



Arigatou International
G N R C

The Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) Fourth Forum

On the 16th – 18th June, 2012 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Ending Poverty, Enriching Children
INSPIRE. ACT. CHANGE.

Introductory Newsletter

November 2011



*Ignorance Breeds Poverty, Not the other way round.
With proper Education we can easily fight Poverty.*



*Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow
belongs to the people who prepare for it today.*

Introduction

Every four years, GNRC holds a Global Forum. Since its inauguration in May 2000 by Arigatou Foundation, the GNRC has grown to become the only global-scale interfaith network of organizations and individuals specifically dedicated to securing the rights and well-being of children. GNRC members come from all of the world's major religions and many other spiritual traditions. They share a commitment to making the world a place where every child can enjoy not only the right to survive, but also to thrive, making positive contributions of his or her own to a world of peace and dignity for all.



As I eagerly await the opening day of the Fourth Forum of the GNRC, it seems as if June of next year is approaching at light speed. I am particularly delighted that the Forum will take place in Tanzania. Enthusiasm is growing quickly among GNRC members and partners around the world. We hear from them practically every day at our headquarters in Tokyo, and we are inspired by their high expectations. The dedicated team planning the forum, led by Organizing Committee Chair Dr. Mustafa Ali, Secretary General, African Council of Religious Leaders, is working hard day and night to create a powerful, enriching experience for everyone who will attend. Anticipating the Fourth Forum, we all know that the time has come for a truly groundbreaking interfaith-led initiative to reduce child poverty worldwide. This represents a great challenge, but the GNRC has always been moved by a

spirit of prayer and action to attempt what few think is possible. In that same spirit, I invite you to join me daily in praying and preparing for the 2012 Fourth Forum in Tanzania to be a history-making time of inspiration, action and change for the world's children.

The Fourth Global Forum

The GNRC's Fourth Quadrennial Forum will be held from 16th – 18th June 2012, in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. The first in Africa, the faith inspired Forum will seek to build partnerships with institutions, including Governmental, Bilateral and Multi-lateral, to address poverty.

Objectives for the GNRC Fourth Forum 2012

The main objective of the Fourth Forum is to take advantage of the full potential of interfaith cooperation to build a broad, worldwide movement of faith-based and secular organizations dedicated to delivering on the ethical imperative that no child lives in poverty.

The specific Objectives of the Forum are:

1. To mobilize an inspired group of actors, including youth and children, governments, bilateral and multi-lateral institutions willing to act to change the status-quo where poverty reigns, corruption and poor governance is a norm rather than the exception, and unequal distribution of wealth is still evident.
2. To provide opportunities and a global-scale platform for faith communities to show-case their contributions to eradicating poverty, and partner with development agencies.
3. To provide a Platform for Faith communities to call on the governments, multi-lateral and bilateral agencies including the United Nations, the African Union, the World Economic Forum and others to join hands with them in fighting poverty.
4. To share concrete steps and initiatives designed to eradicate poverty and study and consider the possibility of scaling-up existing successful ones.
5. To harness contributions from different partners and announce a unique initiative on poverty.
6. To call upon partners especially governments, to honor previous promises made, and obligations agreed to under different agreements in addressing poverty.
7. To invite, make a passionate plea to and plead with the governments, development agencies, private business communities, and partners to scale-up efforts to eradicate poverty.
8. To remind and call the world to action – that children can no longer wait for years-on-end before solutions to end poverty are found and implemented.

Key Presentations on the Themes

Corruption and poor governance, war and violence and unequal distribution of resources are the three concrete areas perceived as main causes of poverty on which the Forum will focus. These challenges have conspired to cause a contrasting situation of unprecedented global economic growth in many parts of the world, while significant parts still remain in absolute poverty. Tragically, children still suffer disproportionately from poverty, and account for most of these figures. Worse, this challenge is not just limited to the less developed nations, but also found in the richest countries of the world where unprecedented prosperity has been registered. Children therefore must be at the centre in any efforts and strategy to fight poverty.

Organizing Committee Members



Organizing committee at work

1. *Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, GNRC Fourth Forum Organizing Committee Chairman*
2. *Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne, GNRC Coordinator for South Asia*
3. *Ms. Marta Palma, GNRC Coordinator for Europe*
4. *Ms. Mercedes Roman, GNRC Coordinator for Latin America & Caribbean*
5. *Rev. Prof. Dr. Qais Sadiq, GNRC Coordinator for Arab States*
6. *Ms. Evi Guggenheim Shibeta, GNRC Coordinator for Israel*
7. *Sr. Jean Pruitt, Chair, Hosting Committee*
8. *Mr. Abubakar Francis, Secretary General, Fourth Forum*
9. *Mr. Filipe Furuma, Policy Officer, (NGOs Social and Economic Development), African Union*
10. *Mr. Atsushi Iwasaki, Secretary General, GNRC*

Members of Local Hosting Committee



Local hosting committee at work

- *Tanzania Episcopal Conference.*
- *Council of Churches Tanzania.*
- *Muslim Council of Tanzania.*
- *Office of Grand Mufti of Zanzibar*
- *UNICEF*
- *NCA*
- *MHA*
- *Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) - Africa*
- *Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) FF Secretariat*

Leading Team for the Fourth Forum

1. Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto is the Leader of Myochikai, Founder of the Arigatou Foundation, and Inaugurator of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC).

Rev. Miyamoto has long championed grass-root efforts to improve the lives of children everywhere through the Arigatou Foundation. His vision and commitment also led him to establish the Global Network of Religions for Children, a worldwide interfaith network dedicated to the well-being of children.

The faith-based initiatives launched by Reverend Miyamoto work closely with several UN agencies, including UNICEF. Every day, these collaborations help advance our shared mission to promote child rights, world peace and global understanding.



TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN

2. Co-Patrons

(a) His Excellency Ambassador Salim A. Salim

Ambassador Salim A. Salim is the most seasoned African Diplomat. Elected Secretary General of the Organization of African Union (now African Union) where he served for three terms, Ambassador Salim has also served as Chairman of the United Nations Security Council, President of the 34th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Tanzania Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. He has also served as both Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. Currently, he serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation and Chancellor of the Hubert Kairuki Memorial University.





(b) His Grace Bishop Method Kilaini. Bishop Method Kilaini is the Auxiliary Bishop of Bukoba Tanzania and a member of the Committee of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children.

3. Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali – The Chairman of the Organizing Committee
Dr. Mustafa is currently the Secretary General of the African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL—Religions for Peace) and the Africa Representative of the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP). He is also the African Coordinator of GNRC.



4. Mr. Abubakari F. Kabwogi - The Secretary General of the Fourth Forum.
He has 15 years' experience working in Inter-religious co-operation. He has served as:
 - Special envoy of WCRP Secretary General in Africa.
 - Founding Secretary General of the African Council of Religious Leaders in 2002 – 2007.
 Currently he is the Special Envoy of the Secretary General of RFP to OIC and ICESCO.

5. Sr. Jean Pruitt - The Chairperson of the Local Hosting Committee. Sr. Jean Pruitt is an American Maryknoll Sister best known for activism in promoting Artists and advocating Children's rights in Tanzania and around the world. She has founded a number of organizations in Tanzania including Tanzania Mozambique Friendship Association (TAMOFa) and Dogodogo Centre (Tanzania's leading street children centre).





Arigatou International

Arigatou International is an international faith-based NGO committed to building a better world for children. An initiator and sustainer of partnership-based initiatives to secure child rights and foster children's well-being, Arigatou International seeks to maximize the potential of interfaith cooperation, and always strives to empower and involve children and youth.



African Council of Religious Leaders — Religions for Peace

(ACRL—RfP) is the largest and most representative multi-religious platform in Africa. ACRL—RfP mission is to mobilize African religious communities and their leaders to build peaceful, just and harmonious societies in common action. The Council's objectives include transforming conflicts and advancing sustainable development; promoting peaceful co-existence and respect of religious diversity; facilitating and promoting mediation and conflict resolution within and outside faith communities; facilitating cooperation among African National Inter-Religious Councils (NIRCs) and the Sub-Regional Inter-Religious Coordinating Bodies (SIRCBs) in responding to pan-African challenges. ACRL—RfP takes action within African states in times of emergency or crisis, and advocating for, and promoting human rights, justice and the rule of law.'

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