

THIRD U3A INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Theme “ VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM : One World One Family;
through U3A and Holistic Living”

Third U3A International conference was held from 12th to 14th Oct'2012 at Chinmaya Vibhooti, near Pune, (built on 65 acres of landscaped land surrounded by the beautiful Sahyadri mountain range, is a tribute to Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda). The conference was well attended by more than 550 delegates coming from all over India and abroad - Nepal, Australia, Singapore and Japan, who had wide experience and witnessed blessings and messages of most eminent personalities in the world during the conference. Bhavana, Lucknow represented by a 60 member delegation attended the conference and also visited Ashtavinayaks, Jyotirlings, Bhimashankar, Shirdi, Trimbkeshwar, Nasik, Nanded, Ajanta Ellora and other near-by tourist places.

HH Swami Tejomayanand, Head of Chinmaya Mission, worldwide presided over the conference as chief guest and lighted the inaugural lamp in the presence of other dignitaries. The inaugural session was addressed by eminent Speakers from India and abroad- Dr S B Mujumdar, Chancellor Sybosis International university, Dr Gururaj Mutalic, former Director, WHO-UNO, Shri K P Daswani, Trustee Chinmaya Mission , Hongkong, Dr Sajjan Singh, Chairman U3A movement India, Swami Prashantananda, Swami Yogastananda, Swami Advaitananda of Chinmaya Mission, Bhari B R malhotra, vice president WeikfieldGroup, Shri S P Malhotra, Chairman Weikfoeld Group, Dr Vinod Shah, Chairman Janseva Foundation, Mr Thomas Kuan of Singapur, Dr J G Patil, secretary General, Dr T M Dak, secretary U3A ,were among many who graced the opening session and also delivered a lecture/ presentation highlighting significance of main theme

of conference : “One World One Family; through U3A and Holistic Living”.

‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ is essentially a cultural and spiritual concept. It look upon the whole world as one's own family. Love and harmony, co-operation and mutual support imbided with spirituality are the basic ingredients here in a family. All human beings are small part of this great universe. The time has arrived when we should come close to each other for realizing the one world dream. India is the land where ideal of unity in diversity has existed since long. Variety of religions like Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam and Christianity etc have flourished here for centuries. The concept of family developed by wise men and seers of yester centuries in India, has been the best institution ever designed for the welfare of man kind. Love, harmony, tolerance, cooperation and mutual support are the basic ingredients here. Finding five generations living under one roof with a common kitchen can be seen in many families even today. It is common that different members in a family worship different Gods and live in complete harmony with love. All human beings are small part of this great universe. The time has arrived when we should come close to each other for realizing the one world dream. In present situation, respect for all religions and "Vasudhaiva kutumbakam" can usher peace in this world.

The speakers from various spheres explained problems being faced by elders all over the world. Three days of elaborate deliberations and presentations by eminent speakers culminated in the form of a declaration on Third U3A International Conference 2012 ,titled as ‘ Pune Declaration’ (please refer page-3 of this report) for onward submissions to different government bodies, consulates of different countries, NGOs and Senior Citizens for implementation.

Organizational arrangements of conference were excellent. Food at Annashree was liked by all. The entertainment and cultural program were also very interesting. It was an event to remember for long time to come. Next U3A conference is scheduled to be held at Melbourne Australia on 14th & 15th Oct'2013.

PUNE DECLARATION

The Supreme Power, The Supreme creative intelligence, the Lord on high, ishwar, paramatma, hah, ahura mazda, god, allah, waheguru, the ultimate power - by whatever name he is called - permeates and resides in everything in existence whether perceived by the human senses or not.

- i. All that exists, therefore, is sacred and worthy of reverence.
- ii. Any offence or harm caused to any living thing or being is therefore, an offence against the supreme power - the god almighty.
- iii. Different religions do have different names for god, but the almighty of the cosmos is ONE & only one.
- iv. "man" who claims to be the apex of all living beings, must therefore act with reverence to all existence, especially to man, and hold all life sacred, irrespective OF caste, creed OR religion.
- v. In view of THE existence of one god for all MANKIND, therefore, there is no place for hatred, violence against any living beings. The least man can do is to stop all kinds of cruelty, torture, disrespect to each other.
- vi. Human beings all over the globe should BE CALLED UPON TO deem it THEIR sacred duty to promote, enhance & reinforce by all possible and civilized means, THE ideals of "all life is sacred" and brotherhood of man "VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM" and help to fulfill the ancient dream of SAINTS, prophets and social reformers ALL OVER THE WORLD.

- vii. When the mind of the human being is uncontrolled, he becomes possessed by narrow sectarian passions. He then becomes a veritable maniac, bent upon satisfying at any cost, the petty self-interest with which he identifies himself.
- viii. One World One Family will remain an Utopian dream unless every individual achieves a peaceful state of mind. The mind can be controlled only when the individual connects himself to god by a bond of love. The divine power of god then frees him from all undesirable habits, and he becomes an invaluable asset to himself, as also for the world at large.

Vasudhiv Kutumbakam, the concept originates in the Maha Upanishad, *ayam bandhur ayam neti ganana laghuchetasam udarachritanam tu vasudhaiva kutumbakam*. The statement is not just about peace and harmony, but also about truth that the whole world has to live. Times has come when we should come close to each other for realizing the ONE WORLD DREAM.

The Third U3A International Conference 2012 convened by Indian Society of U3As and Janaseva Foundation, on this SUNDAY THE 14TH OCTOBER 2012 calls upon : World's and individual himself:---

1. TO INITIATE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO transform HUMAN MINDS FROM THE PRACTICE OF VIOLENCE against each other AND TO SOW SEEDS of Love, Reverence & bring peace and harmony in all the religions, castes & creed of different communities throughout the world by establishing systematic awareness programme to curb human unrest & criminal mentality.
2. To develop culture of peace and dialogue between different civilizations, through "right education AT EARLY AGE AND YOUNG GENERATION for establishing the concept one world one family.

The economic deprivation, poverty and health conditions of Senior Citizens, leads to a sense of hopelessness and powerlessness and all the countries should take immediate steps to improve the situation.

3. To develop training programmes, for positive attitude and self knowledge at all levels of education and to make use of education through electronic media to ensure that the message BASED ONE WORLD ONE FAMILY, ALL OVER THE WORLD SUMARIZED IN THIS CONFERENE SHOULD reaches EVERYONE ALL OVER THE WORLD.
4. It is established through this Conference that the role of women in establishing peace and changing the minds of young generation is very very important and all the countries and their respective government are advised to promote the role of women and her involvement in educating young generation by changing administrative and legislative measures appropriately.
5. In view to sensitizing the minds of impressionable youth, in favour of compassion, love for parents and elders, enhance patriotic and spiritual values, a women can play wonderful roll and measures towards achieving this goal and all the countries in the world should take immediate steps to implement the programme.

It is agreed upon that all the religions, Caste, Creed and Nationality should come out openly against the miseries of Senior Citizens, particularly under privilege class of Senior Citizens, as a patriotic citizens of the world.

6. It is established through this Conference that the role of meaningful aging is very very important and changing the minds of Senior Citizens is very very important and appropriate education and training should be brought forward to promote the process of healthy aging and thus achieving the process of Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam, One World One Family.