

ASIAN LEADERSHIP FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Tensions were mounting between Taiwan and Mainland China as 40 of us, from ten countries, met in Taiwan for the ninth Asia Pacific Youth Conference (APYC) in July. It provided a useful backdrop to our exchanges on 'The Dynamic of Renewing Society'.

It was a stretch for our Taiwanese friends because, at the same time as the APYC, university students were meeting at an MRA summer youth camp.

Our conference went on the road. We had two nights in an aboriginal community near Taitung in the hills, and were inspired by the community leader, Rev Pai Kuang-shen. Though crippled by polio, his vision and commitment have seen the revival of his tribe's culture and dignity. Neichu Angami from Nagaland, India, said, 'For the first time I was proud to be a tribal.'

Before we finished we had met with three mayors, appeared almost daily in the local papers and stayed in homes in Tainan and Taipei.

Over 360 people have now attended an APYC. As a result, many have discovered that they can change, have opened their minds and hearts to other cultures, and they keep in touch with each other. It has been said that the 21st Century belongs to Asia. The APYCs are making their contribution to ensuring that this Millennium will usher in an era of hope for the world.

Julie Tan

GAKUSHUIN OPENS ITS DOORS

In Japan recently, 1200 people attended a charity concert in the Centennial Hall of Gakushuin, in the presence of Prince and Princess Tomohito of Mikasa. The concert was sponsored by the Association to Aid Refugees and the MRA Association of Japan. It opened with a presentation of the work of the AAR and MRA by several speakers including Bosnia-Herzegovinian Ambassador to Japan Dr Benjamin Markin.

Gakushuin is an educational institution founded in 1878 for members of the imperial family and the nobility. The concert was initiated by Gakushuin graduate Takako Yoshida, who heard Dr Markin speak at an MRA conference in Odawara, and felt that she must do something about the suffering of war-torn countries. She approached her classmate and then they met other Gakushuin graduates, a mezzo-soprano, a pianist and a viola player, who all volunteered their services. Gakushuin also agreed to provide its facilities – the first time it has done so for a charity concert.

The evening concluded with a speech by Mrs Yukika Sohma, who is President of both associations. The MRA bookstall did brisk trade after this.

Hugh Wilkinson

'A POWERFUL BOOK' – TUTU

Michael Henderson's new book *Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate* will be available in November, according to the Oregon-based publishers, BookPartners. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who read the manuscript on his vacation this summer, describes the book on its cover as 'A deeply moving and eloquent testimony to the power of forgiveness in the life of individuals, of communities and between and within nations. It effects change – a powerful book.'

How could survivors of the Burma Road, the Siberian Gulag, or Nazi atrocities forgive those who harmed them? How can representatives of entire peoples – Australian Aborigines, African-Americans, black South Africans – be reconciled with whites who exploited them? And how can the offenders find the grace to apologize? Henderson writes about people of many nations and faiths who have been able to break the chain of hate and the hold of history.

Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate, \$14.95, from BookPartners, PO Box 922, Wilsonville, OR 97070, USA. Fax: +1 503 682-8684. Tel: +1 503 682-9821. E-mail: bpbooks@teleport.com

POLITICS AND PRINCIPLES

In Cameroon, the MRA team has started a 16-page newsletter, *La Boussole* (The Compass), in French and English, 'to link all members of MRA in Cameroon'. For the first issue, the editors – Daniel Zang, Catherine Mendouga and Emile Wobenso – interviewed Mme Delphine Tsanga, former Minister of Social Affairs. 'Are you today in your political career guided by MRA principles?' they asked her. 'The inner voice is always there,' she replied. 'At times we pretend to ignore it, but we cannot. Listening to that voice has helped me to distinguish what is essential from useless things, and to be faithful to moral values.'

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY AT KIRCHENTAG

Over three days in June scores of people poured through the MRA stall at the Kirchentag (Church Days) in Stuttgart, a huge event attended by 100,000, many of them young people. It is organised every two years by German Churches. Our stall was staffed by seven from MRA in Germany and Gerald Henderson from Britain.

It was a unique opportunity to introduce Caux and its work of reconciliation. Two thousand specially prepared brochures, describing MRA and its work and with contact addresses, were given out. Many stopped to talk and to subscribe for further information. For some it was their first contact, for others a renewing of a contact they had many years ago. The response showed that it was worth the effort.

Heinrich Pick

LEARNING TRUST IN LVIV

Earlier this year I was invited to attend a *Foundations for Freedom Teachers' Seminar* in the Ukraine. I answered in the affirmative and reached for the atlas! So last month I found myself in Warsaw, joining Kees and Marina Scheijgrond, Hennie de Pous and Howard Grace. We flew to Lviv, where we were warmly welcomed by two young Ukrainians, Natalya Volochak and Oleh Khalayim, and people involved with the Dzerzhelo centre for the disabled in Lviv (where Kees and others have helped provide wheelchairs).

After an evening of 'breaking the ice' activities, the seminar began in earnest. Taking part were Ukrainian students and young professionals, several teachers and three Polish students from Rzeszów. The aim was to encourage participants to discover the value of change, conflict-solving, reconciliation and forgiveness in daily life, and to examine how to pass on values in a teaching environment.

Each day began with time in small groups before breakfast. Many participants embraced this hitherto unknown experience of sharing on a personal level. One participant said in the closing session, 'I will take some friendships with people I can trust.'

Laura Trevelyan

POLES AND GERMANS CONTINUE DIALOGUE

Sixty years after the German invasion of Poland, twelve of us from different generations of both countries met in the beautiful landscape of the Tatra mountains near Zakopane. Prepared by Marta Dabrowska and her family, we continued the dialogue from Kreisau (see October '98 WB) where the idea of working together and caring for Poland's neighbours was launched.

Heinz and Gisela Kreig

FIVE HUNDRED AND RISING

Over 500 sewing machines have gone from Britain to Zimbabwe in recent years, thanks to a retired secretary from London, Irene Owens. Irene visited Zimbabwe in the early 1980s, and met the First Lady, Sally Mugabe. Mrs Mugabe told her that sewing machines would help many young Zimbabweans to find employment. Irene returned home, spoke to her friends, and several of them offered her second-hand machines. Word spread, and soon not only sewing machines were winging to Zimbabwe, but boxes of clothing and thousands of children's books. Requests then began to reach her from elsewhere in Africa and, as a result, machines have gone to Botswana and Ghana. And in her modest flat in West Dulwich, she has entertained the First Ladies of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Botswana.

BUSINESS ETHICS IN POLAND

A second International Conference on Business Ethics will take place in Rzeszów, Poland, 4-6 November. Against the background of an enlarging integrated Europe, participants from business and industry in East

PANEL OF ELDERS

At the Global Consultation in South Africa last March it was agreed to establish a Panel of Elders who would be available for confidential consultation with the International Council, with any national MRA body and with concerned individuals in matters affecting MRA's world work. Their role and mandate is described in Appendix D of the South African Report which states, in part:

'The elders will consist of about twelve individuals, with between them a wide background knowledge and understanding of our world work, and a care for the welfare of the people currently undertaking it. Their function will be to provide resources of wisdom and experience. They will work quietly, usually not more than two or three on any particular subject, and only when asked to do so. If requested by the International Council or a national MRA body, they will take responsibility for a process leading to resolution of conflicts.....on the understanding that any recommendations made will be respected and acted upon. They will maintain confidentiality on matters put before them They will serve no longer than five years and not less than two.'

From a list of some 100 nominated individuals, the following colleagues from 10 countries on five continents were chosen and have agreed to serve:

Dr Yusuf Al-Azhari (Somalia), Dr Raj Anand (India), Jean Brown (Australia), Paul Gundersen (Finland), Digna Hintzen-Philips (Netherlands), Joan Holland (New Zealand), Sir Conrad Hunte (Barbados), Philippe Lasserre (France), Chris Mayor (Australia), Revd Jean Piquet (Switzerland), Joy Weeks (United Kingdom), David Young (United Kingdom)

and West will convene in the city of Rzeszów.

Topics for discussion and learning will be:

- * Work and human dignity – the relationship between management and labour
- * Responsibility and co-operation – working together for the common interest.

The conference is an initiative of Polish participants in the Caux Conference for Business and Industry and has the full support of local industry and officials.

Contact persons are Piotr Strek, Wanda Tarnawska and myself.

Kees Scheijgrond

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AMERICAS

A hundred people will gather for a 'Meeting of the Americas' in Salvador, Brazil, 1-6 October. They will come from Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, Costa Rica, the United States and Britain. Suresh Khatri, Liu Ren-jou and Pieter Horn will join us from the International Council.

Meeting themes will include 'Globalization and human values', 'The real task of an educator' and 'A meeting of

generations'. We will discuss MRA-inspired initiatives world-wide, and take time to discern opportunities and discuss strategies for the Americas. Workshops will discuss next year's Consultation in India, a Latin American Consultation, the Latin American Youth Conference planned for Colombia in 2001, the MRA Latin American web-page, and the name Moral Re-Armament. All our teams strongly support the suggestion of a Consultation to deal with this last issue. Any papers or thoughts on these themes would be most welcome. Please send them to: E-mail: mrbrasil@compuland.com.br, Fax: +55 024 248-5538 or +55 021 576-8378, or Cx. Postal 90250 – 25621-970 Petrópolis-RJ, Brazil

Ernesto Veras

LIKE A FRESHLY DUG GARDEN

'The joy of a new start..., why pain...?, from insecurity to faith..., how do you change the world...?'. These are some themes in a new booklet entitled *Like a freshly dug garden*, published by Caux Edition.

The booklet, edited by Alan Channer, contains highlights of talks in Caux in 1998 by Jesuit priest Frank Rampsberger, Muslim paediatrician Omnia Marzouk and Buddhist abbot Ajahn Sumedho, and responses from a cross section of the MRA world fellowship.

Dr Charis Waddy writes of the booklet: 'So fresh and well produced. Eternal truth has to come new to each generation... Well, the fresh tide is already flowing.'

The booklet is available from MRA Productions, 24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD.

Tel: +44 171 798 6000 Fax: +44 171 798 6001 [E-mail: 10174.1500@compuserve.com].

Price including postage:

UK: One copy £2.00; five copies £9.50

EU: One copy £3.50; five copies £10.50

World: One copy £4.00; five copies £12.50

Bulk price on request.

GLOBAL CONSULTATION – A PERSONAL VIEW

In the 21st century will MRA continue along the lines it has in the last decade? Or will it deal with issues it has not yet dared to? The next Consultation (Panchgani, India 4 -11 Feb) offers MRA a chance to accept new priorities, even to set a pattern for global politics.

The Consultation will be meaningful if those from the well-to-do nations come empowered to adopt new priorities.

We virtually have a rich world MRA and a poor world MRA. Not unlike the UN, MRA's main strength comes from the richer countries. Policies have largely been based on the "threats" to these lands, be it the need for security or reconciliation.

But there is little input from the poor world's MRA at our forums – because of the cost of getting to Caux, because they are not part of our new information networks, because of language or because of inefficiency, non-accountability and control of information by a few.

In the West, a mayhem shooting spawns miles of media footage. Hundreds killed in Angola gets two printed

paragraphs. And the bigger 'fires' of the poor world – the life-long poverty, the cancer of corruption, low commodity prices, and the exploitation of cheap labour – are almost ignored.

Yet colonialism and Western intervention helped create many of these problems, and ill-prepared post-independence structures have left many countries with arbitrary national boundaries and few safeguards against despotism. Centuries-long shocks to native systems have handicapped poorer nations in a hurtling world that gives priority to rich lands.

If we are not dealing with these things, are we working relevantly? Are we inured to the poverty which scourges two thirds of the world? And to the cancer of corruption that bleeds these lands? Will we move out of Western-centredness, and become concerned with the needs of all lands?

The committed teams in the poor world need the world MRA community. But the committed in rich countries are so busy in their projects that little mental space is left.

There is a way out of this overload. A return to basics! The unconditional full MRA hour of quiet search in the morning, and its communal equivalent – team meetings, consultations, etc. – can lead us to answers.

Suresh Khatri

NOMINATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN PANCHGANI CONSULTATION

The Panchgani Consultation will address the question of a process to co-ordinate participation at Consultations. In the meantime, the IC has asked us to co-ordinate this. This next Consultation is earlier in the year than previously, so we will need an earlier deadline for nominations for participation.

We will continue to aim for a maximum of 35 people, which means that not every country can be represented, but we hope that every region will be, and that the group will be as representative as possible. We ask that names reach us by the end of October.

Please reply to Anne Hartnell at:

E-mail: annehartnell@compuserve.com

Fax: +1 604 275 5042, or mail: 9071 Glenthorne Court, Richmond, BC V7A 2Y1, Canada.

Anne Hartnell, Claire Leggat, Alan Weeks
(On behalf of the Consultation Preparation Team)

STARTING 2000 WITH EFFECTIVE LIVING

The dates for the next Australian Effective Living Course are February 6 to April 8, 2000.

This nine-week course will be held in two modules. The first module, of two weeks' duration, is a complete unit and caters for those who can only manage a short period. The second module, an extension of the first, includes a bush camp and field work in different parts of Australia. For further information contact the Course Co-ordinator, Armagh, 226 Kooyong Road, Toorak, Vic 3142, Australia, or 100351.1024@compuserve.com

Rob and Cheryl Wood, Fetu Paulo, John Mills

COME AND PREPARE CAUX 2000!

We warmly invite you to come and join preparations at the Maison St. Gérard in Haguenau near Strasbourg.

- Arrival Wednesday November 10, for supper at 18.30
- Departure Monday November 15, after breakfast

Last years' cost was 1,100FRF for a twin bedroom, or 1,300FRF for a single bedroom for the whole time.

Please announce yourself to Charles Danguy at e-mail: droyutz@aol.com and to Christoph Spreng at CSpreng@compuserve.com

The Agenda is:

- 1) to write and finalise the programme for Caux 2000
- 2) to look at the life and spirit of the Caux conference community during the whole summer
- 3) to receive the recommendations of the Tricon consultants who were at the conference in August. Tony Horton, Tricon's Managing Director, will be with us on the Friday and it would be good if at least one representative from the main house working areas which he studied were present.

Thank you for sending in advance any more thoughts for this new chapter of the Caux venture.

Looking forward to seeing you there,

Michel & Catherine Koechlin, Charles & Juliette Danguy, Marianne & Christoph Spreng, James Hore-Ruthven

MRA LONDON CENTRE

The MRA Centre in London has now moved from the Westminster Theatre to its new location. There is still much to do for the centre to become fully operational. However we are already appreciating the architect's design and thoughtfulness in many details. He has brought freshness and light to the building, and has

added features which make it distinctive. While work continues on finishing the meeting hall, dining room, study bedrooms and other areas, the Centre's outreach has already started, with the editing of the Caux issue of *For A Change* and the preparation of two videos for subtitling in Arabic in Lebanon.

We look forward to welcoming people from all over the globe and to developing our service to Britain and the world.

Please note our contact details:

24 Greencoat Place, London SW1P 1RD, UK
Tel: +44 171 798 6000 Fax: +44 171 798 6001

Geoffrey Craig

FACTS ON FAXES, PHONES AND ADDRESSES

Australia: David and Jane Mills now have a separate fax number: +61 2 9591 9597. Their phone number remains the same: +61 2 9599 1428.

Canada: Anne Hartnell has her own e-mail address: annehartnell@compuserve.com

France: Gérard Gigand has a new e-mail address: gvgigand@free.fr

India: The Friends of Moral Re-Armament (India) has a new e-mail address: asiaplateau@vsnl.com

Kenya: Joseph Karanja has a new e-mail address: joekaranja@insightkenya.com

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Erik and Sheila Andren's new e-mail address is: erik@eandren.freemove.co.uk

Taiwan: Ou-Yang Hui-Fang has a new e-mail address: oufang@ms38.hinet.net

Calendar of Events

OCT '99	<u>Salvador Brazil</u>	Meeting of the Americas	Oct	1 - 6
NOV '99	<u>Rzeszów Poland</u>	Second International East-West conference on business ethics	Nov	4 - 6
NOV '99	<u>Malta</u>	Dialogue for Mediterranean region	Nov	5 - 10
NOV '99	<u>Schengen Luxembourg</u>	One-day seminar 'Où allons-nous en Europe?' - organised by families and local leadership of the east of France	Nov	6
NOV '99	<u>Haguenau France</u>	Caux 2000 planning meeting	Nov	10 - 15
DEC '99	<u>Sydney Australia</u>	A conference to mark the new century	Dec	3 - 7
FEB '2000	<u>Asia Plateau India</u>	MRA Global Consultation	Feb	4 - 11
FEB '2000	<u>Melbourne Australia</u>	Effective Living Course	Feb	6 - Apr 8

The deadline for the next Bulletin is Friday, 15 October 1999

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