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Newsletter, Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World

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EDITORIAL

Dear Friends,

In this issue, Edith Sizoo announces the institution in Greece of an International Committee for the "Charter of Human Responsibilities." Isis de Palma tells of her experience with the drums cooperative "Ilu Bogbo Ayie" of Brazil, which is part of the Drums for Peace initiative. You can also read about the workshops that the Socioeconomy of Solidarity Workshop helped to organize at the European Social Forum in Paris. There are also other topics and proposals, such as the coordination efforts among different Alliance groups participating in the WSF of Mumbai, India, next January, and other briefs.

We hope you will enjoy this issue.

Warm regards,

Germà Pelayo - Editor
<germa@alliance21.org>

MAKING OUR WAY AS WE GO

Coordination Committee Set Up for Alliance Participation at Next WSF

Dear Allies,

At the beginning of September, we took the initiative of opening a discussion on the possible participation of the Alliance in Mumbai. Many Allies sent us information on their intended participation at the next WSF. A summary of these intentions was posted on the Alliance e-lists at the end of September.

We also organized a meeting of Indian and Asian Allies to discuss of the coordination and practical conditions for Alliance participation. The meeting took place in Bangkok from 26 to 28 October.

The Bangkok meeting was attended by 20 Asian and 5 non-Asian Allies.

A coordination committee was set up for Alliance participation in Mumbai. For logistics, the committee will reserve rooms in a well-located hotel so that Allies can use its meeting rooms for their workshops and workgroups. A shuttle service will be available to reach the Forum venue, Goregaon.

The day previous to the opening of the WSF, January 15, will be devoted to two joint work meetings: one on the place of alliances in Asia, and the other on the governance of the Alliance. Systematization activities will also be common to all. An essentially Indian team with a few participants from other Asian countries will be supported for this by a small group of Allies who worked on systematizing the content of the seminars and work-

shops at Porto Alegre in January 2003.

The report of this meeting is available on the Web site set up especially to present Alliance participation at the WSF of Mumbai:
<http://allies.alliance21.org/fsm>

Warm regards,

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THE ALLIANCE IN BRIEF

WORKSHOP ON GOVERNANCE AND WORLD PARLIAMENT HELD IN BANGALORE, INDIA

"Citizenship at the local level means that we need to look at the self-sufficiency of the local community. . . . What cannot be produced locally can then be produced nationally or inter-nationally. . . . In today's world, the process has been reversed and the local is left powerless because it is unable to produce most of its needs. . . . What can citizenship mean if a person's basic needs are completely beyond his power to produce and control!"

These and other considerations, as well as examples of local empowerment and a socially responsible reinterpretation of religious and traditional values were some of the results of this meeting among Indians organized by Siddhartha and the organization Pipal Tree. See the full text at http://www.alliance21.org/2003/article.php3?id_article=156

SOCIOECONOMY OF SOLIDARITY WORKGROUP (WSES) PARTICIPATES IN EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM

Tens of thousands attended the workshops, seminars and plenary session of the European Social Forum (ESF) held in four different Paris venues and some of its suburbs. Along with other groups, the WSES organized workshops and seminars on the transformation of the territory, women and the economy, socially responsible finance, social money, experiences in social economy, and local exchange systems.

In addition, the Workgroup, as it did last year in Florence, opened an e-list in French and English at fse-ecosol@socioeco.org for coordination with the other European groups promoting events in socially responsible economy. This made it possible for more than two hundred persons to organize jointly or receive information on these events. For further information, please write to Françoise Wautiez francoise@alliance21.org; Oriol Alsina oriol@alliance21.org; or Philippe Amouroux philippe@alliance21.org

A CALL TO RENEW THE FOUNDATION OF THE ALLIANCE

Following the June 2003 Barcelona meeting, a group of Allies has drafted a paper calling to renew the Alliance.

They are extending an invitation to an open and collective discussion in view of building a new stage of the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World.

The full call can be read at:

http://www.alliance21.org/2003/article.php3?id_article=181

FPH - PARTNERS DIALOGUE FOR NEW STAGE OF ALLIANCE

On October 14 to 16 and 20 to 22, the FPH organized two meetings with some of its former, present, and new partners in view of getting their reactions to the new FPH guidelines. The first meeting included some twenty representatives of Socioprofessional Networks (Fishworkers, Local Elected Officials, and Young People, for instance) and the second was attended by members of the Geocultural Groups from different regions of the world. The aim was to work jointly to define the new stage of the Alliance and the focus was to give greater importance to the work of existing networks and to build links among citizen alliances. For further information, please write to Pierre Vuarin pvarin@fph.fr.

ALLIED WEB SITES UPDATED

The Web page featuring links to the Allied Web Sites has been revamped. You can visit it and be informed of new initiatives. One of the new features is that it provides excerpts from the latest news in each of those Web sites. If you wish to have your Web site displayed here, please contact us: info@alliance21.org



The Charter of Human Responsibilities: Taking up the Challenge!

Edith Sizoo : edith.sizoo@wanadoo.fr

A long process of wide-ranging discussions within the Alliance focusing on the need for a Charter of Human Responsibilities, its content, legitimacy, appeal, efficacy, and its place in both civil society and within international institutions, led to a draft text which was discussed by the World Assembly of Citizens in Lille, December 2001. A revised version was then submitted for further comment to those who had participated in the Assembly, and to the wider circle of Allies and outsiders, leading to a text which has been widely disseminated since October 2002. This "provisionally final" text now serves as a basis for a continuing process. It is **translated into a considerable number of languages in culturally adapted ways**. It is disseminated and discussed in a variety of cultural groups and in many different professional circles. Its value and applicability will be further tested through the **conversion of its principles into codes of conduct by professional groups** (scientists, company directors, trade unionists, educators, publishers, journalists, financiers, politicians, etc.).

Indeed, in the face of the challenges of the 21st century, the idea of "human responsibility" has acquired a new and challenging meaning, **but how can we proceed and bring about awareness** among individuals, social and professional groups, and public authorities that – in addition to a Universal Declaration of Human Rights – creating a Charter of Human Responsibilities is relevant to our times?

The **dissemination and promotion** of the Charter of Human Responsibilities will have to be a **continuous and multiform process** to be conducted over a number of years. Conceiving methods of implementation of this process – culturally adapted to the various regions of the world – constitutes, evidently, a considerable and at the same time difficult challenge. A capacity to invent such methods, a careful monitoring of emerging possibilities and a constant stimulation of this process, are the *conditio sine qua non* for the success of the dissemination and promotion campaign.

In order to take up this challenge, Edith Sizoo proposed to the Charles Léopold Mayer Foundation to set up an **international Steering Committee**, which met for the first time in October 2003 on the island of Syros in Greece. The Committee consists of some 15 members who live and work in different parts of the



world. Each of them has been selected on the basis of criteria including their active involvement in society and their participation in an active network in their region. They are assisted by local / regional teams for the implementation of the work in their geographical area.

One of the agreed principles for the working method of the international Steering Committee is to graft the central notion of Human Responsibilities onto existing work done by a variety of issue-oriented organizations (human rights, environment, education, peace and conflict prevention, women's issues, trade unions, business, science, etc.). It is hoped that this grafting process will thus gradually lead to a multiform movement striving toward the acceptance of an international Charter of Human Responsibilities, and toward the idea that consolidation of such a Charter is essential to balance the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the United Nations. While the first one puts emphasis on the individual and the second on communities (nations), the Charter of Human Responsibilities addresses both.

Web link for the Charter:
<http://www.alliance21.org/en/charte>



Isis de Palma: Drums for Peace, Drums for Everyone



An Alliance participant since 1996, the year in which she helped to found the Alliance São Paulo Group, Isis de Palma is a venturesome, cheerful, and dynamic person. She tells of her experience with the drums orchestra "Ilu Bogbo Ayie" (Drums for the Whole World) in São Paulo and with the global network Drums for Peace. "Without peace there can be no democracy," says Isis categorically. To call for peace and dialogue, and to build democracy together, this cooperative of "percussion makers" are with us to play the beat ... and never stop!

Write to Isis at: isis@educ-imagens.com.br

WN - Isis, tell us how the Drums for Peace experience began ...

Drums for Peace began in 2000 with Martí Olivella and the Nova group, taking its inspiration from a proposal by David Gakunzi, from Burundi, who in 1996 was already encouraging Allies from all countries to play drums together in a symbolic act of alliance. It is a global movement seeking to build a culture of peace through art. It is open to all artistic groups throughout the world, which can register on the Web site to become a part of it. Then simultaneous actions can take place, as in the experience at the four Continental Assemblies of June 2001: we had drums at all of them and it was a very strong experience.

WN - You use the drums as an rallying instrument ...

Yes, drums are infused with value as a symbol for meeting and political meaning. This is why it was in fact prohibited in certain cultures. Our drums do not rally for war, however, they rally for peace. The challenge is to make the drums convene people to talk with one another and for that talk to be profound. We have taken drums to many events in which conversation is promoted. Some are part of the Alliance São Paulo Group, such as Agora, which is a forum of education in day-to-day democracy and voting support. Our task is to build the bridge between peace and democracy, because without peace there can be no democracy. Full, fair, and lasting peace is obtained when people own their space and read political messages correctly.

WN - And now, with the Group's own orchestra, conversations are turning into experiences ...

That's right, our drums orchestra, "Ilu Bogbo Ayie," which in Brazilian Creole means "drums for everyone," was born of an instrument-manufacturing workshop that was held in April and May 2003. The players, aged fourteen to much older, also make their own instruments with craft materials. With Master Lumumba, they learn how to play

the drums and to manufacture them with craft materials while he tells them the African myths that he knows so well. Most of them don't have a steady job or are unemployed, so we are setting up a drums cooperative to manage their earnings. We are also forming drums groups in the city schools with children and teenagers. These are multiplier effects that help to make the movement grow.

WN - What is your work with this group?

I am in charge of coordinating the Drums for Peace movement. I also help to organize the group. At the Polis Institute, we also produced the Alliance Proposal Papers in Portuguese. And we circulated them thanks to Agora and Imagens Educação. Now I am also working on the Charter of Human Responsibilities. As a contribution to the Greece meeting, I prepared a workshop with a few people from different socioprofessional circles, who got to know each other while thinking up suggestions that could be worked in with the Charter.

WN - And did you organize many other actions, for instance in the anti-war demonstrations?

For anti-war demonstrations, the World Social Forum, the Bahia carnival, the World Citizen Assembly, and many other events in São Paulo and in small villages, we always take drums, and Drums of Peace and Alliance banners. Each drums event is also an opportunity to explain the Alliance, the Proposal Papers... the celebration is always a vehicle for content.

