

4th International Youth Conference
August 15, 2006 – Zlin, Czech Republic

YOUTH FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

On the 15th August 2006 – on the Independence Day of the Republic of India as well as on the Birthday of His Holiness Mahamandaleshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda (author of the worldwide renowned scientific system "Yoga in Daily Life" – children and youth from all five continents presented their visions, ideas and concerns about our today's and future world.

It has been already the 10th children conference organised by Yoga in Daily Life and it is the 4th one held in Czech Republic. This annual Conferences have been initiated by His Holiness Vishwaguru Mahamandaleshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda Puriji and are organized by the Czech Yoga In Daily Life Society and the Yoga In Daily Life Youth Union.

The idea of organizing these conferences and founding the Yoga in Daily Life Youth Union came from His Holiness Shri Vishwaguru Mahamandaleshwar Paramhans Swami Maheshwarananda Puriji and its purpose is to awake and reinforce the consciousness of ethic and moral principles, Ahimsa, respect to every culture, tolerance and understanding towards every nation and religion, creating world peace, a healthy environment and healthy family for the young generation.

This year the conference was held under the patronage of:
Mgr. Tomas Zatloukal, Deputy of the European Parliament
PaeDr. Alena Gajduskova, Senator of Czech Parliament,
Libor Lukas, Marshall of Zlin region
Mgr. Tomáš Úlehla, Town Mayor of Zlin

The conference participants were children and youth from the age of 5 till 30 years, from more than 20 countries: Czech and Slovak Republic, India, Syria, Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia, Germany, Peru, Australia, New Zealand, Ukraine, Italy, Great Britain, USA, Canada, South Africa, China, Israel etc.

At the opening ceremony the children recited the Vedic Peace Mantra *OM dhyau shantih, antariksham shantih, prithvi shantih, apah shantih, oshadaya shantih, vishvedeva shantih, bhrahma shantih, sarvam shantih, shantireva shantih, sama shantiredhi*, offering peace-flowers and lightening a peace candle on the altar. Then followed addresses by dignitaries and VIP speakers and the presentations of children and youth. The cultural program included contributions of national and international artists, singers, dancers and musicians.

Excerpts from Swamiji's opening address:

I am very happy to be here to support the efforts of the youth for a better future. There are many peace conferences around the world but very few are giving children and youth is giving the opportunity to contribute and express their visions and concerns.

The future is in the hands of the youth, but at present the future is in the hands of parents and teachers. How parents and teachers will educate the children today like this will be the future. What we have we have to hand over to the children. You cannot expect from the children anything different than what you have given them. Nowadays education is missing. Not the education of modern technology or how to earn money, but ethic education is missing. Education to love every creatures and to take care of and protect the environment. Result of this missing education are the wars. Wars never lead to peace. Every war causes a big wound in the heart of people, and this wound lasts for many generation. Their blood is boiling in the thought of revenge. Nowadays education has separated humans from humans. Children have lost love and respect for their parents. Students have lost respect and attention to their teachers. We are running in a dark future. But we don't want to live in a dark world. We don't want that children repeat our mistakes. Therefore also grown people should get education how to teach their children love, respect, tolerance and understanding towards all religions, cultures and nations.

Ethic, moral and spiritual education shall be restored again. Without spiritual education there cannot be world peace. We all know that our world is in troubles. By drugs, criminal activities, terrorists, climate change etc. We humans are responsible for this. Can we hope for a better future? Yes, we can, and for this purpose we are here today. I appeal to all parents and teachers, to all humanity, to support the children, to give them opportunity to express their ideas and visions – and give them good ideas and visions for a better future.

Yoga in Daily Life is working in many fields, especially for integral health, for ethic and moral education, for spirituality and upliftment of human consciousness, and also for protecting the animals and the environment.

If we can't do more, at least we should give this world into the hands of children as pure and healthy as we got it from our ancestors. If we can't offer them more, at least we shall offer the youth a glass of clean water.

Millions of humans are suffering because they don't have access to clean water. And the situation will become worse even. This all we shall put into the consciousness of our children. What means a "sustainable future"? What has been created will be destroyed. This is not sustainable. Is the atom-bomb, our technology that creates pollution, our money, the wars that are going on – is this all sustainable? This will be discussed today and the children will give us their opinion and answers to these questions in this conference.

The youth has a message for us, and they ask us to hand them over the light of wisdom, to leave them a flame to enlighten their future. It would be pity if we die without having given them our knowledge, our wisdom. Our knowledge will disappear with us if we are not giving it to others.



Excerpts of Swamiji's closing speech:

Dear brothers and sisters, dear juniors, it was a beautiful day. It was a great joy and a lesson of us to hear the requirements, the knowledge of the youth and we can learn a lot from them. Yes, indeed they are the culture of tomorrow. Tomorrow will be as they are.

There is a poem written by Rabindranath Tagore. One evening at the time of sunset he was walking to the garden and he saw the orange coloured beautiful horizon, the sunset. Being a poet, he made a poem, a story out of this beautiful evening scene. He was thinking what the sun may think going down. The sun is sad that his time was gone and this part of the world will be swallowed by darkness. Sun is looking left and right, asking if there was anyone who can take his place. In that minute, Tagore heard a sound, the sound of the bells in the temple to announce evening prayers, and a beautiful lamp, an oil lamp was lit. Tagore turned to the temple and saw the radiance of this tiny flame. And he was writing about the thoughts of that flame: when it the sun setting and being sad, the flame said to the sun: "Don't worry, I will try. I can't be the sun but I will give the light to the world." Likewise it is with the seniors and juniors. The time of the seniors is passing away, and we would like to pass on our wisdom to somebody to carry our work further. Now it is the duty of the juniors to take over the future of the world in their hands.

We had a beautiful day, we heard beautiful thoughts. Some were pleasant, some were unpleasant. The truth is sometimes not easy to digest. Millions of children and mothers are crying because they became victims of the wars. Not only humans, also animals are suffering immensely. Difference between humans and animals is that humans have the power of their intellect, and animals unfortunately do not have this. Ahimsa is the highest principle in the world. If you cannot give life you have not the right to take it.

How to stop the killing, killing of humans as well as of animals? What can we do? Can we do anything at all? Yes, we can! Charity begins from own home and peace begins from our own heart. It is time to act now! I wish a happy future to our youth. I am very happy about them, and I wish that they will not be a tiny flame but a big and strong light. Don't give up your work. Act according to your visions and ideals. Go straight forward. Don't give up!

(Record: Radha)

