

## State of the World Forum

### San Francisco, 2-6 October 1996

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In 1995, the State of the World Forum was held in San Francisco with a goal to seek broader and deeper answers to the challenges facing humanity in the 21st Century. The State of the World Forum Conference consisted of a morning ceremony, plenary sessions, round table conferences, healing image room and evening entertainment. The participants were mainly concerned and focused on issues which would crystallize the fundamental priorities, values and actions necessary to guide humanity as it evolves into the first global civilization.

The State of the World Forum is a working Conference with an agenda to create not an institution but a process which will facilitate and shape the creation of a better Life for all humanity in the 21st Century. The nature of the Forum is to be interactive and catalytic. It is a nonprofit charitable organization which has gathered and continues to gather a global network of creative and influential people who have new ideas in many spheres of life and who hopefully will be able to synergize their ideas with concrete and vital actions.

A great many of the participants are powerful and exceptionally intelligent people as symbolized by the eighteen co-chairs, as many of them are Nobel Prize winners, past and present Presidents, Prime Ministers and top politicians. Also, there were spiritual leaders, intellectuals, authors and scientists.

In 1996, over 700 people attended the Conference. The atmosphere was one of friendliness, brotherhood and sisterhood, cordiality, mutual respect and equality. Interaction took place not only in the formal sessions but also at dining times and in between functions. I might add that the entertainment - which usually took place in the evenings - was exceptionally good - particularly JOHN DENVER and the brilliant recitations of DAVID WHYTE.

The main issues discussed included Forum Initiatives on a Nuclear Weapons Project, a Code of Conduct to Govern the Sale and Transfers of Arms, a Charter of Human Responsibilities, Promotion of Human Development Policies, an International Campaign on Toxics and Health, the Global Opinion Poll, Youth Programmes, and Development of an Internet Web Site. There were Round Table Discussions about New Frontiers in Business, Science, Technology and the Public Interest, The Inner Core of Leadership, Regional Responses to Globalization, The Next Generation of Environmental Challenges and Solutions, Educational Models for the 21st Century, Global Security, The Future of Human Development, Creative Approaches to the Drug Crisis, Rediscovery of Religion, Strengthening Democracy through Empowering Civil Society, and Toward a new Civilization.

I personally have outlined a project to Amy Vossbrinck and the President of the State of the World Forum, James Garrison, informing them about the Centre of Research and Spiritual Development Inc. which I founded in 1988 in Sydney, Australia. The goals of this Centre were published in 1990 in this very publication *The Scientific and Medical Network Newsletter*, 1990, **43**, p. 26.

I submitted to the leaders of the State of the World Forum an outline of the proposals listing the goals of my project whose ultimate goal is reconciliation of all major religions by researching, verifying and validating the spiritual experience (in the broadest sense) including religious and peak experiences. It will be interesting to see whether the leaders of

the State of the World Forum will take up my challenge and agree to have an interactive session and discussion of this topic which I consider to be very important in timing, nature and global significance. It could, and would, lead to mutual understanding and respect between all religions. Needless to say, this research could also prove the benefit of these experiences on health in preventing and possibly speeding the healing processes in mental and physical diseases.

I wish to emphasize again that discussions and defining core issues are very necessary but not enough. Action is important. Action leads to results. I am certain that most if not all *Network* subscribers will salute the State of the World Forum for their endeavours.