

1001 Seeds of Change



For details expanding the brochure, see:

INVITATION <http://open-forum.de/10001-Seeds.htm>

In the tradition of side-events parallel to international congresses and the “1001 Actions for Dialogue” (2008) of the Anna Lindh Foundation a program accompanying the UNESCO Conference of Parties will take place with interviews and discussions among invited participants and guests (delegates, media representatives, and stakeholders), also with teleconferencing. The goal is to present and document new projects and impulses along side the official contributions, and in particular to enable interaction and reactions among them.

Our experience is based on numerous decade projects as well as the results of last year’s “1001 Actions for Dialogue” of the Anna Lindh Foundation. That involved outstanding best practices in the fields of culture, peace and democracy in the EURO-MED region. The challenge consists of enhancing projects and initiatives for education for sustainable development, biodiversity and “1001 Actions” with cultural dimensions, and to enhance the potential work on natural, biological and cultural diversity by providing a common frame and space – as we have often done for example at various UN-CSD (Commission on Sustainable Development) conferences in New York by adding Side Events and Caucuses of civil society.

At the UNESCO-DESD an informal accompanying program of round tables enabled interesting impulse givers, media representatives and delegates to enter conversations with each other. We base the program on self-organizing formats known as Open-Space, or for example conference methods like “Participants Messaging”, “DaZiBao” and round tables, in which the voices of participants are included and can in co-creative endeavor enhance, encourage and enrich each other. These conference formats are an addition to impulse presentations and serve to deepen or explicate them. They can also serve in achieving contacts and agreements on programs and actions that transcend sectoral efforts, and enable connections among the numerous existing data-islands, sectoral networks and portals.

The round tables are offered in order, in even a brief time frame, to present “seeds” and through questioning get to know them better. During and after the conference together with journalists best ideas and best practices will be reviewed and collected and presented on an internet platform.

Among the media partners – along with all those with UNESCO ESD Decade status – are also Noticias Positivas (Argentina), Positive News Youth Views and Youth Leader (Germany), Intern. Holistic Tourism Education Centre IHTEC, International. School Peace Gardens Program (Canada).

Easily accessible documentation and communication in the internet opens potentials beyond the conventional networks of actors and institutions, and supports the exchange, comparison and combination of best practices.

An essential aspect of this side-event format is to enhance the potentials of good practices by supporting discussion, consultation and exploration of proven and alternative approaches (also with videoconferencing and radio formats), and do so with a view to inter/national exchange, combination, consultation and replication.

This includes the exploration of practical ways towards an intelligent infrastructure for connecting best practices, and providing support for practitioners interested in implementing innovations in their schools and communities.

Sources, References, Concepts, and Formats:

The above mentioned concepts and formats like DaZiBao as “participant messaging” were used for instance in Rio at the Earth Summit NGO “peoples forum” in 1992. The Open-Space Magic Roundtable methods have been documented for 15 years. See:

http://benking.de/open-forum/OF_Backgroundpapers/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meeting_system -
<http://www.open-forum.de/events/RunderTisch-procedere-2008/>

And “last but not least” we reference the work of Judge, McLaren and Pollard:

http://www.laetusinpraesens.org/themes/bio_org.php
A “Timeline” on E-Learning and E-Conferencing at
<http://benking.de/culture/E-conferencing-expertise.pdf>

Along with the above mentioned “1001 Actions for Dialogue” of the Anna Lindh Foundation special mention is made of the “100001 Diversities” at the UN-CBD in Bonn in 2008 and the “Seeds of Change” published in Newsletter since 1996 which give space to the impulses of educational and cultural initiatives in the field. We will take up these proven formats during the UNESCO-DESD in Bonn, with special reference to the MUS-E project of Yehudi Menuhin and the Wilhelm Schole. We will reference other “SEEDS” in interviews and in the blog:

<http://benking.de/cob/COB-VL2-seeds-of-change.pdf>

More and current information including announcements of projects and concepts can be found at www.10001seeds.wordpress.com, on the Positive-Nett-Works Project site www.p-n-w.net/events/ and on the symposium BLOG: <http://symposion.wetpaint.com/>

In conclusion may the wish be expressed, that out of the “event culture” at international conferences a “culture of normality” be developed that is supportive of a qualitatively different “with each other”, in daily life as well as at conferences and in discussions and for decision-making.

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