

VESAK

Thursday, 23rd May 2013

INAUGURAL SESSION

“Buddhism and Interfaith Dialogue: Reconciliation through Education”

Room I, UNESCO

- 09.00am Refreshments
09.40am All invitees to be seated
09.50am Arrival of Special Invitees
Lighting of the traditional oil lamp
- 10.00am Welcome Address
H. E. Prof. Karunaratne Hangewatte
Ambassador/ Permanent Delegate-designate of Sri Lanka to UNESCO
- 10.10am Special Address
Mr. Hans d’Orville
Assistant Director General of UNESCO
- 10.20am Special Address
H. E. Mrs. Katalin Bogyay
President of the General Conference of UNESCO
- 10.30am Special Address
Hon. Chamal Rajapaksa, M. P.
Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka
- 10.40am **Keynote Address**
Ven. Master Chin Kung, 淨空老法師
Founder, Pureland College, Australia
- 11.00am Special Message (to be confirmed)
His Excellency Ban Ki Moon,
Secretary General of the United Nations
- 11.05am Special Message (Video)

His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapaksa,
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

11.10am Vote of Thanks
 Ven. Dr. Bodagama Chandima Nayake Thero,
 International Affairs Advisor to His Excellency the President of
Sri Lanka

SYMPOSIUM

“Contribution of Religious Teachings towards Reconciliation”

11.15am Opening Remarks by the Chairperson of the Symposium
 H. E. Mrs. Katalin Bogyay
 President of the General Conference of UNESCO

11.20am *“Vesak and Peace”*
 Ven. Dr Tawalama Dammika Thero
 Head, International Buddhist Centre, Geneva

11.35am *“Role of Hinduism in promoting Peace and Harmony in the present day
world”*
 Swami Veetamohananda
 President, *Centre Védantique Ramakrishna*, France

11.50am *“Contribution of religions to peace and development: a Christian proposal”*
 Monsignor Francesco Follo
 Permanent Observer of the Holy See to UNESCO

12.05pm **Intervention**
 Ven. Thich Minh Tam
 President, Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation in Europe

12.10pm *“God is”*
 Shaykh Abd al Wahid Pallavicini
 President, *Comunita Religiosa Islamica*, Italy

12.25pm Intervention
 Dr Gabor Karsai
 Director, World Servers International and Sopron Monastery Retreat
 Centre, Hungary

- 12.40pm Intervention on Reconciliation
H. E. Mr Boutros Boutros Ghali
Former Secretary General of the United Nations
- 12.55pm **Conclusion**
- 1.00pm **Lunch**
- 3.00p.m. [Session of Meditation and Special Lecture](#)
[Ven. Master Chin Kung 淨空老法師](#)
[Founder, Pureland College, Australia](#)
- 5.00p.m. **Conclusion**
- 7.30p.m. **Vesak Concert**

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PANEL DISCUSSIONS

“Inter – Faith dialogue, the way forward”

Room II, UNESCO

- 8.20am Welcome Address
H. E. Prof. Karunaratne Hangewatte
Ambassador/Permanent Delegate-designate of Sri Lanka to
UNESCO

Religious Observances

- 8.30am** **Buddhism**
9.30am Hinduism
9.40am Christianity
9.50am Islam

Panel I **Sri Lanka: Inter-Faith Dialogue – a path to reconciliation**

- 10.00am Opening by Moderator
H. E. Professor Karunaratne Hangewatte,
Ambassador/Permanent Delegate-designate of Sri Lanka to
UNESCO
- 10.10am *"The coexistence of different religions in South Asia: a personal
testimony"*
Mr Michel Lummaux,
Former Ambassador of France
- 10.25am Intervention
H. E. Dr Zorica Tomic,
Ambassador/Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Serbia to
UNESCO
- 10.40am *"In the Footsteps of Ad-In Jalal Rumi - 'Love is my religion';
Testimony of meetings in the Indian Sub-Continent and
Presentation of 'The Wave of Nilaveli'"*
Mrs Laurence Gourret-Lapeyre,
Author
- 10.55am Discussion (20 minutes)
- Panel II** **The Role of Inter-Faith Dialogue in promoting a Culture of**
Peace
- 11.15am Opening by Moderator,
H. E. Mr Vinay Sheel Oberoi
Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of India to
UNESCO
- 11.20am *'Importance of Buddhism in Today's World'*
H. E. Mr Mohan Krishna Shreshta,
Ambassador/Permanent Delegate of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Nepal to UNESCO
- 11.35am *"The peaceful coexistence of the Muslim Cham minority with
the majority of the Khmer Buddhist in Cambodia"*
H. E. Mr Narang Nouth

Ambassador/Permanent Delegate of the Kingdom of Cambodia to UNESCO

- 11.50am Intervention -
H. E. Mr Agron Budjaku
Ambassador/ Permanent Delegate of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to UNESCO
- 12.05pm *“Sources and resources for a Culture of Peace”*
Mr Ny Toky Andriamanjato
Chargé d’Affaires, Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Madagascar to UNESCO
- 12.20pm *“Interfaith dialogue and the experiences of Sudan”*
H. E. Dr Khalid Mohamed Farah
Ambassador/ Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Sudan to UNESCO
- 12.35pm Intervention -

12.50pm Discussion (25 minutes)

1.00pm Lunch

Panel III **Bridging Religions through Education &**
Inter-Faith Dialogue in action: An Experience

3.00pm Opening by Moderator Ally Martell
Venerable Wu Shin, Executive Vice President of Pure Land Learning College

3.05pm **“Buddhism and Education”**
Venerable Wu Ling, Vice President of Pure Land Learning College

3.20pm **“Education in Traditional Values and Practices”**
Mr. Tsai Li Shu, Director of Education, Academic of Han Studies, Malaysia 蔡禮旭老師

- 3.35pm Kim Walmsley: The Aboriginal prayer and path to peace.
- 3.45pm Mayor Paul Antonio – Key Address: A journey to building a model city of peace and harmony – Toowoomba.
- 4.00pm Reverend Dr. Jonathan Inkpin: A path to peace and harmony- A Religious Perspective (Christian)
- 4.10pm Dr. Frank Hepple: A path to peace and harmony- A Religious Perspective (Humanist)
- 4.20pm **Venerable Wu Ping: A path to peace and harmony - A Religious Perspective (Buddhist)**
- 4.30pm Syed Ghazaly: A path to peace and harmony- A Religious Perspective (Islam)
- 4.40pm Scott McGrath: Serving the Community
- 4.50pm Judy Antonio: Religious and Secular Education – A foundation to peace and harmony.
- 5.00pm Andrew Wielandt – Social Obligation – A Business Call
- 5.10pm Mark Cecil: A Youth Call – The next lap.
- 5.20pm Question and Answering:
Mayor Paul Antonio
Ven. Master Chin Kung 淨空老法師
- 5.50pm Muhammed Haniff – Summary
- 5.55pm Mayor Paul Anotonio