century, Western civilisation broke into two great streams, one flowing through Washington and the other through Moscow. The German academic, Marx, and his British counterpart, Engels, must have drawn their values as well as their science from the civilisation of which they were inheritors, just as surely Jefferson, Lincoln and Washington did. The Communist Manifesto and the Declaration of Independence alike have their roots in Western civilisation.

But Asia and Africa do not belong to this tradition. Their histories have been different. They have their ancient civilisations renowned for their philosophies, and they have been a cradle to the great religions of the world. Besides, Asia and Africa are united by a force just as strong as that of a single great civilisation long shared. That force is nationalism, the common reaction against the colonialism and imperialism that they suffered.

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It is this nationalism that brought us to struggle for independence and emancipation. We, Asians and Africans, were bound to feel that the 20th century was our age. Our awakening focused our sights on the essential antagonism between colonialism and freedom, between imperialism and emancipation. Actually, the Cold War was a war between two branches of the same tree with the same cultural roots, all of which were alien to Asia and Africa.

(Roeslan Abdulgani, "The Everlasting Spirit of the 1955 Asian-African Conference" in *ASIA AFRICA Bandung Towards the First Century AFRICA ASIA*, Department of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia, 2005).

Within the context of the Cold War, the Bandung Spirit, expressed in 1955 by the African and Asian Countries was a call for peaceful coexistence, for independence from the hegemony of superpowers and for solidarities towards the weak and those being weakened by the world order of the day. It was an alternative to the international relations based on the sovereignty of Nation-state.

Put in the perspective of globalisation, where the movement of ideas, thoughts, data, knowledge, opinions, propaganda, values, messages,.. can go beyond the control of Nation-state, where the collective awareness on the interdependence between human beings, societies and environment at global level is increasing, where a global civil society is in its construction, where the sovereignty of Nation-state upon the interior affairs is challenged by civil society movements, the Bandung Spirit is confronted with new realities related to the questions of:

Peaceful Coexistence

Violent conflicts and wars still happen, or potentially happen, not only between Nation-states, but also inside the Nation-states (e.g. conflicts around ethnic and religious differences).

Hegemony of Superpowers

The hegemony of the powerful upon the weak continues to function, not only at global level, but also inside the Nation-states (e.g. domination of one socio-cultural group upon the others).

Solidarity towards the Weak

The weak continues to exist, not only at the level of Nation-states, but also inside the Nation-states. Ironically, solidarity towards the weak is often happens within a socio-cultural group and becomes a means for opposition to another group (e.g. solidarity based on ethnic or religious community).

It seems clear that the common denominator of those conflicts is the diversity (of ethnic groups, religious communities, economic modes of production, ideological stands,...), which is not appreciated or insufficiently appreciated within and among the Nation-states, so that it generates conflicts instead of richness. And Africa and Asia are the huge pool of diversity, either in term of culture, economy, environment, ethnicity, language, religion or spirituality. Within the context of globalisation dominated by Western civilisation leading to a single model of development and threatening the survival of the earth, Africa and Asia as inheritor of a different family of Western civilisation and as the pool of diversity must be theoretically able to contribute in directing globalisation towards a sustainable world. However, there are still many things to do to transform the African and Asian diversity from a cause of conflicts to a source of happiness, from a cause of death to a source of life.

For that respect, it is necessary that Africa and Asia work together. Since cooperation between governments and business circles have been organised at the level of States, it is the duty of civil society organisations to take care of the people-to-people interactions. This is the concern of this proposal.

OBJECTIVE AND TARGETS

The activities (conferences, cultural events, workshops, publications,...) are to be organised in order to set-up and develop co-operations between African and Asian civil society organisations. More precisely, the activities are to be held for three following targets:

1. Sharing experiences, knowledge, reflection and concern related to the question of diversity.
2. Exploring the possibilities of co-operation among the civil society organisations.
3. Disseminating the result of the activities to the public through publication.

THEME

The activities are to be focused on the question of how Nation-states and civil society organisations deal with diversity within a country in the context of globalisation. The Nation-state here can be represented by constitution, law, presidential decree, governmental measures, police operations, army interventions, and other types of concept and practice by the agents of Nation-state. While the diversity may be identified according to five dimensions:

Dimensions of Diversity	Related Issues (examples)
Culture	ethnic / linguistic / local / global / minority / majority questions
Economy	formal / informal / modern / traditional / urban / rural / nomadic / agriculture / commercial / industrial / digital sectors
Ecology / Environment	natural environment (forests, deserts, rivers, lakes, seas, flora, fauna,...) and built environment (cities, rural areas, villages, housing, sky scrappers, slums,...)
Politics	bases / organisations / systems / interest groups of political power, civil-military / local-central government relations, political engineering,...
Spirituality / Religion	syncretism / hostility / co-existence / dialogue between local / ancestral beliefs and trans-national religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Islam), fundamentalism / extremism / terrorism, spirituality / religion-based political and social movements,...

BASIC QUESTIONS

In accordance with the general objective of the activities mentioned above, all participants are supposed to participate in individual as well as collective works on the common basic questions.

Individual Level:

Every participant (of a workshop / conference / seminar) is supposed to present a paper that takes into account the following basic questions:

1. What are the elements of diversity (according to one or more of its dimensions mentioned above) and how do they take place in a given geographical area (village / town / region / province / country)?
2. How do the Nation-state (represented by constitution, law, presidential decree, governmental measures, police operations, army interventions, and other types of concept and practice by the agents of Nation-state) and civil society organisations deal with the expressions of diversity (described in point 1)?
3. What lessons can be learned from the case presented in points 1 and 2?

Collective Level:

Following the individual presentations, a workshop is to be organised to work on the following basic questions:

1. What common phenomenon (problems, solutions, innovation,...) can be drawn from the cases presented in the conference?
2. What kind of strategy / plan / measure / action can be taken by civil society organisations in Africa and Asia in order to empower diversity in their respective continents and beyond?

INTERNATIONAL CO-ORDINATORS AND CO-ORGANISING INSTITUTIONS

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INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Darwis Khudori (co-ordinator), Indonesia / France / Burkina Faso — Doctor, Architect and Historian; *Yayasan Pondok Rakyat* (People's Shelter Foundation), Indonesia; GRIC (Group of Research on Identity and Culture), University of Le Havre, France; C.I.J.K. (International Committee Joseph Ki-Zerbo), France / Burkina Faso; International Network on Development and Civilisation LEBRET-IRFED, France.

Ms Hassania Chalbi-Drissi, Morocco / Tunisia — Doctor, Economist and Sociologist; I.G.T.N. (International Gender and Trade Network)-Africa, Morocco / Tunisia.

Mr. Jean-Jacques Ngor Sène, Senegal / USA — Assistant Professor, Doctor, Anthropologist, African Studies; Division of Global and Public Policy, Chatham University, Pittsburg, USA.

Ms Lawrencina Kwark, France / Korea / Switzerland — D.E.A., Sociology of Religions; Pax Romana ICMICA, Switzerland.

Mr. Lazare Ki-Zerbo, Burkina Faso / France — Doctor, Philosopher; CEDA (*Centre d'Etudes du Développement Africain*), Burkina Faso; C.I.J.K. (Comité International Joseph Ki-

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Ms Parichart Suwanbubha, Thailand — Assistant Professor, Doctor, Scholar of Religious Studies, Mahidol University, Thailand; Research Center for Peace Building, Mahidol University, Thailand.

Ms Siti Musdah Mulia, Indonesia — Professor, Doctor, Scholar of Islamic Studies; Jakarta Islamic State's University, Indonesia; L.I.P.I. (*Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia / Indonesian Institute of Science*), Indonesia; I.C.R.P. (Indonesian Conference on Religion and Peace), Indonesia.

Mr. Solofo Randrianja, Madagascar — Professor, Doctor, Historian; University of Tamatave, Madagascar; CODESRIA (Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa), Senegal.

Mr. Yukio Kamino, Japan — Doctor, International Studies; Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA) – International, Japan.

AGENDA OF EVENTS

The following events are not automatically managed by the IOC of 55 BANDUNG 55. The IOC proposes to friends who organise an event in Africa and Asia between April 2009 and April 2010 to make a link with 55 BANDUNG 55 for a mutual benefit. For the event, this will give an African-Asian, even global, perspective. For 55 BANDUNG 55, such collaboration will enrich the meaning and reinforce the strength of the civil society movements organising the commemoration.

April 28-30, 2009

JAKARTA (INDONESIA)

Events organised by ICRP (Indonesian Conference on Religion and Peace).

Conference on the Question of Diversity in Globalised Society

Book launching "*The Rise of Religion-based Political Movements: A Threat or a Chance for Peace, Security and Development among the Nations? Some Issues and Cases from Asia, Middle East and Arab World*" (edited by Darwis Khudori and co-published by ICRP, Indonesia; CCFD, France; DCLI, France; GRIC, France; ILDES, Lebanon; PAX ROMANA, Switzerland; Secours Catholique, France; Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Thaksin University, Thailand)

Cultural Events: African and Asian Batik Exhibition.

May 1-5, 2009

JAKARTA-BANDUNG-YOGYAKARTA-JAKARTA (INDONESIA)

Events organised by YPR (*Yayasan Pondok Rakyat / People's Shelter Foundation*).

Socio-cultural Trip, Meeting with People, Workshop

1. Participatory urban community-based development
2. Sharing experiences, knowledge and reflection related to the question of diversity in Africa and Asia.
3. Exploring the possibilities of co-operation among the civil society organisations in Africa and Asia.

Commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the late Y.B. Mangunwijaya (Indonesian socially engaged priest, architect, writer, lecturer, activist).

May 18-19, 2009

PATTANEE / PATANI (THAILAND)

Events organised by WCRP (World Conference of Religions for Peace), CCA (Christian Conference of Asia) and Research Center for Peace Building, Mahidol University, Thailand.
Conference on Interfaith Dialogue and Conflict Resolution in Southern Thailand
Book launching “*The Rise of Religion-based Political Movements: A Threat or a Chance for Peace, Security and Development among the Nations? Some Issues and Cases from Asia, Middle East and Arab World*” (edited by Darwis Khudori and co-published by ICRP, Indonesia; CCFD, France; DCLI, France; GRIC, France; ILDES, Lebanon; PAX ROMANA, Switzerland; Secours Catholique, France; Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Thaksin University, Thailand)

Mid-July 2009

INDONESIA

Conference/Seminar/Forum/Workshop organised by ISKA (*Ikatan Sarjana Katolik Indonesia / Indonesian Catholic Graduates Association*), ICMICA (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs), PAX ROMANA.

August 2-5, 2009

ACCRA (GHANA)

The Fifth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD). The conference is co-sponsored by Rutgers University and the W.E.B. Du Bois Center in Accra, with the support of Ghana's Ministry of Tourism and Diasporan Relations.

In commemoration of both the Pan-African Conference of 1900 and the Pan-African Congress of 1919, and in celebration of Ghana's central role in nurturing Pan-African struggles for freedom and justice since 1957, the theme of the conference is "AFRICA, DIASPORA, AND PAN-AFRICAN AGENDAS."

April 2010

INDONESIA

Events organised by the IOC of 55 BANDUNG 55.

Commemoration of 55th Anniversary of Bandung Asian-African Conference 1955

Conference and Book Launching “*Diversity in Globalised Society: The Challenge of Globalisation for Living Diversity. Contributions of Africa and Asia to a Sustainable World*”.
Workshop and Festival on African and Asian Cultural Expression (Dance, Food, Mask, Music, Pottery, Sculpture, Textile, Theatre,...)

PROGRAMMES

Detailed programmes are to be found in the proposal of respective events mentioned in the Agenda of Events.

PARTICIPANTS

Composition of participants is to be found in the proposal of respective events mentioned in the Agenda of Events.

PUBLICATION

Selected papers of the conference are to be published and launch during the commemoration of the 55th anniversary of Bandung Asian-African Conference 1955.

FINANCING

The activities are supposed to be a collective concern of African and Asian civil society organisations represented by the participants. It is planned therefore that the activities are to be financed by several institutions concerned by the theme of the activities. Every participant is supposed to find financial support for the project, however small it may be.