UNESCO Interregional Asia-Arab Philosophical Dialogue Conference: Culture of Peace and Human Dignity

14-17 May 2010
Thistle Beach Resort, Port Dickson, Malaysia

Organised by the Regional Unit for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and Pacific, UNESCO Bangkok, in cooperation with UNESCO Rabat and the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya. The language of the conference will be English

Draft agenda (version 2, 7 May)

14 May (Friday)
8:30-16:00 Optional day excursion to Malacca

18:00-20:00  Dinner

20:00-22:00 Session 1: Opening Session
Welcome Words – Prof. Darryl Macer, Regional Adviser for Social and Human Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, UNESCO Bangkok
Welcome Words - Professor Dr. Hamzah Abdul Rahman, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs & Internalization), University of Malaya
Welcome Words – Mr. Nasrul Haqiim Mohd. Nasir, Executive Secretary of the Malaysian National Commission for UNESCO
Reflections on Culture of Peace and Human Dignity
- Ali Benmakhlouf, Morocco
Reflections on Philosophy and Human Dignity
- Pierre Sane, Assistant Director-General of UNESCO for Social and Human Sciences, Paris
Photo Opportunity (all participants)
Supper

15 May (Saturday)
9:00-12:30 Session 2: Philosophy and Culture of Peace
A Creative Cultural and Philosophical tradition
- S Panneerselvam, India
Commentary by
Peace and a Decent Society
- Soumaya Mestiri, Tunisia
Commentary by
Hybridity and the Culture of Peace in the Age of Globalization
- Rainier Ibana, the Philippines
Commentary by
The truth wherever it comes: a step towards peace
- Naïma Hadj Abderrahmane, Algeria
Commentary by
The Blanket of Peace, The Blips of Violence. How Does Philosophy Pitch In?
- Jasdev Rai, Sikh Human Rights Group
Commentary by Robert Aori Nyambati, Kenya
Elements for a Culture of Peace in the Early Arabic Government Conception
14:00-17:30 Session 3: Ethos and Philosophy of War
Criticism of jihad in contemporary Muslim lawyers
- Makram, Abbes, Tunisia
Commentary by Johnny Ho, Canada
Philosophical Methods of the Insurgent and Counter-Insurgent
- Jonathan H. Kougl, UK
  - Commentary by Ayoub Abu-Dayyeh, Jordan
Democracy of One World
- Jitendra Nath Sarker, Bangladesh
Commentary by Johan Hattingh, South Africa
Three ways of Conceptualizing the global: The Universal, the holistic and the macrocosmic
- Philip Cam, Australia
Commentary by

16 May (Sunday)
9:00-12:30 Session 4: Philosophy and Educating a Culture of Peace
Goals of Education of Philosophy and the Culture of Peace
- Darryl Macer, UNESCO Bangkok
Commentary by
Conceptual maps of the goals of teaching philosophy and human dignity
- Arthur Wolf, The Netherlands, UNESCO Bangkok
Commentary by Jinwhan Park, Republic of Korea
The Creation of Public Reason
- Zosimo Lee, the Philippines
Commentary by Samsul Ma-arif Mujiharto, Indonesia
Nurturing the "Culture of Peace"
- Issa Abyad and Alexander Abyad, Jordan
Commentary by
Moral Education for Global Society
- Jinwhan Park, Kyunyul Park and Eun Jung Kim, Republic of Korea
Commentary by Rosnani Hashim, Malaysia
No me or mine: Buddha's contribution to a cosmopolitan planetary ethic of living truth as a just life
- Tim Rackett, Thailand
Commentary by
Reviving the Pedagogy of Philosophical Inquiry in Muslim Curriculum for Effective Civilizational Dialogue
- Rosnani Hashim, Malaysia
Commentary by
Peace Education for Common Future Indonesian Experience
- Habib Chirzin, Indonesia
Commentary by Azizan Baharuddin, Malaysia

14:00-17:30 Session 5: Identity and Human Dignity
The Mundialization of Home. Enabling a consciousness of Multi-identity
- In-Suk Cha, Republic of Korea
Commentary by Napat Chaipraditkul, Thailand
Human dignity as a tool to improve transcultural dialogue: The example of Bioethics
- Sadek Beloucif, Algeria
Commentary by Anna Shimpo, Japan
UN metanarratives and contemporary incredulity
- Phinith Chantalangsy, Laos; UNESCO Paris
Commentary by
Development Ethics as an Alternative Approach to Progress with Peace and Dignity
- Chanroeun Pa, Cambodia
Commentary by Ali Benmakhlouf, Morocco
Meditation for Peace and Happiness in this Globalization World
- Chutatip Umavijani
Commentary by

17 May (Monday)

9:00-12:30  Session 6: Environment and Peace
Sustainable development as a denominator for Asia-Arab dialogue
- Azizan Baharuddin, Malaysia
Commentary by
Human Dignity and Environmental Integrity
- Ayoub Abu-Dayyeh, Jordan
Commentary by Amarbayasgalan Dorjderem, Mongolia
Using Karl Marx's Dialectical Materialism in Developing an Environmental Ethics Education Curriculum
- Tuyen Thi Nyo, Vietnam
Commentary by

14:00-17:30  Session 7: Defining Human Dignity
Friday Offerings: On the Uses of Political Theology
- John T. Giordano, Thailand
Commentary by
Commentary by Siti Hawa Ali, Malaysia
Philosophy and Human Dignity
- Piseth Thunchhay, Cambodia
Commentary by Annika Schulz, Germany
Dignity and Peace of Mind of the Elderly
- Balambal Ramaswamy, India
Commentary by Anniken Grinvoll, Norway
Making Mount Merapi a friend
- Samsul Ma-arif Mujiharto, Indonesia
Commentary by

Background
This conference falls within the context of a series of workshops aimed to enhance dialogues between philosophers in Asian and Arab regions to broaden intercultural communication, and strengthen the role of philosophy in public policy, and to promote the teaching of non-Western philosophies around the world. These dialogues have been held over the past five years in Seoul, Rabat, Hiroshima, Paris, and Bangkok. In 2010 the dialogues will be held in Malacca, a site of contact between the Arab and Asian worlds for five hundred years.
The theme of the meeting for 2010 is to explore the inter-relationship between the Culture of Peace and Human Dignity, in the last year of the United Nations Decade of the Culture of Peace. Human dignity is a theme critical to international dialogue on human rights, but is often discussed without clear definition. The year 2010 is also declared as the International Year of Rapprochement of Cultures. This dialogue is intended to contribute to deeper understanding of our global understanding of this concept.

In addition to the themes of culture and peace, there will also be consolidation of the five working groups established in the Asia-Arab Interregional Philosophical Dialogues to date, including: 1. Challenges of globalization to philosophy and democracy; 2. Philosophy facing the challenges of modern technology; 3. The roles of philosophy in war and peace; 4. Human dignity and philosophy; 5. Philosophy and environmental ethics

While one model of dialogue is to have philosophers from different regions join together at conferences, presenting papers and then discussing the papers from different perspectives, but in this process also promotes interactive creativity such that dialogue between Arab and Asian philosophers itself will be integral to the process.

Applications for joint papers that are the product of such dialogue will be considered favourably.

Papers to be presented at the dialogue should be circulated prior to the meeting among participants, and the actual oral presentation time will be limited to 15 minutes maximum, with commentaries of 5 minutes being made by other philosophers on papers, to encourage dialogue. The working language will be English.

The local host organization is the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya

There will not be a registration fee for participants, however numbers are limited. Arrival instructions are in a separate file.

Secretariat for receipt of full papers (now due) to Ms. Anniken Grinvoll; Email: a.grinvoll@unesco.org.