

## December 2007

### A gathering for humanity

In 2002, at a gathering of concerned humanity in Puerto Rico, the then 91 year old Argentinean writer Ernesto Sabato, invited all in his opening remarks "to come together to recover, to create a new narrative that includes all of us in a family of humanity ... to give space again, in the soul of the people, to an utopia that encompasses values like love for the human being, justice, a sense of honor and shame, honesty, respect for others and the search for the sacred meaning of life."

Moved by his words, those present decided to start building a human network: an Alliance for a New Humanity, a collective to influence societal policies and individual behavior and bring forth a sustainable, equitable and peaceful world.

This coming year the Forum will take place in Costa Rica from 11 to 13th March 2008. People from all walks of life will join hearts and hands in co-creating synergies for the global transformation movement, in a symphony of transformation.

Come, join Deepak Chopra, Marianne Williamson, Anwar Fazal, Baltazar Garzon, Jaime Jaramillo, Dr. A. T. Ariyadne, and many other artists, environmentalists, social transformation leaders, corporate leaders and scientists in an interactive dialog to set in motion the scaling-up of change because today "nothing is more important for healing the world, than to link all those who believe that we must set forth a new narrative"

See you in Costa Rica!

Find out more...

Alliance Action

TKF brings peace

When Azim Khamisa's 20 year old son Tariq was murdered by a 14 year old gang recruit in California, his response was not the usual one of demanding revenge and retribution. Instead, he saw two of America's sons lost - one forever and one to the state prison system:

"From the onset, I saw victims on both ends of the gun. I will mourn Tariq's death for the rest of my life. Now, however, my grief has been transformed into a powerful commitment to change. Change is urgently needed in a society where children kill children."

To honor his son Tariq's life and find meaning in his death, Azim established the Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF) in

October 1995. TKF now provides violence prevention educational programs and services to young people in the USA, cultivating and nurturing a generation of peacemakers who will create a world free from youth violence.

Read the full story...

Please visit [www.tkf.org](http://www.tkf.org) for more information.

Yehudi Menuhin Foundation

Marianne Poncelet wrote to tell readers about the work of the Yehudi Menuhin Foundation which she helped to set up in 1991. Among its many programmes is MUS-E® which helps children find personal fulfillment through the arts.

Professional artists go into schools to give regular workshops, introducing new ways of thinking and creating to stimulate children's harmonious development. The project promotes social integration and aims to reduce levels of violence, racism and social exclusion amongst the young.

The IYMF now coordinates MUS-E® in 14 European countries with more than 600 artists working with 30,000 children in 400 primary schools.

There is a very moving video about Yehudi Menuhin's dream and MUS-E on the Foundation's website:

Watch the video...

Read Marianne's story about working with Yehudi Menuhin and the creation of the Foundation:

more...

Get Linked In to make a difference

I have recently created the International Network of Social Entrepreneurs (INSE), with the intent to create a platform for

Social Entrepreneurs to connect globally and collaborate on a number of key sustainable projects. My vision is to have different stakeholders combining their expertise and talents to contribute to the eradication of poverty and the restoration of peace on Earth.

INSE has 1100 members so far, including CEOs, entrepreneurs, senior business executives, IT experts, senior recruiters, and artists from around the world, all determined to make a significant difference in today's world by contributing to the eradication of extreme poverty while protecting the Earth.

Join INSE

All the best,

Christophe

<http://christophepoizat.com>

## POETRY

“The poetic mainstream is changing. Alongside anecdote and humour, celebrations of sexuality and of urban cool, a new sensibility is revealing itself. Ecological awareness demands a profound attention, which sinks past surface appearances towards an understanding of the world around us in something like its own terms.”

Guest Editor, Fiona Simpson, presents previously unpublished poems by three influential eco-poets: Pascale Petit, John Burnside and David Harsent.

More...

## BIOFUELS

“The demand for biofuels is already creating global food shortages and price rises — price rises which have a disproportionate impact on poor people. The speculative gains to be made from biofuels have also encouraged powerful agribusiness operators to drive subsistence farmers with insecure land title and indigenous people off their land to make way for plantations, creating untold human suffering.”

So what can we do?

In our regular column, Sensible Solutions, Oliver Tickell assesses the advantages and disadvantages of biofuels &ndash; he proposes realistic options &ndash; but concludes that ultimately, we need to use cars less!

More...

SRI LANKA: Fair Trade Labels Ensure Returns For Farmers by Feizal Samath

Credit:J. Weerasekera

KANDY, Organic farmers in this hilly, central region of Sri Lanka are convinced that they have a simple fair trade model that could be replicated in other parts of the world.

"What we have created is the most sustainable model of fair trade and organic food in the world," insists Sarath Ranaweera, founder of the Small Organic Farmers Association (SOFA), speaking with IPS.

"Fair trade" international trading partnerships help disadvantaged producers, farmers and farmers' societies to get better prices for their products, while ensuring quality and environment-friendly products. They bring suppliers (farmers/producers), traders (exporters and retailers) and consumers together in an equitable partnership where the consumer pays a premium for the product and part of the premium goes back to the farmer/producer for his social welfare and uplift.

More...

COTE D'IVOIRE: Educating Children on the Job

By Aly Ouattara

KORHOGO, Northern Côte d'Ivoire, Nibon Soro and Kartenin Silué, two children living in the Korhogo region of northern Côte d'Ivoire, should be in school. But, farm duties -- and their family's poverty -- stand in the way of education. The two, both under 10, drive the draught animals that help with ploughing.

It is estimated that there are about 2,000 of these child cattle herders in the north of Côte d'Ivoire; but, only 912 are being taught to read and write, according to Rural Development of Korhogo (Animation rurale de Korhogo, ARK), a non-governmental organisation (NGO). ARK is trying to improve on these figures without taking children out of the fields.

With financial and material support from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), ARK has created community literacy centres in several villages, where learners are grouped. The teaching is done under trees or in village huts with the help of 77 ARK members, and others, throughout the north.

[More...](#)

[In brief](#)

[Fly a kite](#)

Flying a kite, in the storm of Darfur, doesn't seem make sense, unless you discover the electricity... Join us in flying the world's biggest peace sign in the sky from the last place on earth you might expect to find it... Darfur.

[More...](#)

[Ashoka launches Youth Venture](#)

Ashoka, a global organization with a 26-year history and network of more than 1,800 social entrepreneurs serving 70 countries, today announced it has successfully launched its Youth Venture program in Belgium and Canada. Youth Venture encourages young people to start their own sustainable social ventures and connects them into a powerful global network.

[More...](#)

[Victory for Tribal Peoples](#)

Indigenous Peoples around the world are celebrating the UN General Assembly's approval of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Botswana Bushman Jumanda Gakelebone, of First People of the Kalahari said: "We would like to say that we are really very happy and thrilled to hear about the adoption of the declaration. It recognises that governments can no longer treat us as second-class citizens and it gives protection to tribal peoples so that they will not be thrown off their lands like we were."

[More...](#)

[Let LEDs light up your Christmas](#)

Cut electricity costs up to 80% &ndash; LEDs burn approx 200,000 hours, or 20 years.

More...