

From  
Md. Shabeer Ahmed  
Natl. Secretary  
IARF, INDIA CHAPTER

To  
Dr. Thomas Mathew  
International President  
IARF, INDIA CHAPTER

Respected Sir,

**SUB: - Report of 13<sup>th</sup> National IARF Conference held on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2009  
At Suttur Mysore Dist**

**Theme of the conference: - INTERFAITH DIALOUGE – THE WAY TO  
RECONCILIATION**

It gives me great pleasure to report the 13<sup>th</sup> National IARF Conference held at Jagadguru Sri Veerasimhasana Mahasamasthana Math Suttur Sri Kshetra, Mysore Dist. On 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 2009. In this regard I write to state that the two days conference commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> dec 2009 at 11 am & concluded on 21<sup>st</sup> dec 2009 at 6pm

About 350 delegates from IARF, Local, Foreign, Indian Young Adults, animators from an NGO, attended the conference. The delegates registered their presence in the conference. IARF distributed Executive bags, Mementos, Pads, Pens, Identity cards, Files etc.. Complimentary items such as Agarbaties & Calendars given by Rang Rao & Sons Mysore & Suttur Math were also distributed to delegates.

Mementos, Sandal Garlands, Woolen Shawls, and Fruit Bowles were also presented to all the dignitaries on dais on both days.

Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Shivaratri Deshikendra Mahaswamigalu provided free accommodation and their international Conference venue on both the days to all delegates.

His Holiness also provided Meeting Hall (Adioutorim), Chairs, Tables, Sound systems, Podium, Power Point Presentation Facilities & persons to assist the IARF Personnel on both days

Mr. Thriuprathaka Coordinator of Suttur Educational Institutions was overall in charge on both the days he was coordinating with us in arranging the conference.

His Holiness also provided transportation facilities for picking up & dropping the delegates to & fro from the Railway Station & Bus Stand to suttur math

Since Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Shivaratri Deshikendra Mahaswamigalu was to attend some urgent meeting in Bangalore with the Government, he was not in a position to inaugurate instead he came to the Guest House and IARF leaders & Delegates. He had interactions with Dr Thomas Mathew, Dr. Homi B Dhalla, Mr. V Rengaphsyam, Mr. Md Shabeer Ahmed & Mrs. M A Hemalatha, About the Motto, Aims & Objects, Statement of Purpose, Interfaith activities & Human Rights Education Workshops. He was very happy to hear all IARF activities and assured all kind of support from his organization to IARF programs. The delegates were very happy to meet Swamiji. Dr Homi B Dhalla read the message of Swamiji after the inauguration . Dr.Homi Dhalla's personal relationship with the Swamiji and Mutt were helped us to receive all support from them.

The Following dignitaries were present on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009

Dr Thomas Mathew Intl President IARF, Dr. Homi B Dhalla Intl Council Member, Mr. V Rengaphsyam Nat'l President IARF IC, Mr. H Vishwanath Hon'ble Member of Parliament of India , B K Chandrasekhar Ex .Chairman Legislative & Ex .Education Minister Govt. of Karnataka, Hon'ble Justice Bhakthavathsala High Court Karnataka, Rev. Thomas A. Vazhapilly ,Catholic Bishop of Mysore , Alijanab Moulana Usman Shariff Sahib Sir Khazi of Mysore, Mr. M Subramaniam Patron IARF India Chapter & Member SACC , Mr. Dakshinamurty Ex Mayor & President Basava Balage Mysore, Mr. Md Shabeer Ahmed Nat'l Secretary & Mrs. M A Hemalatha Nat'l Treasurer IARF IC & Coordinator 13<sup>th</sup> IARF Nat'l conference

Mr. Md. Shabeer Ahmed Nat'l Secretary IARF IC Welcomed the gathering.

The conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Justice K. Bhakthavathsala by lighting the lamp & putting the conference in order. In his inaugural address he spoke on "Machinery for Enforcement of Human Right in India & Interfaith Dialogue". He further said such conferences are very essential now a day to respect one another and basic rights of every human being. We should involve with youths and discuss about interfaith movement, mutual understanding between Religions, Peace , Tolerance & non violence, otherwise they may attract fanaticism, that is harmful to every nations in the world .He also shared the importance of the interfaith organizations initiatives for interfaith dialogue involving with various religious leaders locally, nationally and internationally .

Mr. Rengapashyam Nat'l president IARF IC has presided the conference & he said that in Andhra Pradesh –India there is tomb of Muslim saints where Hindus, Muslims & Christians come to prayer & there is a good Mutual understanding among all the religions. He said No Peace among the nations without Peace among the religions he also said no peace among the religions without dialogue among the religions. Further he said we live in globe village, which is Multi- religious and Multi-cultural.

Mr. H Vishwanth Hon'ble Member of Parliament of India, B K Chandrasekhar Ex Chairman Legislative & Ex Education Minister Govt of Karnataka, Rev. Thomas A. Vazhapilly Bishop of Mysore, Alijanab Moulana Usman Shariff Sahib Sir Khazi of Mysore, spoke on interfaith dialogue- The way to reconciliation more or less all the above mentioned dignitaries spoke on the same grounds they said the goal of archiving independence of India brought some of the Hindus & Muslims together. Nazi atrocities in Europe were greatly

responsible for post war generation to change the traditional Christians stands towards Judaism. Regional wars in Lebanon & former Yugoslavia have encouraged those societies to disarm religious hater ness. Moreover, the realization that if all religions can join together, they can make the solution to the challenges of globalization.

Dr. Homi B Dhalla spoke on Interfaith Movement & on Dialogue, he said we are aware of the fact that although religions have been a cause for many conflicts they have also been great reservoirs of spiritual wisdom fortunately; we are now gradually witnessing hopeful signs past barriers of distrust & Isolation being over come among religious traditions

History informs us that there have been instances of dialogue among the adherents of Islam, Judaism & Christianity after certain conflicts. These encounters took place in Medieval, Islamic, Spain & Southern Italy & different times in central Asia, Delhi, Baghdad, and Cairo & Ottoman Empire.

But inter religious dialogue as Movements with its specialists & activist is essentially a phenomenon of 20<sup>th</sup> century. Perhaps one of the earlier seats of inter religious Movements was the Parliament of world's religious which held in 1983 when swami Vivekananda went to Chicago & introduce the great treasure of Indian philosophy & thought to the Mile stone.

He also mentioned different types of dialogue. He basically there are four different types of dialogues which are as follows.

1. The first is Dialogue of life, where individuals & groups are expected to live harmoniously with their neighbours in there share their joys & sorrows & as well as their religious experiences & ideologies.
2. The second is Dialogue of action where people collaborate on common projects, which will beneficial to society. It emphasizes specific cooperation & joint action- for peace, justice, protection of the environment, defense of Human rights- as the way to bring harmony & unity among different religious communities.
3. The third is the Dialogue of religious experience or spirituality. This is form of dialogue where persons committed to their own religious share their spiritual experiences of prayer, meditation & faith with members of other tradition. This can be mutually enriching while promoting & preserving the spiritual & ideals of one's tradition.
4. The fourth is the Dialogue Theological Exchange. Here Specialists enter into mutual dialogue in order to enhance their understanding of the other tradition & share spiritual values. This form of dialogue as been held over the decades in many parts of the world among the different religious traditions. The religious scholar as a crucial part to play as he can examine the roots of discord & help the community to sort out these conflicts.

Dr. Thomas Mathew in his Key note address spoke on the Interfaith/ Interfaith Dialogue which refer to cooperative & positive interaction b/w religious traditions & spiritual or humanistic beliefs, at both individual an institutional level with the aim of deriving a common in belief through a concentration on similarities b/w faiths, understanding of values & commitment to the world.

Today dialogue is used in class rooms, community centers, corporations, federal agencies, and other settings to enable people, usually in small groups, to share their perspectives & experiences about difficult issues. It is used to help people resolve long-standing conflicts & to built deeper understanding of contentious issues. Dialogue is not judging, weighing, or making decisions, but about understanding & learning. Dialogue dispels stereotypes, built stress & unable people to open to perspectives that are very different from their own.

Through out world there are local regional & international interfaith initiatives, many are formally or informally linked are constitute larger network or federations the often quoted “There will be no peace among the nations without peace among the religion. “There will be no peace among the religions without dialogue among the religions” was formulated by Dr Hans Kung a professor of Ecumenical Theology & President of foundation for a global Ethic.

**Reconciliation means settlement, resolution, compromise, reunion, bringing together.**

History of Interfaith Dialogue in brief:-

The history of interfaith is as ancient as the religions since men & woman when not at war with their neighbours have always made effort understand them (not least because understanding a strategy for defense, but also because for as long as there is dialogue wars are delayed). History records many examples of interfaith initiatives & dialogue throughout the ages.

What the world needs to know about interfaith dialogue covers a range practical & philosophical issue supplemented by anecdotal information. For example, it shows you:-

1. How to over come differences in theology & belief
2. Which projects will gain recognition interfaith groups
3. How to get religious literalists & liberals to cooperate
4. How to make interfaith meeting smoothly
5. How to defuse inter conflict
6. How to distinguish a religion from a cult
7. How to deal explosive political issues

What one can to do to make it happen?

1. Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality & empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
- 6 .Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria & other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Create global partnership for development with targets for aid, trade & debt relief.

US Institute of Peace:

Building personal relationship is fundamental to any reconciliation process. This requires time & space. Building relationship is more important than resolving particular issues or disputes & provides the basis for long term problem. The goal is transformation of relationship at a deep level.

Different sessions held on 20<sup>th</sup> after the inaugural programme.

The 1<sup>st</sup> was held by Dr. Homi B Dhalla on “Many Faces Of Peace “. He made power point presentation were in different photographs involving peace activities in different parts of the world was shown ha explained how peace movement is being actively organized in the universe it was one hour session & the delegates were very happy made by Dr. Homi B Dhalla.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> session held by Mr. T. Ramakrishna Prof of law Chairman intellectual Property rights, Nat’l law school of India, University Bangalore, Bangalore area India spoke on “ High Level Consultation on Conflicts, Violence & Peace”

The 3<sup>rd</sup> session was held by staff of suttur math by presenting a CD presentation on suttur math activities followed by cultural program organized by the students of JSS math, Moulana Azad B.Ed College, Teresian College & Animators of an NGO Organization for The Development of People (all from Mysore city & Mysore Dist)

During the General Meeting of the Chapter, the participants shared their view on religious freedom and stronger activities from IARF. They focused on present religious situation in India and the role of IARF on those issues. Members happily shared that HRE was one of the positive steps towards that role of IARF. The importance of closer relationship and programs like HRE are the needs of the hour. The Memembrs whole heartedly expressed their full support for the Congress and raise fund for the young Adults registration if it is a difficult for them. Many Cultural programs presented by the participants and Suttur mutt were one of the attractions of the program.

Mrs. M A Hemalatha proposed vote of thanks.

### On 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 – 2<sup>nd</sup> day

**Mediation** was and yoga organized by Naganandini, Art of Living, LIC Devpt officer Mysore 6 & 7.30 followed breakfast at 8am

Organizers arranged a tour to Participants to various religious places and the Mutt’s social service programs and return to the Conference on 9.45 a.m.

#### Session 1

Dr Thomas Mathew Made power point presentation on Revitalizing of IARF activities & Discussions on 33<sup>rd</sup> International IARF Congress. In his power point presentations he explained the activities being carried out by different member groups & IARF branches in the country. He presented the photographs of interfaith activities, religious festivals, Human rights education workshops, international day of peace, nonviolence day, Hiroshima Nagasaki day, IARF day & comparison day etc. Being

implemented successfully in India. He also presented the photograph with B S Yeddiruppa Chief Minister of Karnataka during the attacks on minority institutions and religious places in Karnataka wherein Dr Thomas Mathew, Mr. V Rengapashyam, Mr. Md. Shabeer Ahmed & Nat'l Treasurer of IARF IC were present. The delegation of IARF mentioned above met the chief minister to explain about the atrocities being carried on minorities by communal forces. A memorandum was also presented to him.

### **Session 2**

Mrs. M A Hemalatha Nat'l Treasurer spoke in detail about IALRW and the 100 year celebration of IALRW along with the 33<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of IARF.

### **Session 3**

Bro. Albert Xaviour briefed about young program/ activities with a power point presentation. He also explained about the RFYN activities in India especially with the HRE programs . because of HRE Yung Adults were able to start a branch of IARF In Indore, M.P. Many youths expressed their interest to attend the world Congress and some of them offered the voluntary service during the Congress.

### **Session 4**

Mr. T K Joytiraj Organized group discussions on topic What are the religious issues in your area & what is the principle cause of each of them. This session was very live with many experiences shared from the members which were happened in their daily life. Poor people may be instigated by the fanatics and misguide their sincerity with their religion to extremism.

### **Session 5**

Mr. C T Shivappa Retd Principal University College of Fine Arts & Former NSS Liaison officer spoke on "Harmony & Mutual Understanding

### **Session 6**

Mr. K R Shivshankar Advocate, Ex Professor, VVLC, spoke on tolerance & Harmony b/w religion communities.

The valedictory function commenced at 4 pm & concluded at 6 pm

Mrs. M A Hemalatha Welcomed the gathering

Mr. V Rengapashyam Presided the gathering

The Valedictory function was held in the presence of

Dr Thomas Mathew  
Dr Homi B Dhalla  
Mr. M Subramaniam

The following dignitaries namely Dr C K N Raja Former Head of the Department of law, University of Mysore,

Rev Father J B Xaviour Director of ODP,

Sri Sri Sri Swami Veereshanandaji, Editor vivekaprahbha & Ramakrishna Ashram Mysore & C. M Jagadesh Advocate & Member Bar council of India were present on the Dias.

In general all the dignitaries were happy to note IARF is organizing interfaith activities Human rights education workshop in Mysore. They also spoke about inter religious movement & they said committed groups belonging to different religion need to communicate b/w themselves Mutual understanding enrich, deepen & broaden their religious life.

#### CONCLUSION

Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswamigalu provided help beyond expectations. The total cost provided by swamiji is about US8000 to \$10000. The IARF is grateful to Swamiji for all his help

IARF India Chapter has spent about 1, 00,000 (US2500) received from as grant in aid from SACC, Donation & Registration Fees from delegates.

I am thankful to Dr Thomas Mathew, Dr Homi B Dhalla, Mr. V Rengapashyam, Mrs. M A Hemalatha & her team, Chairmen & Secretaries of Member Groups IARF Branches Delegates from IARF, Local delegates, Students from Colleges & Animators of NGO's & JSS Educational institutions & Suttur Math authorities for successful completion of 13<sup>th</sup> IARF Nat'l Conference.

Please Note:- Arrangement were made for taking photograph & Video graphing on both days a copy of the same as been send to SACC office for their information

Md. Shabeer Ahmed  
Nat'l Secretary  
IARF INDIA CHAPTER